

Darwin Initiative Main: Annual Report

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

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

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

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2024

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Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	30-011
Project title	Living with large carnivores – Integrative coexistence through community empowerment
Country/ies	India & Nepal
Lead Partner	North of England Zoological Society- Chester Zoo (NEZS)
Project partner(s)	National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), and Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)
Darwin Initiative grant value	£585,712.0
Start/end dates of project	April 2023 – March 2026
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2023 – Mar 2024) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2023 – March 2024 Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Mayukh Chatterjee
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.chesterzoo.org/news/living-with-large-carnivores/
Report author(s) and date	Disha Sharma, Subrat Behera and Prawesh Poudel, Mayukh Chatterjee, 30 th April 2024

1. Project summary

Encounters between local people and large carnivores (tigers, leopards, etc.) are increasing in the Terai lowlands bordering India and Nepal, and risk eroding tolerance towards wildlife, undermining efforts for biodiversity conservation. To address this challenge, the project aims to establish a community driven conflict management model. This initiative will empower and enable local communities of project villages to foster biodiversity conservation beyond the Protected Areas (PAs) of Chitwan National Park (CNP) in Nepal and Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) in India.

The project aims to reduce people’s vulnerability to impacts of negative interactions with large carnivores. It will do this by providing trainings to community members to protect their livestock, advocate stall feeding practices, and adopt fuel efficient/clean fuel improved cook stoves (ICS), thereby reducing the need for livestock and individuals to venture into forests. It will establish local volunteer-based Primary Response Teams (PRTs) with appropriate training and equipping to empower local communities to proactively address and prevent escalation of conflict situations. The project will also combat poverty through supplementary (green) livelihoods and enhancing energy security through the promotion of sustainable fuel alternatives. It will also gain an understanding of the ramifications of negative interactions with wildlife on people’s mental health and well-being. Finally, it will address biased public narratives surrounding HWC, which, often negatively sensationalized by the media and inadequately addressed by the local forest department, deepens human-wildlife conflicts. Targeted annual workshops for forest department personnel and local media representatives, employing a participatory approach that blends theoretical knowledge with practical insights, will aim to foster unbiased dissemination of news and effective conflict management.

Negative interactions between local people and large carnivore species are not a new phenomenon and have been visibly on the rise in many parts of the world, especially those where the largest populations of these wildlife species thrive. India and Nepal have both seen a significant increase, almost doubling their tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) populations over the last decade, which has evidently increased negative interactions between the species and the local human populace. Increased tiger populations also have ramifications on the levels of interactions with other species. For instance, an increased tiger population is understood to outcompete and drive smaller co-predators like leopards (*Panthera pardus fusca*) to the edges of protected areas most of which are human dominated. The Terai region between India and Nepal

harbours a significant tiger and other co-predator populations, which also has seen a significant increase in recent times, and thus of the reported negative interactions between them and local people. It is widely acknowledged today that despite such negative interactions today, a situation of co-existence persists in many of the parts, although this is understood to be rapidly denuding and risks turning into a more volatile landscape of human-large carnivore conflicts, as in other regions of the Terai. It is also widely acknowledged today that it is critical to start working with local communities who face the brunt of these negative interactions with wildlife, before their tolerance levels drop and their perceptions crystallise into negative ones, giving rise to a landscape of acute human-wildlife conflict, which then severely undermines and threatens all conservation efforts. It is with this understanding the project was formulated to begin working with local communities in a region where signs of human-wildlife conflicts are only now beginning to arise, to prevent it from aggravating into a widespread situation of human-wildlife conflict.

NEZS and its partners, WTI and NTNC have long-standing experience of conservation efforts in the Terai region where they have implemented long-term projects (including one Darwin Initiative project (23-013), focussing on species and landscape recovery, and mitigation and management of human-wildlife conflicts. Also, NTNC's and WTI's efforts (along with other stakeholders) have witnessed the rebounding of tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) numbers in different protected areas in this region, including one of the project sites, Valmiki Tiger Reserve (TR), which was devoid of tigers for past 30 years. This long-term experience and existing wider knowledge allowed for the identification of the problem at an opportune time, for this project to be designed and put into action, before conflicts escalate and impact conservation efforts adversely.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

NEZS, NTNC and WTI have co-developed this transboundary project to further support and bolster the work done as part of previous projects such as Living with Tigers (Darwin Initiative grant no. 23-013) in Nepal and the Terai Tiger Project (supported by USFWS's and Chester Zoo) in India.

The NEZS, has extensive experience in conceiving and executing a diverse range of multi-stakeholder conservation initiatives worldwide, spanning nearly every continent for last several decades, which include at least six Darwin Initiative projects. This extensive track record has forged a wealth of knowledge and established enduring partnerships across the globe.

In Nepal, the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), is an autonomous, non-profit entity mandated for nature conservation. NTNC has executed nearly 300 conservation projects of varying scopes, underscoring its expertise and network. Specifically, the Chitwan program of the Trust, embodied by the Biodiversity Conservation Centre (BCC), is leading the implementation, monitoring, financial management, of this and several other projects.

The Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) is a prominent wildlife conservation organization which has spearhead many initiatives with global organisations, as well as on-ground partnerships with the governments, local communities and individuals. WTI has a distinguished track record since 2003 in tiger population recovery efforts as well as livelihood enhancement initiatives for indigenous and local communities in the Valmiki Tiger Reserve landscape and is well-versed in human-wildlife conflict mitigation.

NEZS has been instrumental in conceptualising this project and providing in-house expertise, spanning biological and social sciences, for designing various components of this project. Development was however in close collaboration and over multiple consultations with on-ground partners, local community members as well as other organisations. For instance, in October 2022, NEZS team undertook a series of follow up consultations with the local communities living around Chitwan National Park (CNP), which together with the project leader's previous extensive experience from the Indian Terai regions gave rise to the current concept, which was then discussed with different stakeholder groups and partner organisations to build upon.

On-ground implementation is carried out by NTNC & WTI teams, and NEZS manages the project teams' activities through its in-country project manager, who regularly interacts with in-country teams and undertakes field travels intermittently. The project team members regularly convene every quarter (through hybrid meetings) to review project progress, besides during other meetings and workshops to develop activity assessment frameworks or other needs of the project. The project leader also participates in all meetings, and also undertakes travel to field sites to further monitor and evaluate the projects' activities.

The project has also additionally garnered the expertise from three subject experts outside of the immediate project teams. Dr. Andrew Moss, a social scientist of significant repute at NEZS has offered support on advising on baseline assessment methodology and other social data related aspects. Ms. Jennifer McDermott, an expert of mental health and wellbeing at NEZS has offered to support with the planning of assessment of mental health and wellbeing in relation to HWC. Lastly, Mr. Virat Singh, a senior communication specialist at ASAR in India has offered to guide the project team on assessing media narrative and engaging media personnel.

At the ground level, different experts and agencies have been involved in the implementation of the project. For media workshops, external media experts such as Mr. Ananda Bannerjee from Outlook India was

invited as a key resource person, besides relevant forest department officials, etc. In several of the activities related to capacity development the project has also facilitated skill exchanges across the two countries. For instance, the project team from WTI travelled to Chitwan in Nepal to learn more about predator proof pens (PPP). WTI then also conducted a HWC training workshop for forest department staff of CNP. Similarly, in early 2024, the NTNC team along with community representatives travelled to project site in India to witness fuel efficient cookstoves in use, so they could replicate the same in their project villages. The project aims to continue such skill and knowledge exchanges across borders, as well as engagement of other expert agencies as relevant to different activities to enhance the quality of the projects' outputs.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output: 1. A network of community volunteers trained, equipped and functionalised as Primary Response Team in project areas of Valmiki-Chitwan-Parsa landscape.

1.1: Conduct Focused Group Discussions (FGD) and individual interviews (using snowball sampling) for past data on human-tiger & human-leopard conflicts in project region.

The project convened six consultative focused group discussions at two levels. Firstly, it engaged local administrative bodies, i.e. the Eco Development Committees (EDC) and Buffer Zone User Group Committees (BZUGC), in India and Nepal, respectively.

During these meetings, the project's key objectives were outlined, and the roles of the committees as key facilitation agencies within the project was clarified to the members of the EDC and BZUGC. They also provided a platform for the exchange of opinions and ideas from the committee members. The methodology and survey tool for gathering baseline data on project indicators were collaboratively developed through hybrid meetings and an intensive workshop. With the finalized methodology and tool in hand, the project team conducted door-to-door assessments, covering all households (1828 in India and 935 in Nepal) across the six project villages in India and Nepal (excluding households that did not provide consent to be interviewed), aligning with outputs 1, 2, and 3 (Please see evidence file: *Activities 1.1, 2.1 and 3.1*). To streamline data collection and management, a SurveyMonkey (<https://uk.surveymonkey.com>) form was created to facilitate easy data entry and compilation. Continuous monitoring by the project leader and manager ensured accuracy and addressed any errors or gaps. In Nepal's Chitwan National Park, surveys were conducted on a total of 935 households across three project villages, while a total of 1828 households, in project villages have been surveyed in India's Valmiki Tiger Reserve.

1.2: Conduct community consultations in project villages and other adjoining conflict prone villages to explain the need and function of Primary Response Teams and accrue volunteers.

Consultative meetings to initiate the constitution of Primary Response Teams were held in 3 project villages (*Dumari, Purainia-Manpur & Dhumatand-Jasauli*) besides additional 4 villages in India (four additional adjoining villages, *Ekwa, Pachrauta, Parsauni & Rupawalia*), and also in 3 of the project villages (*Devendrapur, Ganeshkunja & Panchpandav*) in Nepal. The consultative meetings in the additional 4 villages in India were conducted as per suggestions by local influential people and EDCs, since these villages are all closely clusters and similarly affected by HWC.

These meetings focused on informing the attendees of the importance of conservation action, role, of PRT members to minimize human wildlife conflicts and prevent losses to people, and other interventions being undertaken in the project village.

One significant suggestion raised by several Nepalese community participants, was to broaden the mandate of an existing voluntary Community-Based Anti-Poaching Unit (CBAPU) to encompass human-wildlife conflict (HWC) management work within their ambit, instead of constituting an entirely new organisation. This strategic decision ensures that these tasks are undertaken by community volunteers already actively involved in wildlife conservation efforts in the Chitwan landscape, with many already attending human-wildlife conflict emergencies. These volunteers have already received basic training in patrolling and identifying secondary signs of wildlife presence, among other skills. Verbal and written commitments were made by 31 volunteers in India and 16 from Nepal, to support the project as PRT members (Please see evidence file: *Activity 1.2*).

1.3: Conduct an induction workshop for all volunteering PRTs in India and Nepal to introduce basics of the role and assess various competencies.

Two independent PRT induction workshops were organised. In Valmiki Tiger Reserve (TR), the workshop was conducted for the 31 volunteers inducted in as PRT members in *Manguraha* range of the reserve, on

the (4/02/2024). In Nepal, the workshop engaged 16 volunteering CBAPU members under the *Ayodhyapuri* and *Panchpandav* BZUGCs, on the 23rd of August 2023.

Both workshops revolved around apprising the volunteers on the concept of Primary Response, the need for this to be embedded at the community level, the role and responsibilities and about the various skill development training that is required in the forthcoming years. (Please see evidence file: Activity 1.3, *micro plan*). The workshop in India was delayed by a few months as excessive monsoons disrupted road communication delaying the consultative meetings through which PRTs were identified.

1.4: Provide equipment to enlisted PRT members and conduct specialized training each year to develop capacity of PRTs

A one-day training workshop was conducted (1/03/2024) in India, with 24 out of the 31 PRT members (21 male and 3 female) participating. The workshop was led by Dr. Samir Kumar Sinha, in-country project lead, wherein participants were engaged through interactive sessions on nuances of human-large carnivore conflicts and its drivers from a scientific perspective, as well as various solutions employed (in India and globally) to minimise losses due to negative interactions, and how communities can play a key role in this.

The PRT members were also provided equipment such as searchlights, binoculars, public announcement systems, hooters, caution tape, reflective vests, and a first aid kit. The training also walked them through each of these items, their intended use, when not to use them, how to maintain them, etc., before handing them over to the PRTs.

WTI has also developed a handbook in the local language outlining the need, roles and objectives of PRTs, precautions to observe while handling a conflict situation and to reduce negative interactions, as well as other crucial information pertaining to human-large carnivore conflicts etc., (Please see evidence file: Activity 1.4, *booklet cover page*). This booklet was handed out to all the volunteering PRT members and has also been shared with the project partners in Nepal for translation in Nepali and distribution to their PRT members and other stakeholders.

A similar workshop was conducted in Nepal on the (22/03/2024), which was attended by 15 of the PRT members (12 male and 3 female) from *Ayodhyapuri* and *Panchpandav* BZUGCs.

NTNC has deferred the intensive training to the second year as they were keen on first ascertaining the commitment level of the volunteering members before moving ahead with more intensive training, and equipping them, although they have already procured necessary gear such as outdoor boots, handheld GPS units, apparel, flashlights etc.

(Please see evidence file: *Activity 1.4*).

1.5: Inform and guide PRT members to successfully address conflict situations that are reported in and around their respective villages.

In India, WTI created a WhatsApp group for PRT members to report updates on human-wildlife conflict cases that happen around their region and to seek guidance from the team when attending any case. WTI field staff are also in regular contact with PRT members via telephonic conversations as well as routine monthly meetings.

After the training held on 1st March, PRT members have actively participated in three cases wherein they supported in tracking and relaying information about movements of a tiger seen close to a village, preventing stray village dogs from killing a spotted deer, and reuniting 3 jungle cat (*Felis chaus*) kittens with their mother (Please see evidence file: *Activity 1.5*).

Since the formation of the PRTs in Nepal, human-wildlife conflicts have not been reported in and around our project villages. As mentioned in section 1.3, the PRT members, in consultation with NTNC, prepared a micro-plan of activities which they will be conducting throughout the project period in the absence of ongoing human-wildlife conflict situations (Please see evidence file: *Activity 1.3*).

1.6: Conduct annual evaluation workshop to assess functioning of PRTs, celebrate success, promote peer and community support and cohesion, and recognize and reward strongly performing members.

As the PRTs have only been recently constituted in Y1, the annual evaluation was planned to start from Y2 onwards.

Output: 2. Livestock depredation in project villages significantly reduced through promotion of two tried and tested initiatives Predator Proof Pens (PPP) and promotion of stall-fed cattle, as well as a new experimental novel method, the eye-cow.

2.1: Conduct household surveys to assess livestock ownership, grazing preferences etc. in all project villages, to assess priority need for interventions and willingness to participate.

As mentioned for activity 1.1, baseline surveys were conducted across a total of 1828 households in three project villages in Valmiki Tiger reserve in India and a total of 935 households in Madi region of Chitwan National Park in Nepal. This baseline survey included a variety of information on livestock ownership, grazing preferences, veterinary care availability as well as willingness to learn and participate in initiatives focussing on livestock depredation prevention and breed improvement under the project (Please see evidence file: Activity1.1,2.1 & 3.1, preliminary baseline assessment aligning with the corresponding indicator).

2.2: Organize consultative workshops in each project village to apprise potential beneficiaries of various techniques to reduce livestock depredation, record beneficiaries' choices and accrue formal consent.

WTI organised consultative workshops in two villages, *Dhumatand-Jasauli* and *Purainia-Manpur*, on the 11th and 12th of March 2024 respectively. Dr. Sanjeev Ranjan, a Veterinary Officer in Division-1 of the Valmiki TR was invited as resource person, who informed livestock owners on various beneficial livestock farming practices, including improving livestock breeds through artificial insemination, stall feeding, efficient manure management, the significance of timely vaccinations and first aid, and the importance of reducing grazing in forests to mitigate livestock predation by large carnivores.

The workshop in *Dhumatand-Jasauli* saw active participation by at least 40 female and 25 male attendees, while the one in *Purainia-Manpur* was attended by 25 female and 20 male participants. During these sessions, Dr. Sanjeev Ranjan also conducted health check-ups for some cattle and goats brought to the camp by the villagers. Additionally, plans are underway to conduct a similar workshop in *Dumari* village in the first quarter of Year 2. Consent of livestock owners willing to adopt the various interventions will be obtained in quarter 1 of year 2 before the start of the intervention.

Similarly, NTNC organised consultative workshops on 23rd & 24th January and then on 10th & 11th March 2024, at the *Ayodhyapuri* BZUGC office premises. Dr Amir Sadaula, a veterinary officer of NTNC-BCC, led the workshop. In addition to talking about various techniques to reduce livestock depredation, beneficial livestock farming practices, etc., he imparted information with special emphasis on best practices for rearing goats, identification of their common diseases and management of their health (Please see evidence file: *Activity 2.2 & 2.10*)

A total of 199 participants attended these workshops of which 109 women and 90 men beneficiaries consented to adopting techniques to reduce livestock depredation and installing PPPs in their households.

2.3: Organize workshop using select previous Living With Tigers (LWT) project beneficiaries to train beneficiaries in manufacture and maintenance of Predator Proof Pens (PPP).

NTNC conducted training sessions on 23rd and 24th January, as well as on the 10th and 11th of March in 2024, at the *Ayodhyapuri* BZUGC. One session was led by local beneficiaries of the Living with Tigers Project (Darwin Initiative grant 23-013). These sessions targeted 199 beneficiaries from the current project villages.

Participants received training on the construction and management of PPPs to reduce the vulnerability of livestock and ensure their safety. The project aims to protect livestock of at least 400 needy households with PPPs in the project villages. The selection criteria included livestock ownership, economic status, experience with livestock depredation, and the preferred location of grazing and fodder collection. The chosen beneficiaries received all necessary materials and technical support to construct the predator-proof pens (Please see evidence file: *Activity 2.3*)

In the last week of January 2024, a team of two WTI field staff and two village representatives travelled to the *Madi* valley of Chitwan National Park. During this exposure visit, they were able to closely examine the structure and functioning of PPP's built by beneficiaries of the erstwhile Living with Tigers (LWT) project. NTNC subsequently also conducted an exposure visit to the project villages in India from 25th to 28th February 2024 to impart knowledge and skills to local community representatives on manufacture of PPPs in the correct manner, as corralling and pens are not popular in this part of the landscape in India. The seven-member visiting team comprised of four NTNC field staff and three village representatives of which one was a beneficiary of the LWT project who spoke to local representatives selected by the WTI project team, about PPPs and guided them on building a secure structure to protect livestock.

2.4: Support the building of predator proof pens in all volunteering beneficiary households in villages by mid-year 2.

Although set to be measured by Y2, the project partners have begun supporting the building of predator proof pens by distributing construction materials required for 210 volunteering beneficiaries (Please see evidence file: *Activity 2.4*). One hundred and eighty beneficiaries have successfully built PPPs till now, using these materials as of end of March 2024, and other beneficiaries continue to build them.

2.5: Conduct annual assessment of PPPs built through random house visits in at least 30% of beneficiary households and through maintenance logs.

This activity was not planned to be initiated in Y1.

2.6. Prepare methodological framework for assessing eye-cow effectiveness in reducing livestock depredation and train field team.

The original eye-cow methodology developed by Radford *et. al.* 2020 has been adapted for experimentation in the project villages, after much deliberation and accounting for the difference in the distribution of livestock in the landscape and their management in India and Nepal as compared to that in Botswana, Africa, where it was first implemented (Please see evidence file: *Activity 2.6*).

The framework has been prepared over a series of hybrid meetings with the project partners to allow for sampling appropriately across the project villages, without biases and to account for confounding variables. Additionally, sample wooden stamps following the guide provided by the authors of the study conducted in *Botswana* were also prepared by NEZS and sent to NTNC in Nepal for trials on cattle. Initial trials of stamping on cattle prove the stamp designs to be a little cumbersome since the body type of the cattle varieties in these regions, especially the shape of their rumps, did not allow the large sized wooden stamps to be used properly. A new set of smaller stamps were then prepared and sent to in-country partners. The possibility of using stencils and specific types of spray acrylic paints is also being planned to be evaluated, considering heavy monsoons in these regions will wash off the paint within short periods.

2.7. Conduct workshop with volunteering livestock owners to apprise about the initiative, its need, the need for a systematic assessment, explain method of data logging, etc.

This activity was not planned to be initiated in Y1.

2.8: Carry out livestock 'eye-cow' camp for all beneficiaries enlisting in the eye-cow initiative to imprint "eyes" on all their livestock.

This activity was not planned to be initiated in Y1.

2.9: Monitor and collect data logs from each beneficiary on livestock grazing frequency and time, location, livestock loss, etc., on a monthly basis.

This activity was not planned to be initiated in Y1.

2.10. Conduct workshop to apprise volunteering cattle owners in project villages on breed improvement and benefits of stall feeding and accrue consent from at least 50% of cattle owners in each village.

As stated for Output 2, Activity 2.2, in India, WTI conducted a workshop involving Dr. Sanjeev Ranjan, from the forest department, to inform the villagers about artificial insemination and breed improvement, and benefits of stall feeding in March 2024. Consent will be accrued from volunteering cattle owners during the 1st quarter of year 2 of the project.

At the training sessions which took place on January 23rd and 24th, as well as on March 10th and 11th, 2024, at the *Ayodhyapuri* BZUGC office (*Activity 2.2*), the combined veterinary team from NTNC and CNP led two sessions, providing insights into goat rearing, common diseases affecting goats, and strategies to enhance productivity for increased income generation (Please see evidence file: *Activity 2.2 & Activity 2.10*).

2.11: Train local volunteers (select PRT members) in artificial insemination of cattle through state animal husbandry department or private agency and provide equipment to carry out artificial insemination of cattle in consenting households.

Two candidates from the project area have been selected to undergo training to specialise in and carry out artificial insemination of existing cattle in volunteering beneficiary households, for improved cattle breed development. They are presently undergoing a three-month long course at the Patna Animal Development (Pvt) Ltd where they are being educated and trained by experts in this field (Please see evidence file: *Activity 2.11*).

2.12: Carry out assessment of AI breeding improvement success and stall feeding practice through a rapid survey at the end of project year.

This activity was not planned to be initiated in Y1.

Output: 3. At least 75% of targeted forest-dependent beneficiary communities in each of the 6 project villages benefit from 'green livelihoods (GL)', improved cookstoves, and/or sustainable cooking fuels, and significantly reduce their time spent in forest for natural resource collection.

3.1: Conduct household surveys to gather primary information to create baselines on forest resource dependency and identify potential beneficiaries for 'green' livelihood and cooking fuel adoption

As mentioned for activity 1.1 & 2.1, the comprehensive baseline survey was conducted across 1828 and 935 households across project villages in India and Nepal, respectively. The survey collected information on local people's dependency on forest-based resources ranging from timber to wild vegetables, their earnings from these resources, , as well as people's willingness to reduce their dependency, especially that of fuelwood. Surveys were conducted across all consenting households in project villages. A structured questionnaire was utilised, which was administered to respondents by trained surveyors (Please see evidence file: *Activity 1.1, 2.1 & 3.1*, for preliminary results of this section of baseline data2).

3.2: Conduct Participatory Rural Appraisals with potential beneficiaries to finalize interventions for reduction of forest dependency and conflict incidences and accrue consent from them for different interventions.

On 15th September 2023, a workshop was organised to establish standardised community engagement processes and tools such as Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA). Dr Samir Sinha (WTI) who has extensive experience in developing and using such tools and processes led the workshop which was attended by all team members of the project in India and Nepal as well as additional staff of the two partner organisations. The workshop aimed at establishing standard PRA processes for beneficiary engagement and empowerment in the six project villages, to allow for a more inclusive and participatory approach in carrying out the project activities.

Following this, 10 PRA exercises were conducted in India (3) and Nepal (7), in which two hundred and sixty-four potential beneficiaries participated, of which 133 were women and 131, men (62 men and 57 women in India, and 69 men and 76 women, in Nepal).

PRAs are an essential tool for understanding the community resource distribution in villages, people's concerns as well as knowledge about their villages. It also helps to establish a strong rapport with villagers, allowing for co-planning different activities planned under the project. These exercises also provide a sense of ownership and involvement, which is crucial for the sustainability of any community-based project. The insights gained from these appraisals are invaluable in shaping interventions related to alternative livelihoods, promoting sustainable resource use, and enhancing community resilience against losses incurred due to wild animals. This participatory approach has set a strong foundation for continued collaboration and transparency, ensuring that our efforts are well-aligned with the community's needs and aspirations (Please see evidence file: *Activity 3.2*).

3.3: Train local women to manufacture and repair fuel efficient cookstoves and involve them in manufacturing and installing these in all consenting beneficiary homes in project villages.

In India, a total of 29 women voluntarily participated in a five-day workshop on constructing improved cookstoves. Technical expertise for the training was provided by Mr. Rajendra Salunke and Mr. Shreejit Kunjir from M G Green Solutions, Pune, Maharashtra. The training, which took place from December 1st to 5th, 2023, spanned five days and emphasized hands-on construction techniques using metallic moulds and locally sourced clay mixture. Since acquiring the training, these women have successfully installed up to a 120 ICS in different beneficiary households in the project villages of *Dhumatand-Jasauli, Purainia-Manpur and Dumari* (Please see evidence file: *Activity 3.3*).

While in Nepal, after many discussions with the villagers regarding fuel efficient cookstoves, and alternative cooking fuels such as biogas and liquid petroleum gas (LPG), it was decided to distribute prefabricated LPG cookstoves to identified beneficiaries (who do not have these and rely entirely on forest-based fuelwood) through existing government subsidy schemes, leveraging the widespread adoption of this initiative in the targeted regions.

NTNC have so far distributed LPG cookstoves and gas cylinders to one hundred beneficiaries from the project villages in the third and fourth quarter of the project's first year (Please see evidence file: *Activity 3.3*). Their selection was prioritized considering factors such as the volume of fuelwood they collected, the areas from which they sourced fuelwood, and their income from various other sources. A smaller subset of these beneficiaries will receive training on the repair and maintenance of these cookstoves.

3.4: Carry out ICS installations in beneficiary households through trained women volunteers.

A total of 120 ICSs were installed in beneficiary households of the project villages in India through the trained local women (Please see evidence file: *Activity 3.4*). As mentioned in section 3.3, in Nepal, LPG cookstoves cylinders and maintenance kits have been distributed to 100 prioritised beneficiaries.

3.5: Conduct training on different alternative livelihood options selected by beneficiaries, using appropriate resource persons from allied government and private sector institutions.

Our partners in India have initiated trainings and support for three alternate livelihood options for beneficiaries from the project villages (Please see evidence file: *Activity 3.5*).

In the first initiative, Mr. Paras Nath Singh, representing Yuva Chetna Kendra in *Deoria*, Uttar Pradesh, imparted technical expertise during a three-day module (29 – 31st January, 2024) on mushroom farming. A total of 33 women from the three project villages participated in this training.

Another three beneficiaries (all men) were identified to undergo extensive training in nursery management from 16th – 18th March 2024. They had a unique opportunity to learn under the guidance of Mr. Kalimullah Khan, an esteemed recipient of the *Padma Shri* award and famously dubbed as the "Mango Man of India". Furthermore, a comprehensive five-day training program (5th to 9th February 2024) focusing on small livestock care, particularly goats, was conducted. Twelve women volunteered to partake in this program based on their past engagements in livestock care, and potential to enhance their livelihoods by providing services to livestock owners in their respective communities. Mr. Rajan Singh, an expert from the Goat Trust, India, was brought in as a resource person owing his extensive experience and knowledge on goat farming and care, to provide hands-on training and valuable knowledge to participants.

3.6: Provide technical and financial support to consenting beneficiaries to setup new 'green' livelihood options

The project has provided 12 prioritised beneficiaries in India technical support by training them to become community livestock para-vets. They were trained to identify symptoms of prevalent diseases and common ailments in small livestock such as goats, their treatment & management, to prepare herbal home remedies by identifying and harnessing medicinal properties of locally available plants, to prepare a balanced nutritious feed, administering basic first aid, and performing castration of male goats. For this, the beneficiaries were also provided a first aid kits along with castration shears.

Further, in Nepal trainings were provided to 199 people on goat rearing, and 25 of these beneficiaries received goat kids for rearing.

Additionally, the two beneficiaries selected for nursery development were provided technical training in land preparation and grading, seed distribution and bedding, stemming and cross breeding techniques, vermicomposting and water conservation practices.

The 33 women volunteering to learn mushroom farming in India were provided intensive training sessions that covered topics such as resource assessment, community engagement, infrastructure development, input cost management, market linkages, monitoring and support, financial literacy, sustainability practices, and diversification.

For construction of ICS, the project partners in India acquired 12 metal moulds, which were given to beneficiaries who had been trained to construct these ICS units using these moulds, in all beneficiary households in project villages at nominal charges which would constitute their extra income. (Please see evidence file: *Activity 3.6*)

3.7: Establish a bi-annual self-reporting system with beneficiaries to monitor use ICS and different GLs adopted, as well as forest dependency, and collect self-reported data.

This activity was not planned to be initiated in Y1.

Output: 4. Current narratives of human-large carnivore conflicts significantly altered to promote coexistence, through focussed capacity and knowledge building of local media personnel and wildlife managers.

4.1: Conduct media report analysis on past reportage covering human-large carnivore conflicts in the project region, to segregate dominant narratives and tailor training and subsequent awareness.

The media report analysis has been delayed, as in the first quarter we were unable to collate information on existing print media dailies and their archival availability. This, however, is being completed and partners have recruited part-time consultants to carry out online searches of shortlisted print dailies (with accessible

archives). A methodology for assessing and classifying media reports using specific key words has been developed by the project team in consultation with the projects' media advisor.

4.2: Survey of relevant forest department staff at various levels to assess knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions on human-wildlife conflicts in the region.

Survey of relevant forest department staff at various levels to assess their knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions on human-wildlife conflicts in the region was developed and conducted in Q4 of Y1. Responses from 18 key Forest Department officials of VTR have been recorded and are being analysed. The same questionnaire (Please see evidence file: *Activity 4.2, questionnaire for Forest Department*) has been translated by NTNC to be administered in Nepal, although this is only expected to be completed by the end of the first quarter of Year 2.

4.3: Create a master list of all print media personnel relevant to project region and contact them to apprise of the project and accrue consent for further engagement and capacity development.

A master list of all print media houses and media professionals in the project areas of both Nepal and India has been prepared with the help of project partners (Please see evidence file: *Activity 4.3, master list of media personnel*). These media houses and professionals were also contacted to apprise them of this project and our intention to work with them.

4.4: Conduct annual capacity development workshop for media personnel and selected Forest Department officers.

An introductory capacity building workshop was conducted by project partners (11th December 2023 in Nepal and 2nd March 2024 in India). The workshops saw participation by a total of 48 media personnel (18 in India and 30 in Nepal) along with 31 Forest Department staff and officers in both countries. A survey tool was also developed to assess the narrative on HWC from their perspective. Their responses have been recorded and are presently being analysed.

4.5: Organize a 'media for wildlife conservation' event to foster trained media personnel to pledge to voice issue pertaining to wildlife through fact-based reporting.

This activity was not planned to be initiated in Y1.

4.6: Carry out post assessment of FD officers and media reports at the end of project period.

This activity was not planned to be initiated in Y1.

Output: 5. A comprehensive understanding of mental health and wellbeing among the local communities established and a co-planned strategy to address impacts of HWC on mental health and wellbeing of people formulated for the project communities.

5.1: Formulate methodology to assess mental health and wellbeing across project villages, especially for most vulnerable groups and train survey consultants and field team.

Two project advisors Dr. Andy Moss and Ms. Jennifer McDermott were extensively consulted to seek guidance towards developing the mental health and wellbeing assessment framework for local communities *vis-à-vis* their experience of negative interactions with wildlife. The project team were advised to utilise existing standardised frameworks for assessing mental health and wellbeing, modified to the local context. The Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS) was selected owing to its wide acceptance and applicability, ensured through rigorous validation in different languages across the world, including in *Hindi* (an Indian vernacular widely understood in India and neighbouring countries) by an accredited research institution in India, i.e. PGIMER in Chandigarh. Consultations with the lead scientist from the department of psychiatry of PGIMER who validated and published this scale, Dr. Sandeep Grover, were also carried out and their permission sought, to use it for the purposes of this project. Additional questions have now been developed to enhance this scale to incorporate the artefacts of human-wildlife conflict experiences, and the survey tool is currently under review by the advisors (Please see evidence file: *Activity 5.1, draft of mental health survey questionnaire*)

5.2: Survey project villages and adjoining ones to assess mental health and wellbeing of villagers and the impact of human-wildlife conflicts on it.

This activity was not planned to be initiated in Y1.

5.3: Conduct consultative meetings with village elders, representatives of forest department, media agencies, local NGO's, and other government agencies to discuss results of the assessment and formulate strategies to address mental health and wellbeing.

This activity was not planned to be initiated in Y1.

5.4: Draft and disseminate strategic action plan to tackle mental health and wellbeing in relation to human-wildlife conflicts and wildlife conservation in the project region.

This activity was not planned to be initiated in Y1.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output: 1. A network of community volunteers trained, equipped, and functionalised as Primary Response Team in project areas of Valmiki-Chitwan-Parsa landscape.

The project landscape has no such system of community-based primary response in place till date to manage HWC incidents, and hence this is a very new initiative. There is significant progress towards this output, with 31 volunteers in India and 15 volunteers in Nepal having been inducted into the project as PRT members. They have also been equipped with essential gear and apparel, as well as an introductory training on their role and responsibilities. More intensive trainings on specific aspects such as identifying and tracking large carnivores, managing people, first aid care etc., are all planned for the second year of the project. Some PRT members have already started working on conflict situations as well as other wildlife emergencies. It must be understood however that such initiatives require extensive handholding and continuous capacity development, for it to become widespread and sustainable. The output will be measured by the number of volunteers the project is able to induct, train and functionalise, as well as the number of HWC cases the PRT members are attending and helping resolve. This output is on track to establish and make functional, adequate primary responders in the project region by the end of the project period, and thus lay the foundations to build upon and fine-tune efficiency of primary response during conflict situations beyond the project period.

Output: 2. Livestock depredation in project villages significantly reduced through promotion of two tried and tested initiatives Predator Proof Pens (PPP) and promotion of stall-fed cattle, as well as a new experimental novel method, the eye-cow.

While this output will not be measured quantitatively until Y3, the project has begun promotion of PPPs and stall-fed varieties of cattle. In the project villages in Nepal, only about 10% of people have PPPs already, while in Valmiki the concept of predator proof pens is largely absent, with people mostly keeping their livestock inside homesteads. Similarly, knowledge of improved cattle varieties is largely absent in both the project regions (communities harbour local unproductive varieties which are required to be grazed outside for lengthy periods of time), and hence any level of uptake by local people is a start of positive change. In Y1, 209 beneficiaries have received technical training, and support towards PPP building materials under the project. For the promotion of stall-fed cattle, two volunteers from one of the villages in India have been enrolled and are currently undergoing intensive training in artificial insemination. More volunteers are expected to be enrolled and trained going forward. These volunteers are expected to cater to beneficiary households who opt for stall-fed varieties of cattle. The output is on track to deliver anticipated number of PPPs in needy beneficiary households. It is also expected to set into motion the adoption of more productive, stall-fed varieties of cattle in households of the project villages, although the actual calving will expectedly begin only by the third year, and success will only be measured after the project ends. Finally, the framework for eye-cow methodology has also been developed and is on track to be implemented from the third quarter of Y2.

Output: 3. At least 75% of targeted forest-dependent beneficiary communities in each of the 6 project villages benefit from 'green livelihoods (GL)', improved cookstoves, and/or sustainable cooking fuels, and significantly reduce their time spent in forest for natural resource collection.

This output will also be measured in Y3 through random assessment of beneficiaries' use/disuse status of ICSs & traditional cookstoves, their earnings through new livelihoods (via self-reporting), and their current frequency and time spent going to forests for collecting fuelwood and other resources (Please see evidence file Activity 1.1, 2.1 & 3.1 for preliminary baselines for this). In Y1, around a total of 48 beneficiaries have received training and support for adoption of 'green-livelihoods' to supplement their income and dissuade

dependence on forest resources. Additionally, another 29 women have also been trained to build and repair improved cook stoves in beneficiary households as a livelihood option. A total of 120 beneficiaries have also been supported through the project and the trained women in building of ICSs in their homes. An additional 100 beneficiaries in Nepal received LPG based ICSs. The project will continue to train for, distribute and monitor the ICS uptake as well as 'green livelihoods, in the beneficiary households through self-reporting in regular meetings as well as random house visits. The training and adoption of 'green livelihoods has however been slow to pick up in Nepal, although NTNC has picked up pace and is set to deliver on this front in Y2.

Output: 4. Current narratives of human-large carnivore conflicts significantly altered to promote coexistence, through focussed capacity and knowledge building of local media personnel and wildlife managers.

This output is also set to be measured in Y3. However, the project has conducted a workshop each for media personnel and wildlife managers (Forest Department staff) in Y1 in both countries, focussing on building their knowledge and capacity to promote human-wildlife coexistence. Like the PRT initiative, this is anticipated to show visible signs of positive change only over the long-term. Within the project performance period however, this will be measured through the number of media personal volunteering and pledging to be associated with this initiative and helping change the narrative through their respective efforts. Similarly, for wildlife managers, it is expected to be a slow change, and the positive efforts they put into their regular work will be used as a proximate indicator of success.

Output: 5. A comprehensive understanding of mental health and wellbeing among the local communities established and a co-planned strategy to address impacts of HWC on mental health and wellbeing of people formulated for the project communities.

This output will also be measured in Y3. A methodological framework has already been developed in consultation with project advisors and partners. The study will be implemented in the project villages in Y2 after which the information will be analysed and an action plan developed (depending upon the findings), which will be fine-tuned based on local community members' inputs and is expected to lay the foundation for building actionable work for the betterment of mental health and wellbeing of local stakeholders.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The outcome intends to achieve significant reduction in negative impacts of human-large carnivore interactions, in six 'model' villages around Valmiki-Chitwan-Parsa landscape across India and Nepal, through participatory conflict management, poverty alleviation and behaviour change.

The project villages in India experience around 16 livestock deaths, 1 human death, and two human injuries on average each year, while the Nepalese villages experience 18 livestock deaths and 1 human injury (calculated from baseline information) annually. While the actual number and frequency of negative interactions can vary due to multiple factors outside of the projects' scope to address, (e.g. change in distribution of large carnivores or change in land-use patterns), the project aims at developing greater resilience in local people who are at the risk of experiencing such impacts. Specifically, it provides solutions to people to reduce the risk of losses of livestock and the risks of being attacked by large carnivores, while also bettering their earnings, as well as their health and wellbeing. This reduction in the risks is expected to also reduce the negative impacts directly from large carnivores over time, as more and more people adopt these solutions.

The project aims at directly reducing small livestock loss for at least 800 community households out of around 1000 households that have small livestock like goats and pigs, thereby reducing at-risk households by around 80%. Till date the project has already catered to 209 households by providing them training and materials to build and maintain their own predator proof pens.

The small proportion of human deaths and injuries as reported from these villages must be understood in light of the significantly low or non-existent large carnivore populations (as in the case of Valmiki TR) in the past. These are on a rapid increase now. Also, from other similar projects it is now understood that most negative encounters with large carnivores can be avoided through precautionary measures or by simply avoiding areas that large carnivores prefer, such as forested habitats. Most human presence in forested habitats is because of people's dependence on forest resources either for themselves or their livestock (e.g. fodder). The project targets this by providing people supplementary livelihoods and practices that reduce their need to go to forests. In the first year it provided ICSs (that either use LPG or significantly less fuelwood) to 220 households, constituting 14% of households relying on forest-based fuelwood as a primary kitchen fuel. It has also targeted an additional 77 beneficiaries in the first year by providing them training and support in different supplementary livelihood schemes. These aim at increasing their profitable extra income, dissuading them from forest-based resources for a livelihood. Currently around 1000 households in six villages collect additional resources such as vegetables, mushrooms, fodder and aquatic lifeforms from forests, and are thus vulnerable to negative interactions with large carnivores, especially as their populations continue to increase over the years due to concerted conservation efforts.

Additionally, as part of efforts to develop a participatory management model, the project successfully initiated a Primary Response Team network to serve as first responders to any conflict situation. It successfully inducted and oriented 47 volunteers of which 39 were provided basic training and equipment. This is a new concept in this part of the Terai landscape, and by the end of the project period it is expected that a significant proportion of this established network will become adept at responding to conflict situations to resolve them amicably, materialising into a empowered community stewardship model.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Output: 1.

Assumption 1: Majority of enlisting volunteers will all contribute their services throughout the project period and beyond and suitable succession/recruitment will ensure teams remain in capacity.

Comments: The true outcome of this assumption will be realised over time but the current engagement and participation levels from volunteers, has been encouraging as volunteers have enthusiastically carried interventions and mitigation measures towards resolution of human-wildlife conflict.

Output: 2.

Assumption 1: Communities are willing to speak about livestock depredation freely before and after the project.

Comments: The baseline data suggests that community members have been freely speaking about livestock depredation and all aspects related to it even when they have not received any support from local authorities.

Assumption 2: Compensation records from government bodies will be shared for data analysis of livestock depredation.

Comments: This assumption has been triggered as the government does not maintain this information in a standardised manner. We however have carried out door-to-door surveys in project villages, and thus have recorded more accurate estimates of livestock depredation over last three years. It also needs to be understood that some parts of the landscape were devoid of predators for a significant period (~30 years) of time and thus negative were almost non-existent as well, and are only now beginning to emerge as large carnivores like tigers and leopards repopulate these landscapes.

Assumption 3: Communities will want PPPs and will maintain them.

Comments: Well in advance of collecting baseline data, local communities have actively been engaging with the project teams to gain insights into Predator-Proof Pens (PPPs) and request assistance for their construction. Moreover, our experience from the Living with Tigers project indicates a noteworthy expansion in the adoption of PPPs in the project area of Nepal, extending well beyond the initial project beneficiaries. Even individuals from neighbouring villages, who could afford it, have embraced this practice.

Output 3.

Assumption 1: Communities are willing to speak to the project team about forest-based resource collection and income from it openly.

Comments: The baseline data suggests that community members have freely conveyed this information to surveyors including their forest resource dependencies, earnings from them, and all other aspects related to it even when they have not received any support from local authorities.

Assumption 2: Communities are willing to adopt the use of improved cookstoves as well as a 'green livelihood' option.

Comments: While the selected beneficiaries and volunteers for distribution of improved cookstoves and 'green livelihood' options have readily adopted these interventions, the feedback from the community at large is encouraging as more members of the community are keen to be included in the project's activities.

Output 4.

Assumption 1: Media representatives are willing to take part in the workshops.

Comments: The media workshops held by project partners saw a total participation of 60 media representatives. The workshop was attended by representatives of both regional and national media houses. In a survey conducted by WTI, the analysis shows 69% of the respondents would like to participate in similar such workshops in the future.

Assumption 2: Media representatives despite engagement are free from pressures to negatively sensationalise news pieces, and will continue to publish fact-based, non-sensationalised stories.

Comments: It is too early to test this assumption, although past experiences have shown that continuous engagement and opening of communication channels significantly boost fact-based reporting. It must be

acknowledged here that this change does require several years to become measurable, and therefore tested in a valid manner.

Assumption 3: Forest Department officials will be open to changed practices and behaviours and will be willing to partake in the workshops.

Comments: Workshops conducted by both partner organisations saw participation of 31 forest staff who are locally deployed in the VTR and CNP. It is also encouraging that the project is in-line with the prescriptive framework of the government's human-wildlife conflict mitigation strategy, and therefore is in line with an already on-going change in practices and behaviours of Forest Department staff. The project initiatives engaging with this stakeholder group is thus complementing the national strategies and helping further them. Like, for media however, visible and measurable change can only be expected after several years of continued engagement and capacity development, which this project has initiated in this landscape.

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

In the project region in Nepal, it is estimated that an average local person manages to accrue annual profits as low as £98.4 ± 74.0 per year from agriculture alone (with 1-2 crops per year), and around £153.0 ± 145.5 per year, from two crops in addition to wage labouring, livestock husbandry and horticulture. Similarly in the project regions in India, the average profits earned by local community members figure around £205.2 ± 124.5 per year, from agriculture, and around £344.0 ± 607.2 per year from agriculture along with additional earnings from wage labouring, livestock husbandry and horticulture. Average annual profits from part-time or full-time office based private or government jobs were significantly higher (c.a. £1898.9 ± 946.6 / year) in both regions, although only about 4.12% & 1.2% of the people in surveyed households in the project villages in Nepal and India, respectively, engaged in such private or government jobs.

It is with this understanding that the project fosters adoption of different avenues of supplementary income generation to prioritised households who are most needy (relatively poorer and more dependent on forest resources). Moreover, all income options that are promoted require little investment in terms of time and money but provide additional income that accounts for greater profits across the year. For instance, women being trained as para vets for small to medium livestock, and manufacture and maintenance of improved cook stoves, do not require full time effort, but can manage to generate substantial sums with very little financial investment. Similarly, for building of PPPs, the trainers being trained will also generate extra profits by manufacturing PPPs for other beneficiaries. The people being trained for cattle breed improvement through artificial insemination will also be provided equipment they need to pursue this as an additional livelihood source, and experience has shown that they can generate relatively more income that is almost entirely profitable, with very little investment of time and other resources. In other livelihood options chosen by different beneficiaries, the project also aims to consciously explore and if possible, to link beneficiaries to government subsidy and support schemes, such as low interest long-term microfinance or job guarantee schemes of the governments.

The project while focussing heavily on local people, it also at its core targets biodiversity protection through two specific aspects. Firstly, it is recognised that persistent losses and poverty can drive serious retaliation against wildlife species, conservation efforts directed towards them as well as against agencies undertaking such conservation efforts. Such impacts have resulted in significant decline in not just populations of species, but also habitats in numerous parts of the world. The current project therefore directly aims at preventing such retaliatory action from local communities by building in greater resilience to withstand material losses due to wildlife. It does so by providing people avenues of supplementary profit generation and safeguarding vital property such as livestock using better means such as PPPs and stall-fed cattle (which also provide better milk and dung yields).

Secondly, the project aims at garnering participatory action to manage negative interactions and conflicts, thereby reducing both the risks of material losses, as well as retaliatory action against the species involved should conflicts erupt following negative interactions.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

At the national, the project catered to the National Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan (2021-26) of India. Specifically, its goals, 6 (reduce forest dependence of local people), 7 (Reduce incidences of HWC through preventative measures) & 8 (Putting an efficient response mechanism), were addressed by the projects' activities focused on alternative livelihood, fuelwood dependence reduction and primary response team initiatives, respectively. Additionally, its Goal 19 focusing on enhancing Institutional capacities in forest and other key relevant sectors, was addressed by the training programmes organised by the project partners for the forest department and media personnel. Similarly, for Nepal, the project through the above-mentioned activities contributed to the Outputs 3.4 and 3.5, to enhance livelihood opportunities for local communities, and enhance local communities' capacity and awareness to resolve human-tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) conflicts, respectively, of its National Tiger Conservation Action Plan (2023 – 2032). It also at a broader level contributed to the strategic action (1.3) to enhance human-wildlife

coexistence under Nepal's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2025, by fostering coexistence through almost all the projects' initiatives.

The project is unique in pursuing a complex goal of fostering coexistence through forging of partnerships that bridges knowledge and skill gaps across international borders. In this, it directly caters to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 to foster partnerships in achieving its remaining goals. The project in through its promotion of cleaner fuels and reduced fuelwood use (LPG and improved cookstoves) in community households, directly contributed to SDG goal 15 that aims to foster sustainable land-use, management of forest and its resources leading to reduced land degradation.

The project in working with local communities to foster adoption of cleaner fuels of cleaner combusting cookstoves the project directly enhances the health of community members, especially women in project villagers, by reducing their exposure to hazardous smoke pollution. This therefore directly contribute to target 3.9 of SDG goal 3 aiming to enhance healthy lifestyles and wellbeing of people. It also contributes to targets 2.1 & 2.3 of SDG Goal 2 to reduce hunger and increase food security, by promoting cattle improvement in community households as well as protection of livestock from depredation by large carnivores. The building of predator proof pens, development of para vets and further cattle development through artificial insemination are all aimed at increasing food security and increasing income to make other necessities (including other food items) more accessible. The projects' beneficiaries are also largely people living in poverty, without the means or resources to change their situation, especially considering economic losses incurred due to large carnivores. In directly (financially and technically) supporting these beneficiaries to protect their livestock, improve cattle, reduce hazardous emissions from fuelwood cookstoves, and reduce their dependence on forests, it contributes to target 1.5 of SDG goal 1, that aims to reduce poverty by building resilience of the poor.

Additionally, through a more recent development, human-wildlife conflict management and reduction has now been included under Target 4 of the Global Biodiversity Framework (which itself supports the SDGs), as a crucial factor that needs to be addressed to halt biodiversity loss and promote harmonious coexistence with nature.

Finally, by effectively aiming to reduce retaliatory killings, the project also contributes to the nations' commitment to CITES, by indirectly enhancing the protection of the Bengal tiger, Asiatic Leopard (*Panthera Pardus*), and the Sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*), all of which are in schedule 1 of the convention.

5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The project integrally focusses on poverty reduction besides biodiversity conservation, and the local communities in the project villages earn very meagre profits through multiple occupations. Wage labouring is the major occupation besides farming and livestock rearing, for most people in project villages. Livestock, in particular equates to a financial instrument that can be liquidated in times of need in these villages. The project till date has provided resources and trainings to build and maintain PPPs in around 180 households in both project sites, amounting to around £ 1800.0 in just materials.

The project works not only on increasing the profitable household income for a significant proportion of the poorest and most needy sections of the society within the targeted project villages, but also provides capacity development to several of these beneficiaries so they can support others in need in their own and neighbouring villages. This also works towards improving their social standing in their villages. In the first year the project trained 79 people in different income generation options, investing around £ 7000.0 in training and resources. The project will be measuring their change in profitable income over the course of Y2 & Y3.

Moreover, supplementary livelihood generation work also aims at reducing the beneficiaries' time spent in collection of forest-based resources, thereby reducing their vulnerability to being attacked by large carnivores. This is being measured by specific indicators that aim at assessing beneficiaries' dependence on forest-based resources in terms of how much time they spend collecting these.

Through some of the initiatives, the project also impacts the health and wellbeing of targeted community members, especially women, The improved cookstoves, both fuelwood and LPG based significantly reduce indoor air pollution thereby reducing risks of respiratory diseases and other health problems. They also provide faster cooking times through efficient burning of fuels, thereby freeing up time for homemakers to undertake other household work or spending quality family time. The project till date has provided 220 households ICSs amounting to around £3300.0 in material costs.

As experienced from earlier field projects proliferation of knowledge on various 'safer' and more lucrative income generation sources often has a ripple effect and spreads significantly beyond the scope of the project. For instance, in the earlier Darwin Initiative project, introduced practices such as predator proof pens, horticulture techniques etc have all proliferated beyond the project villages, with many people in adjoining villages adopting these to increase their income and improve their lives.

Lastly, by cultivating participatory practices for management of human-wildlife conflicts, it also empowers local people for decision making about wildlife species and wildlife habitats around them, and thereby also recognising their own responsibility to safeguard these for the ecosystem services they provide. Because such inclusive and participatory mechanisms for wildlife conservation and management are grossly amiss in the governance structure of the two countries, the efforts in this project are crucial to establish a trend

in the mindsets of not only local communities, but also other stakeholders like the forest department and the media. It is anticipated that this will open up avenues for deeper engagement and involvement of local people by the state forest department and other custodian agencies of wildlife, in India and Nepal.

6. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

The project beneficiaries under different activities of the project are largely women in both project areas. The project kicked-off with a series of consultative meetings with project beneficiaries to apprise them of the broad framework of the project and discuss details of each activity. All such consultative meetings ensured at least 40-50% of the attendees were women, and were provided ample space to voice their opinions, ideas etc. Most of eastern India and southern Nepal see higher levels of empowerment among women and therefore engaging with women has by far not been an issue in any project village. The project provided 100 beneficiaries in 2 of the project villages, with LPG based ICSs, in Nepal. Of these, 100 were women, accounting therefore for 100% of total beneficiaries.

In Valmiki tiger reserve on the Indian side, the villages being extremely remote fuel efficient cookstoves were provided to a total of 120 beneficiaries (all women), instead of LPG based ICSs. As a precursor to this activity 29 women were trained after an initial consultative meeting to manufacture and repair fuel efficient cookstoves, who were then supported to manufacture other shortlisted beneficiaries under the project activity. In total in the first year, 220 women beneficiaries were provided ICSs for their households, making it 27.5% of the total targeted 800 beneficiaries. Similarly, the cattle breed improvement activity in Valmiki TR has catered to training 12 women in 2 of the project villages as para veterinarians. This is the first level training after which they will be provided an advanced training so that they can serve as certified para vets who can also support beneficiary households to improve cattle breeds through artificial insemination of existing cattle. Additionally, three men from two project villages are also undergoing an intensive training on artificial insemination.

In the activities pertaining to Primary Response Teams however despite best efforts could not recruit equal number of women, as women did not volunteer for this, primarily as this may entailed undertaking of work away from their respective villages when conflict situations arise. 6 women however volunteered in India and Nepal, and were encouraged to also speak with other women so more women can join the initiative in the future. They also underwent the initial inception trainings organised for all PRT members.

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	The project board comprises of Mayukh Chatterjee (M); Disha Sharma (F) Scott Wilson (M), Hannah Symons (F). They are supported by technical advisors; viz. Jennifer MC Dermot (F); Andrew Moss (M); Virat Singh (M); & Amy Fitzmaurice (F). Therefore, women comprise 50% of the board at both levels.
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women ² .	NEZS: CEO Jamie Christon = M. Senior Directors 3 x M (Simon Dowell, Mike Jordan, Dominic Strange) and 3 x F (Liz Carnie, Charlotte Smith, Cathy Lunn) WTI: CEO Rahul Kaul = M; Project Lead Samir Sinha = M; Project Officer, Kamalika Bhattacharya = F. NTNC: CEO Naresh Subedi = M; Project In-Charge; Rachana Shah = F

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

¹ A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

² Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

	resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an ‘empowering’ approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

7. Monitoring and evaluation

The project log frame, as submitted and approved as part of the Stage 2 application and later revised as per feedback from BCF, lists the indicators for outcomes and outputs (Please see Annexe 2 for details on indicators of outputs and outcome and their measures). These, developed by the project lead along with inputs from technical advisors and partners, are the basis of our monitoring and evaluation framework. Additionally, the project teams have further broken-down projected activities to assess progress or action taken against each sub-activity every quarter of the project year. At the end of each quarter, the project team also convened over online meetings wherein the project partners presented the progress made against each activity which was planned for that quarter as per the log-frame. These meetings provided a platform for our partners to discuss their own and each other’s activity implementation and discuss any challenges they faced during execution of activities and how these have been/ could be mediated or overcome. In addition to quarterly meetings, the project manager has maintained communication over telephone besides travelling to field sites to take regular updates. The in-country project manager also periodically undertook field trips to oversee implementation of activities, while also noting progress on multiple fronts, discussing issues and hurdles and planning for future periods.

Project lead along with the in-country manager from Chester Zoo also visited the project villages along with respective project teams to carry out dedicated on-site evaluations of the work undertaken, interacting with beneficiary groups and other stakeholder representatives. The in-country project leads shared the responsibility of monitoring and evaluating the performance & outputs achieved, while their respectively appointed implementation co-ordinators, share the responsibility of both, overseeing the in-field implementation to ensure quality and quantity requirements, but also keep track of project goals and outputs, reporting on these to the in-country project leads each month.

8. Lessons learnt

The uptake of the project activities and potential envisioned impact on the project region, has been positive by the local communities and stakeholders. Their active participation and continued dialogue with the project partners have got the project off to a good start. We are pleased to report that NTNC and WTI are working well together, sharing ideas and information while also undertaking transboundary organisational capacity building exercises (such as the teams travelling across borders to learn about activities previously implemented in each country and conducting workshops to ensure parity in implementation of methodologies).

This emanates from a key lesson learnt – that for some ideas to proliferate exposure trips for field teams and community representatives are crucial. For instance, improved cook stoves using reduced fuelwood is virtually non-existent in the villages in Nepal as people have opted for LPG based cook stoves instead, whilst continuing to use their traditional wood based cookstoves for larger cooking and heating purposes. The project teams were initially reluctant to promote efficient fuelwood based cookstoves over and above the LPG cookstoves. An exposure trip to the Indian side villages for the NTNC team and village representative, where these have been promoted and the uptake has been very good, resolved the issue as they were able to witness these cookstoves in action themselves. Similarly, PPPs are almost non-existent in the Indian villages, and an exposure visit for the WTI team to Nepalese villages where these are in use, affirmed the team that these could successfully be built on the Indian side as well.

Further, as we neared the end of Y1, we have a better understanding of the different ways in which the two partners function including their internal processes of management, hence going forward, the project leadership will put into place more robust guidelines and reporting formats for detailed/ comparable reporting on the progress of various project activities.

We are also happy to inform that we are not anticipating any changes to the project at this time which would warrant submission of a change request.

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

Not applicable as this is the first annual report submission.

10. Risk Management

The project experienced some changes early in the first quarter wherein the Project Supervisor and in-country lead appointed by NTNC in Nepal changed. The Project implementation coordinator also had to

be replaced by NTNC owing to personal reasons of the departing coordinator. By the end of the second quarter, majority of the necessary survey consultants, village liaisons and field assistants were recruited by our partners in India and Nepal. Subsequent change requests were also submitted to NIRAS and in principal approval has now been received. As these changes were incorporated at an early stage, they do not have any long-term detrimental impacts on the project activities and outcomes.

Also, while the project timeline consciously accounted for the monsoon season, we could not foresee the duration and intensity of the monsoons this year which were both extended and intensive (Please see evidence file: Inclement weather resulting in delays of project activities section) disrupting physical modes of communication, and therefore delaying the initiation of field-based activities. This has however been managed very well by our partners in the field by ramping up field personnel to speed up work.

10. Sustainability and legacy

Although it is early to assess how sustainable some of the initiatives under the project will be, the project almost entirely has been developed with sustainability in mind. For instance, active efforts are already being made to dovetail different initiatives into each other to ensure sustainability. For instance, for both, promotion of fuel efficient cookstoves and improved cattle breeds that are stall fed, the project is developing capacity of local women’s self-help groups to deliver these to the larger beneficiary groups in the project villages, thereby making it a key source of income for them. It is expected that these trained women will take it ahead and proliferate the initiative well beyond the spatial and temporal extent of the project itself. Similarly, for the predator proof pens, the project is training local people interested in carpentry to manufacture and maintain these pens customised to different beneficiaries needs and limitations. This style of implementation is also now being appreciated by the in-country project partners who are developing plans for other projects to follow a similar approach.

It must however also be understood that the current project period of three years is significantly constraining to ensure sustainability on all fronts, and the project team is therefore keen to seek continued support for this project across subsequent phases of the DARWIN Initiative as well as other funding opportunities, wherein it will further work towards making certain initiatives more sustainable and work towards developing sustainability plans in yet others within the scope of the project.

11. Darwin Initiative identity

The project has been highlighted on NEZS’s website as an independent project supported by DEFRA. Social media posts were also done around the start of the project tagging in relevant embassies/consulates as well as the required tags/handles of Darwin Initiative / Biodiversity challenge funds, on X (Twitter)/LinkedIn/Meta (Facebook) and Instagram

In addition to this, local newspapers have reported on the initiation of this project based on updates provided by the state forest departments. Darwin Initiative is well known in both India and Nepal, however in the more remote locations of the project sites it is not well known, and the current project is helping familiarise people through the project signage, wherein the Darwin Initiative logo is prominently placed. Lastly, the project teams participated in the celebration of international tiger day organised by the Forest Departments and is attended extensively by local administrative officers, local politicians, community members and media (Please see evidence file: Darwin Initiative Identity section) and highlighted the project through various signage. The support provided under the Darwin Initiative by DEFRA is also strongly emphasised in regular meetings with all stake holders and in day-to-day communications, (Please see evidence file: Darwin Initiative Identity section)

12. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	Yes
Have any concerns been reported in the past 12 months	Yes
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	NEZS: Yes, Charlotte Smith (CS), Director of Conservation Education is the Safeguarding point person at NEZS. WTI: Yes, Ramesh Kundu, Head of Human Resource department is the safeguarding point person at WTI. NTNC: Yes, Mr. Aashish Gurung, conservation / Information officer is the Safeguarding focal point for NTNC-BCC (at the field level)

<p>Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?</p>	<p>NEZS: Yes, CS has undergone the Level 3 Refresher training with Cheshire West and Chester Safeguarding Partnership WTI: Yes, RK has undergone an extensive training on key safeguarding aspects at WTI delivered by external consultants in India. NTNC: Yes, Mr. Gurung has undergone orientation training on Environmental and Social safeguard policies and guidelines of NTNC.</p>
<p>What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?</p>	<p>NEZS: Past: 51% (466 Staff members) of all staff have completed mandatory Safeguarding Awareness online training in the last 12 months. The number is relatively low due to our recent seasonal intake of new employees and some longer standing members of staff having lapsed (ie, having completed training more than 12 months ago). Planned: 100% [913] WTI: Past: 100% (211 staff members) of all staff have all completed a comprehensive course on safeguarding with special focus on sexual harassment at workplace, in Nov,2023 NTNC: 100% (300+ staff) of the NTNC staff has undergone mandatory orientation training on Environment and social safeguard policies and guidelines of NTNC</p>
<p>NEZS: Our Safeguarding Leads and Safeguarding Officers meet on a quarterly basis to review safeguarding practice across the organisation. Safeguarding Concerns are logged by the Duty Safeguarding Officer on CPOMs as they are reported, with concerns reported on to the Safeguarding board as required. Training compliance, safeguarding practice and concerns/incidents are reviewed every two months as part of regular reporting on safeguarding to trustees. This promotes a culture of continual improvement, but no significant challenges or lessons learned have been identified in the last 12 months. WTI: Safeguarding policy of the organisation was updated based on certain gaps identified by NEZS Safeguarding leads and was then amended and endorsed and put into action by WTI. No specific challenges and lessons learnt were identified in the last 12 months. NTNC: Safeguard policy of NTNC was updated in 2020. GESI focal point, safeguard focal point, information officer and conservation officers communicate the concerns to respected department heads with suggestions. Implementation of safeguard policy into structure and procedures in NTNC field offices such as identification and maintenance of risk register in all field offices regularly was identified as a challenge.</p>	
<p>Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify. The project has not planned any specific developments or activities around safeguarding, but all organisations as per their internal policies will continue to deliver refresher trainings to their staff members. NEZS has also planned to do a more focussed safeguarding training for project staff for both in-country partners.</p>	
<p>Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and number of participants. The project has not undertaken any community sensitisation specifically on safeguarding. Although other forms of community sensitisation have been conducted, e.g. with 220 women on improved cook stove needs and their positive impact on their health and wellbeing.</p>	
<p>Have there been any concerns around Health, Safety and Security of your project over the past year? If yes, please outline how this was resolved. No concerns around health, safety and security have been identified or recorded in either project areas during that last 12 months.</p>	

13. Project expenditure

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

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)			
Staff Costs							
Consultancy costs				The consultancy costs have been underspent primarily as some of the resource persons provided their services free of charge. Also, recruitment of field assistants was delayed by about 4 months at the start of the project. This has however not affected the work adversely.			
Overhead							
Travel and Subsistence							
Operating Costs							
Capital Items							
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)							
Others							
Total				193,585.00	191,771.11	0.01	

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

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)	NEZS : £ ██████	██████	Chester Zoo
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)	None	None	

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

There are no additional comments at this stage of the project.

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

We have no outstanding achievement of progress to report on at this stage of the project

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

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>Large carnivore populations are successfully conserved in the transboundary landscape of Nepal and India by bolstering human-large carnivore coexistence through community empowerment and wellbeing</p>	<p>The project till date has developed a participatory framework for managing conflicts that may arise, by inducting and training 39 local community volunteers as Primary responders, few of whom already address three cases of wildlife emergencies on the Indian side, including one involving a tiger, preventing any negative interactions, and ensuring the tiger also was not killed or captured. The project also engaged with and supported 104 beneficiaries to improve their supplementary income thereby positively bettering their economic situation, while another 220 beneficiaries were provided training to reduce their dependence on forest-based resources, thereby reducing both forest degradation and people's vulnerability to negative interactions with large carnivores in forests.</p>	
<p>Outcome: Negative impacts of human-large carnivore interactions significantly reduced in six 'model' villages around Valmiki-Chitwan-Parsa landscape across India and Nepal, through participatory conflict management, poverty alleviation and behaviour change.</p>		
<p>Outcome indicator 0.1</p> <p>By end of year 3 at least 40% cases addressed by Primary Response Team (PRT) members are resolved amicably preventing further loss of human lives and injuries; death/injury of the wild animal involved; or the need for the animal's removal into captivity.</p>	<p>To be measured at end of Y3.</p> <p>Progress till date: 41 volunteers enlisted and inducted, and 39 of them trained and equipped. One sub-team on Indian side already resolved on human-tiger conflict situation preventing any untoward incidents and allowing their safe passage. They also addressed two additional wildlife emergency case involving a spotted deer and abandoned jungle cat kittens.</p>	
<p>Outcome indicator 0.2</p> <p>By end of year 3 livestock depredation by large carnivores reduced by at least 75% in all model villages where targeted interventions are implemented. (DI-D15)</p>	<p>To be measured at end of Y3.</p> <p>Progress till date: In all six villages ~ 1000 households have small livestock, and project aims to reduce 80% (800) households' vulnerability to depredation by end of project. Till date it has reduced vulnerability of 22% (220) households by providing PPPs.</p> <p>For large livestock the project aims to change free-grazing cattle with low-productivity, to high productivity stall fed cattle, through artificial insemination. Current progress is that people in project villages have shown keen interest in this, and two volunteers are being trained to carry out the artificial insemination of cattle in volunteering beneficiary households.</p>	

<p>Outcome indicator 0.3</p> <p>By end of year 3, the average frequency of trips to forests by beneficiaries reduced by 60%. (DI-B09)</p>	<p>To be measured at end of Y3.</p> <p>Progress Update: Baseline data suggests people dependent on forest-based fuelwood for cooking undertake on average around 7 trips per month (range: 3 – 11 trips) to the forest spending on average 3.5 hours per trip (range: 2.6 – 4.4 hrs). Since the frequency has been mapped for each individual beneficiary, this will be revisited through self-reporting through the course of the project to report on this indicator.</p>	
<p>Outcome indicator 0.4</p> <p>By end of year 3, loss of income from reduced forest resource dependence amongst at least 75% of beneficiaries of the programme is offset 100% with the income generated from adopted 'green' livelihoods (DI-D16)</p>	<p>To be measured at end of Y3.</p> <p>Progress Update: Baseline data suggested around 1037 households in project villages dependent upon different forest resources at varying levels. Of these, 414 households dependent upon forests for wild vegetable, mushrooms and aquatic lifeforms, earning on average £73.3 – £167.8 as profits per year. The alternative livelihoods that are being introduced (e.g. goat farming, para veterinary service providers, mushroom farming, etc.), are expected to provide a higher per capita profitable income to each participating household and while also being a more assured and risk-free source of income than forest resources.</p>	
<p>Outcome indicator 0.5</p> <p>By end of year 3, at least 25% of local media reports by 60% of the media personnel engaged, covering human-large carnivore conflicts, are fact based and neutral (DI-C15)</p>	<p>To be measured at end of Y3.</p> <p>Progress Update: Currently the data on media reports are being analysed, but general understanding is that majority of news reports on HWC are negatively sensationalised.</p>	
<p>Outcome indicator 0.6</p> <p>At least 30% of cases addressed by the park and wildlife managers are resolved without capture and translocation of the large carnivore involved.</p>	<p>To be measured at end of Y3.</p> <p>Progress Update: Currently the project is continuing to collect data in real time on different cases that occur and how they are addressed by the forest department. Before the project 100% of cases were being addressed by the forest department through capture translocation. In 1st year of project, on the Indian side, one tiger was allowed safe passage due to the efforts of the PRT working with the forest department.</p>	
<p>Outcome indicator 0.7</p> <p>By end of year 3, impacts of varying dimensions of human-wildlife conflicts on people's mental health and wellbeing in rural communities in the project area assessed, and a detailed strategic plan is produced and shared with all relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>To be measured at end of Y3.</p> <p>Progress Update: Survey questionnaire has been prepared an teams are gearing up to initiate the survey in Y2 of the project.</p>	

Output 1: A network of community volunteers trained, equipped and functionalised as Primary Response Team in project areas of Valmiki-Chitwan-Parsa landscape.		
Output indicator 1.1 1.1: By end of year 1, at least 25 people each in Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Parsa NP and Chitwan NP inducted, trained and equipped as PRT members providing coverage across all project villages and adjoining areas (DI-A01)	Progress Update: 31 volunteers in India and 16 in Nepal have been inducted in as PRT members. 39 of them have also been equipped with essential gear and apparel, as well as an basic training on their role and responsibilities (Please see report section 3.1, Activity 1.4).	More intensive trainings on specific aspects such as identifying and tracking large carnivores, managing people, first aid care etc., are all planned for the second year of the project.
Output indicator 1.2 1.2: By end of year 3, at least 60% of all trained PRT members will actively respond and/or partake in efforts to mitigate human wildlife conflict (HWC) and resolve at least 40% of attended cases without capture of animals involved (DI-B05).	Progress Update: Some PRT members have attended to three wildlife emergency situations, including one HWC case involving a tiger (Please see report section 3.1, Activity 1.5).	Continued capacity building and handholding at the time of ongoing and emergent HWC situations.
Output 2: Livestock depredation in project villages significantly reduced through promotion of two tried and tested initiatives Predator Proof Pens (PPP) and promotion of stall-fed cattle, as well as a new experimental novel method, the eye-cow.		
Output indicator 2.1 Baselines for livestock ownership, grazing preferences amongst project village households completed, and potential beneficiaries identified, and consent accrued, by mid of year 1(DI-C16).	Progress Update: Baselines have been collected from 2763 households in a door-to-door survey conducted over the first 3 quarters of Y1. Potential beneficiaries for various project activities have been identified and their consent accrued. (Please see report section 3.1, Activity 2.1)	Data for one village is being entered into survey money and cleaned up for inclusion in analyses
Output indicator 2.2 By mid-year 2, at least 25% of beneficiaries practicing livestock rearing actively build, maintain, and use PPPs (DI-A04)	Progress Update: In Y1, 209 beneficiaries have received technical training, and support towards PPP building materials out of which 180 (86%) have built PPPs and using them to stock smaller livestock such as goats.	Continued support to beneficiaries with technical advice along with PPP building material.
Output indicator 2.3 By year 3 end, at least 90% of PPPs built still maintained and used.	Not applicable in Y1.	Inspection and reporting on PPP usage and maintenance by beneficiaries. Providing support to beneficiaries who are unable to maintain structural upkeep of PPPs.
Output indicator 2.4 By end of Year 3, at least 25% of consenting beneficiaries begin stall feeding their improved cattle stocks (DI-D02).	Not applicable in Y1. Progress Update: Two volunteering beneficiaries in India are being trained in artificial insemination who shall cater to beneficiary households that opt for stall-fed improved varieties of cattle.	

<p>Output indicator 2.5</p> <p>By end of year 3, eye-cow method of livestock protection tested rigorously with Bengal tigers and Asian leopards (DI-C01).</p>	<p>Not applicable in Y1.</p> <p>Progress Update: The eye-cow methodology & guidelines have been developed (Please see evidence file Activity 2.6) and will be implemented in the third quarter of Y2.</p>	<p>Testing the 'eye' and 'X' stamps along with suitable paint.</p> <p>Informing and accruing consent from selected beneficiary households for placing 'eye' and 'X' markings on their livestock as well as from beneficiaries whose livestock will be used as control i.e., with no markings.</p> <p>Putting in place and monitoring a reporting system with all participating households.</p>
<p>Output 3: At least 75% of targeted forest-dependent beneficiary communities in each of the 6 project villages benefit from 'green livelihoods (GL)', improved cookstoves, and/or sustainable cooking fuels, and significantly reduce their time spent in forest for natural resource collection.</p>		
<p>Output indicator 3.1</p> <p>Baselines on forest dependence of households for extraction of forest resources including fuelwood assessed for all project villages, and shortlisting of beneficiaries and accrual of consents completed by mid-Year 1 (DI-C16).</p>	<p>Progress Update: Baselines have been collected from 2763 households in a door-to-door survey conducted over the first 3 quarters of Y1(Please see report section 3.1, Activity 2.1).</p>	<p>Data for one village is being entered into survey money and cleaned up for inclusion in analyses</p>
<p>Output indicator 3.2</p> <p>By end of year 2, 75% of prioritised beneficiaries in all project villages adopt an alternative fuel source and adopt a 'green-livelihood' (GL) (DI-B10).</p>	<p>Progress Update: So far 100 prioritised beneficiaries have adopted LPG based improved cookstoves while 120 have adopted the more fuelwood efficient improved cookstoves built by 29 women beneficiaries who have been trained to adopt a 'green-livelihood'. An additional 48 beneficiaries have received training and support for adoption of 'green-livelihoods' such as mushroom farming, para-vets and nursery raising. (Please see report section 3.1, Activity 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 & 3.6)</p>	<p>Providing moulds to trained beneficiaries to construct fuelwood efficient ICS in all targeted 400 households in the project villages in India.</p> <p>Distribution of LPG based ICS to remainder of 300 selected beneficiary households in Nepal.</p>
<p>Output indicator 3.3</p> <p>By end of year 3, average trips to collect forest resources are reduced to at least 60% amongst 75% of targeted beneficiaries.</p>	<p>Not applicable in Y1.</p>	<p>Implementation of a biannual self-reporting system by the targeted beneficiaries.</p>
<p>Output indicator 3.4</p> <p>By end of year 3, 80% of beneficiaries engaged with a 'green' livelihoods', successfully sustain their new livelihood (DI-B10).</p>	<p>Not applicable in Y1.</p>	
<p>Output 4: Current narratives of human-large carnivore conflicts significantly altered to promote coexistence, through focussed capacity and knowledge building of local media personnel and wildlife managers.</p>		

<p>Output indicator 4.1</p> <p>By end of Year 1, Baseline created of print media narrative on human-large carnivore conflicts, as well as of forest department's knowledge and understanding of human-large carnivore conflicts, and mitigation measures employed by them (DI-C16).</p>	<p>Progress Update: Surveys to record baselines of print media narrative on human-large carnivore conflicts, as well as of forest department's knowledge and understanding of human-large carnivore conflicts, and mitigation measures employed by them were developed and have been taken by 65 participating media personnel and forest department staff.</p>	
<p>Output indicator 4.2</p> <p>By end of Year 2, at least 70% of consented media personnel across all print dailies of region, and concerned wildlife managers and rangers of the Protected Areas (PA) attend workshops.</p>	<p>Progress Update: Two workshops, focussing on building their knowledge and capacity to promote human-wildlife coexistence have been conducted for media personnel and forest department staff, each in India and Nepal. These workshops were attended by 31 forest department staff and 43 media personnel. (Please see report section 3.1, Activity 4.4)</p>	
<p>Output indicator 4.3</p> <p>By end of year 3, at least 60% of media personnel who have attended workshops pledge to act as the voice of both wildlife species and people and print fact-based reports non-sensationalized reports (DI-C15).</p>	<p>Not applicable in Y1.</p>	<p>Continued engagement with media personnel on a biannual basis in Y2 and Y3.</p> <p>Workshops conducted media personnel who print fact-based non-sensationalised reports, acting as voice of both people and wildlife.</p>
<p>Output indicator 4.4</p> <p>By end of year 3, at least 50% of trained wildlife managers and rangers exhibit a clear understanding of human-large carnivore issues in their landscape and can tackle at least 30% of the situations they address without needing to capture and translocate the animals involved (DI-A07).</p>	<p>Not applicable in Y1.</p>	<p>Continued engagement with wildlife managers and rangers via workshops.</p>
<p>Output 5: A comprehensive understanding of mental health and wellbeing among the local communities established and a co-planned strategy to address impacts of HWC on mental health and wellbeing of people formulated for the project communities.</p>		
<p>Output indicator 5.1</p> <p>By end of year 2, baselines for mental health and wellbeing vis-à-vis its drivers established for people of project villages (DI-C16).</p>	<p>Progress Update: A methodological framework has been developed in consultation with project advisors and partners. The study will be implemented in the project villages in Y2.(Please see report section 3.1, Activity 5.1)</p>	<p>Training of survey consultants and field teams in best practices for conducting qualitative surveys on mental health and wellbeing.</p>
<p>Output indicator 5.2</p> <p>By end of year 3, a co-planned and co-developed detailed strategic plan to foster better mental health and wellbeing is drafted and shared with all relevant stakeholders including peer communities.</p>	<p>Not applicable in Y1.</p>	

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

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Large carnivore populations are successfully conserved in the transboundary landscape of Nepal and India by bolstering human-large carnivore coexistence through community empowerment and wellbeing			
Outcome: Negative impacts of human-large carnivore interactions significantly reduced in six ‘model’ villages around Valmiki-Chitwan-Parsa landscape across India and Nepal, through participatory conflict management, poverty alleviation and behaviour change.	<p>0.1: By end of year 3 at least 40% cases addressed by Primary Response Team (PRT) members are resolved amicably preventing further loss of human lives and injuries; death/injury of the wild animal involved; or the need for the animal’s removal into captivity.</p> <p>0.2: By end of year 3 livestock depredation by large carnivores reduced by at least 75% in all model villages where targeted interventions are implemented. (DI-D15)</p> <p>0.3: By end of year 3, the average frequency of trips to forests by beneficiaries reduced by 60%. (DI-B09)</p> <p>0.4: By end of year 3, loss of income from reduced forest resource dependence amongst at least 75% of beneficiaries of the programme is offset 100% with the income generated from adopted ‘green’ livelihoods (DI-D16)</p> <p>0.5: By end of year 3, at least 25% of local media reports by 60% of the media personnel engaged, covering human-large carnivore conflicts, are fact based and neutral (DI-C15)</p>	<p>01: Details of cases attended by PRTs in the landscape, as well as qualitative analyses of different interventions made vis-à-vis outcome of the intervention, and comparison with previous years’ baseline of outcome of conflict situations.</p> <p>0.2: Comparison with baselines on past 3 years’ average livestock depredation numbers in the project villages, as well as control villages from survey results and compensation records.</p> <p>0.3: Comparison of self-reported data collected annually, against baselines on fuelwood collection and use created through sample survey at beginning of project</p> <p>0.4: Comparison against baselines collected at beginning of project on time-spent in forests and per-capita earnings from forest resources</p> <p>0.5.1: Content analysis of targeted media reports over course of project compared against content analysed for past 2-3 years of reportage.</p> <p>0.5.2: Comparative analyses of post-survey results, with baselines on past decisions and mitigation techniques employed by Wildlife management in the Protected Areas.</p> <p>0.6: Analysed survey results in published report and action plan.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development driven change in community aspirations will not negatively impact the overall goal of increasing tolerance for losses amongst local communities and their willingness for continued participation. 2. Major policy changes in either of the countries will not render futile any or all of the project’s outputs.

	<p>0.6: At least 30% of cases addressed by the park and wildlife managers are resolved without capture and translocation of the large carnivore involved.</p> <p>0.7: By end of year 3, impacts of varying dimensions of human-wildlife conflicts on people's mental health and wellbeing in rural communities in the project area assessed, and a detailed strategic plan is produced and shared with all relevant stakeholders.</p>		
<p>Output 1</p> <p>A network of community volunteers trained, equipped and functionalised as Primary Response Team in project areas of Valmiki-Chitwan-Parsa landscape.</p>	<p>1.1: By end of year 1, at least 25 people each in Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Parsa NP and Chitwan NP inducted, trained and equipped as PRT members providing coverage across all project villages and adjoining areas (DI-A01)</p> <p>1.2: By end of year 3, at least 60% of all trained PRT members will actively respond and/or partake in efforts to mitigate human wildlife conflict (HWC) and resolve at least 40% of attended cases without capture of animals involved (DI-B05).</p>	<p>1.1: Database on human-tiger and human leopard conflicts and interventions, in and around project villages</p> <p>1.2: Training attendance and report.</p> <p>1.3: Case registers maintained by PRT members and field project team</p>	<p>1. Majority of enlisting volunteers will all contribute their services throughout the project period and beyond and suitable succession/recruitment will ensure teams remain in capacity.</p> <p>2. Trained volunteers will have regular opportunities to address HWC situations as HWC incident hotspots can spatially shift over time, or momentarily cease at certain hotspots.</p> <p>3. Volunteers are managed effectively to ensure continued engagement and enthusiasm about their roles and proactive response, to report and attend to all cases within their respective areas.</p>
<p>Output 2</p> <p>Livestock depredation in project villages significantly reduced through promotion of two tried and tested initiatives Predator Proof Pens (PPP) and promotion of stall-fed cattle, as well as a new</p>	<p>2.1: Baselines for livestock ownership, grazing preferences amongst project village households completed, and potential beneficiaries identified, and consent accrued, by mid of year 1 (DI-C16).</p> <p>2.2. By mid-year 2, at least 25% of beneficiaries practicing livestock rearing</p>	<p>2.1.1. Raw and analysed baseline information on types and number of livestock owned by households in project villages.</p> <p>2.1.2: Beneficiary lists and signed consent forms</p>	<p>1. Communities are willing to speak about livestock depredation freely before and after the project.</p> <p>2. Compensation records from government bodies will be shared for data analysis of livestock depredation.</p>

<p>experimental novel method, the eye-cow.</p>	<p>actively build, maintain, and use PPPs (DI-A04)</p> <p>2.3. By year 3 end, at least 90% of PPPs built still maintained and used.</p> <p>2.4. By end of Year 3, at least 25% of consenting beneficiaries begin stall feeding their improved cattle stocks (DI-D02).</p> <p>2.5. By end of year 3, eye-cow method of livestock protection tested rigorously with Bengal tigers and Asian leopards (DI-C01).</p>	<p>2.2. Physical verification of PPPs built and used.</p> <p>2.3. All Physical verification and through beneficiary feedback.</p> <p>2.4.1: Artificial insemination (AI) training course attendance and certificates</p> <p>2.4.2. Consent forms from beneficiaries, data on stall-fed varieties of cattle birth and survival.</p> <p>2.5: Enumeration of livestock killed by tigers and leopards (especially of marked and unmarked livestock) through self-reporting by beneficiaries, government records and opportunistic in-field verification of kills.</p>	<p>3. Communities will want PPPs and will maintain them.</p> <p>4. The eye-cow methods tested successfully with African lions and African leopards will work with similar efficacy with Bengal tigers and Asian leopards.</p> <p>5. There will be enough fodder supply available for all stall-fed cattle and will not lead to increased fodder collection from forests.</p> <p>6. Communities will adhere to the designated eye-cow protocol so that results can be analyzed for effectiveness.</p>
<p>Output 3</p> <p>At least 75% of targeted forest-dependent beneficiary communities in each of the 6 project villages benefit from 'green livelihoods (GL)', improved cookstoves, and/or sustainable cooking fuels, and significantly reduce their time spent in forest for natural resource collection</p>	<p>3.1. Baselines on forest dependence of households for extraction of forest resources including fuelwood assessed for all project villages, and shortlisting of beneficiaries and accrual of consents completed by mid-Year 1 (DI-C16).</p> <p>3.2. By end of year 2, 75% of prioritised beneficiaries in all project villages adopt an alternative fuel source and adopt a 'green-livelihood' (GL) (DI-B10).</p> <p>3.3. By end of year 3, average trips to collect forest resources are reduced to at least 60% amongst 75% of targeted beneficiaries.</p> <p>3.4: By end of year 3, 80% of beneficiaries engaged with a 'green'</p>	<p>3.1.1: Raw and analyzed baseline data on forest resource extraction by households of project villages and their per capita income from various resources.</p> <p>3.1.2: Beneficiary lists and written participation consents from all beneficiaries.</p> <p>3.2: Implementation reports and data from self-reporting on use and maintenance of cookstoves, as well as of GLs and earnings from it.</p> <p>3.3. Self-reporting by beneficiaries on income generated, as well as data from satisfaction survey across all beneficiaries in project villages.</p>	<p>1. Communities are willing to speak to the project team about forest-based resource collection and income from it openly.</p> <p>2. Communities are willing to adopt the use of improved cookstoves as well as a 'green livelihood' option.</p> <p>3. After adopting improved cook stoves and non-forest-based fuels, beneficiaries will completely cease fuelwood collection for other purposes (additional cook stove, for heating water for bathing, etc.).</p> <p>4. Beneficiaries would significantly reduce their dependence on forest</p>

	livelihoods', successfully sustain their new livelihood (DI-B10).	3.4: Self reporting on income generated per unit time by beneficiaries.	resources after adoption of sustainable 'green' livelihoods, 5. Beneficiaries will be transparent in self-reporting on their forest visits post adoption of Improved cook stoves and GLs.
Output 4 Current narratives of human-large carnivore conflicts significantly altered to promote coexistence, through focussed capacity and knowledge building of local media personnel and wildlife managers.	4.1: By end of Year 1, Baseline created of print media narrative on human-large carnivore conflicts, as well as of forest department's knowledge and understanding of human-large carnivore conflicts, and mitigation measures employed by them (DI-C16). 4.2: By end of Year 2, at least 70% of consented media personnel across all print dailies of region, and concerned wildlife managers and rangers of the Protected Areas (PA) attend workshops. 4.3: By end of year 3, at least 60% of media personnel who have attended workshops pledge to act as the voice of both wildlife species and people and print fact-based reports non-sensationalized reports (DI-C15). 4.4: By end of year 3, at least 50% of trained wildlife managers and rangers exhibit a clear understanding of human-large carnivore issues in their landscape and can tackle at least 30% of the situations they address without needing to capture and translocate the animals involved (DI-A07).	4.1.1 Analysed report on print media content from project region on HWC and other wildlife issues. 4.1.2: Survey results on knowledge and perceptions of Forest Department staff 4.2: Consent forms & Workshop attendance registers. 4.3: Signed pledge board/card and media posts on event. 4.4: Pre-and Post-test results and comparison of cases addressed and resolved before and after capacity development.	1. Media representatives are willing to take part in the workshops. 2. Media representatives despite engagement are free from pressures to negatively sensationalise news pieces, and will continue to publish fact-based, non-sensationalised stories. 3. Forest Department officials will be open to changed practices and behaviours and will be willing to partake in the workshops. 4. Despite increased awareness Forest Department will be free from political and social pressures to take proactive decisions on the ground.

<p>Output 5</p> <p>A comprehensive understanding of mental health and wellbeing among the local communities established and a co-planned strategy to address impacts of HWC on mental health and wellbeing of people formulated for the project communities.</p>	<p>5.1: By end of year 2, baselines for mental health and wellbeing vis-à-vis its drivers established for people of project villages (DI-C16).</p> <p>5.2: By end of year 3, a co-planned and co-developed detailed strategic plan to foster better mental health and wellbeing is drafted and shared with all relevant stakeholders including peer communities.</p>	<p>5.1. Raw and analysed qualitative and quantitative data on mental health and wellbeing from systematic survey across project and adjoining villages.</p> <p>5.2. Strategy document</p>	<p>1. Local communities are conscious and cognizant about poor mental health and wellbeing and are willing to talk about it freely.</p> <p>2. Local people share concerns of mental health issues being a pertinent problem that needs addressing and there are not already cultural mechanisms in place to address any issues, if any.</p>
<p>Activities</p> <p>1.1: Conduct Focused Group Discussions (FGD) and individual interviews (using snowball sampling) for past data on human-tiger & human-leopard conflicts in project region.</p> <p>1.2: Conduct community consultations in project villages and other adjoining conflict prone villages to explain the need and function of Primary Response Teams and accrue volunteers</p> <p>1.3: Conduct an induction workshop for all volunteering PRTs in India and Nepal to introduce basics of the role and assess various competencies.</p> <p>1.4: Provide equipment to enlisted PRT members and conduct specialized training each year to develop capacity of PRTs</p> <p>1.5: Inform and guide PRT members to successfully address conflict situations that are reported in and around their respective villages.</p> <p>1.6: Conduct annual evaluation workshop to assess functioning of PRTs, celebrate success, promote peer and community support and cohesion, and recognize and reward strongly performing members.</p> <p>2.1: Conduct household surveys to assess livestock ownership, grazing preferences etc. in all project villages, to assess priority need for interventions and willingness to participate.</p> <p>2.2: Organize consultative workshops in each project village to apprise potential beneficiaries of various techniques to reduce livestock depredation, record beneficiaries' choices and accrue formal consent.</p> <p>2.3. Organize workshop using select previous Living With Tigers (LWT) project beneficiaries to train beneficiaries in manufacture and maintenance of Predator Proof Pens (PPP).</p> <p>2.4. Support the building of predator proof pens in all volunteering beneficiary households in villages by mid-year 2.</p> <p>2.5. Conduct annual assessment of PPPs built through random house visits in at least 30% of beneficiary households and through maintenance logs.</p> <p>2.6. Prepare methodological framework for assessing eye-cow effectiveness in reducing livestock depredation and train field team</p> <p>2.7. Conduct workshop with volunteering livestock owners to apprise about the initiative, its need, the need for a systematic assessment, explain method of data logging, etc.</p> <p>2.8. Carry out livestock 'eye-cow' camp for all beneficiaries enlisting in the eye-cow initiative to imprint "eyes" on all their livestock.</p>			

- 2.9. Monitor and collect data logs from each beneficiary on livestock grazing frequency and time, location, livestock loss, etc, on a monthly basis.
- 2.10. Conduct workshop to apprise volunteering cattle owners in project villages on breed improvement and benefits of stall feeding and accrue consent from at least 50% of cattle owners in each village.
- 2.11: Train local volunteers (select PRT members) in artificial insemination of cattle through state animal husbandry department or private agency and provide equipment to carry out artificial insemination of cattle in consenting households.
- 2.12: Carry out assessment of AI breeding improvement success and stall-feeding practice through a rapid survey at the end of project year.
- 3.1: Conduct household surveys to gather primary information to create baselines on forest resource dependency and identify potential beneficiaries for 'green' livelihood and cooking fuel adoption
- 3.2: Conduct Participatory Rural Appraisals with potential beneficiaries to finalize interventions for reduction of forest dependency and conflict incidences and accrue consent from them for different interventions.
- 3.3: Train local women to manufacture and repair fuel efficient cookstoves and involve them in manufacturing and installing these in all consenting beneficiary homes in project villages.
- 3.4: Carry out ICS installations in beneficiary households through trained women volunteers.
- 3.5: Conduct training on different alternative livelihood options selected by beneficiaries, using appropriate resource persons from allied government and private sector institutions.
- 3.6: Provide technical and financial support to consenting beneficiaries to setup new 'green' livelihood options
- 3.7: Establish a bi-annual self-reporting system with beneficiaries to monitor use ICS and different GLs adopted, as well as forest dependency, and collect self-reported data.
- 4.1: Conduct media report analysis on past reportage covering human-large carnivore conflicts in the project region, to segregate dominant narratives and tailor training and subsequent awareness.
- 4.2: Survey of relevant forest department staff at various levels to assess knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions on human-wildlife conflicts in the region.
- 4.3: Create a master list of all print media personnel relevant to project region and contact them to apprise of the project and accrue consent for further engagement and capacity development.
- 4.4: Conduct annual capacity development workshop for media personnel and selected Forest Department officers.
- 4.5: Organize a 'media for wildlife conservation' event to foster trained media personnel to pledge to voice issue pertaining to wildlife through fact-based reporting.
- 4.6: Carry out post assessment of FD officers and media reports at the end of project period.
- 5.1: Formulate methodology to assess mental health and wellbeing across project villages, especially for most vulnerable groups and train survey consultants and field team.
- 5.2: Survey project villages and adjoining ones to assess mental health and wellbeing of villagers and the impact of human-wildlife conflicts on it.
- 5.3: Conduct consultative meetings with village elders, representatives of forest department, media agencies, local NGOs, and other government agencies to discuss results of the assessment and formulate strategies to address mental health and wellbeing.
- 5.4: Draft and disseminate strategic action plan to tackle mental health and wellbeing in relation to human-wildlife conflicts and wildlife conservation in the project region.

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI - A01	DI Standard Indicator - Number of people from key national and local stakeholders completing structured and relevant training. <i>(Project Indicator - 1.1: By end of year 1, at least 25 people each in Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Parsa NP and Chitwan NP inducted, trained and equipped as PRT members providing coverage across all project villages and adjoining areas.)</i>	People	Number of local stakeholders/ community members inducted, trained & equipped as PRT members	39			39	50
DI - A04	DI Standard Indicator - Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training. <i>(Project Indicator 2.2. By mid-year 2, at least 25% of beneficiaries practicing livestock rearing actively build, maintain, and use PPPs)</i>	People	Number of local stakeholders/ community members who actively build and use PPPs	180			180	200 (25% of total 800 beneficiaries targeted)
DI - A07	DI Standard Indicator - Number of government institutions/departments with enhanced awareness and understanding of biodiversity and associated poverty issues. <i>(Project Indicator 4.4: By end of year 3, at least 50% of trained wildlife managers and rangers exhibit a clear understanding of human-large carnivore issues in their landscape and can tackle at least 30% of the situations they address without needing to capture and translocate the animals involved)</i>	Government institutions	Trained wildlife managers and rangers	Indicator not measurable in Y1			0	15 (50% of wildlife managers currently trained. This figure may increase with subsequent trainings)
DI - B05	DI Standard Indicator - Number of people with increased participation in local communities / local management organisations (i.e., participation in Governance/citizen engagement). <i>(Project Indicator 1.2: By end of year 3, at least 60% of all trained PRT members will actively respond and/or partake in efforts to mitigate human wildlife conflict (HWC) and resolve at least 40% of</i>	People	PRT members actively partaking in HWC mitigation.	5			5	30 (60% of a minimum 50 PRT members planned to be trained and functionalised)

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
	<i>attended cases without capture of animals involved.)</i>							
DI - B10	DI Standard Indicator - Number of individuals / households reporting an adoption of livelihood improvement practices as a result of project activities. <i>(Project Indicator 3.2. By end of year 2, 75% of prioritised beneficiaries in all project villages adopt an alternative fuel source and adopt a 'green-livelihood')</i>	People/ Households	Number of beneficiaries adopting 'green fuel'	209			209	600 (75% of 800 beneficiaries targeted for adopting cleaner fuel based or reduced fuelwood based cookstoves)
DI - B10	DI Standard Indicator - Number of individuals / households reporting an adoption of livelihood improvement practices as a result of project activities. <i>(Project Indicator 3.4: By end of year 3, 80% of beneficiaries engaged with a 'green' livelihoods', successfully sustain their new livelihood)</i>	People/ Households	Beneficiaries successfully sustaining livelihood improvement practice -	Indicator not measurable in Y1			0	240 (80% of 320 targeted beneficiaries to receive training for additional livelihood support)
DI - C01	DI Standard Indicator - Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed. <i>(Project Indicator 2.5. By end of year 3, eye-cow method of livestock protection tested rigorously with Bengal tigers and Asian leopards)</i>	Number	Publication of Eye-cow methodology after rigorous testing in field	<i>Indicator not measurable in Y1</i>			0	1
DI - C15	DI Standard Indicator - Number of Media related activities. <i>(Project Indicator 0.5: By end of year 3, at least 25% of local media reports by 60% of the media personnel engaged, covering human-large carnivore conflicts, are fact based and neutral)</i>	Number	Local media reports	<i>Indicator not measurable in Y1</i>			0	43

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI - C15	DI Standard Indicator - Number of Media related activities. <i>(Project Indicator 4.3: By end of year 3, at least 60% of media personnel who have attended workshops pledge to act as the voice of both wildlife species and people and print fact-based reports non-sensationalized reports)</i>	Number	Internet/Print/Radio/Television, and sub-national/national/international	<i>Indicator not measurable in Y1</i>			0	26 <i>(60% of media personnel who have attended workshops. This figure may increase with subsequent engagements)</i>
DI - C16	DI Standard Indicator - Number of records added to accessible databases. <i>(Project Indicator 2.1: Baselines for livestock ownership, grazing preferences amongst project village households completed, and potential beneficiaries identified, and consent accrued, by mid of year 1)</i>	Number	Number of livestock owners & their grazing preferences added to database	2763			2763	2763
DI - C16	DI Standard Indicator - Number of records added to accessible databases. <i>(Project Indicator 3.1. Baselines on forest dependence of households for extraction of forest resources including fuelwood assessed for all project villages, and shortlisting of beneficiaries and accrual of consents completed by mid-Year 1)</i>	Number	Number of forest dependant households added to database	2763			2763	2763
DI - C16	DI Standard Indicator - Number of records added to accessible databases. <i>(Project Indicator 4.1: By end of Year 1, Baseline created of print media narrative on human-large carnivore conflicts, as well as of forest department's knowledge and understanding of human-large carnivore conflicts, and mitigation measures employed by them)</i>	Number	Recorded number of media and forest department's narrative and understanding of HWC	65			65	80
DI - C16	DI Standard Indicator - Number of records added to accessible databases.	Number	Number of records for mental health and wellbeing	<i>Indicator not measurable in Y1</i>				

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
	<i>(Project Indicator 5.1: By end of year 2, baselines for mental health and wellbeing vis-à-vis its drivers established for people of project villages)</i>							
DI - D02	DI Standard Indicator - Number of people whose disaster/climate resilience has been improved. <i>(Project Indicator 2.4. By end of Year 3, at least 25% of consenting beneficiaries begin stall feeding their improved cattle stocks)</i>	People/ Household	Number of people who safeguard their livestock by adopting stall feeding	<i>Indicator not measurable in Y1</i>				
DI - D15	DI Standard Indicator - Net change in incidences of human wildlife conflict. <i>(Project Indicator 0.2: By end of year 3 livestock depredation by large carnivores reduced by at least 75% in all model villages where targeted interventions are implemented)</i>	Number	Incidence of reduced livestock depredation	209			209	800 (80% of all community members owning livestock)
DI - D16	DI Standard Indicator - Number of households reporting improved livelihoods. <i>(Project Indicator 0.4: By end of year 3, loss of income from reduced forest resource dependence amongst at least 75% of beneficiaries of the programme is offset 100% with the income generated from adopted 'green' livelihoods)</i>	Households	Number of households reporting increased profitable supplementary income.	<i>Indicator not measurable in Y1</i>			0	240 (75% of total targeted beneficiaries)

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
WTI organises meeting of Primary Response Team to reduce Human – Large Carnivore conflict in Valmiki Tiger Reserve	Blog post	Subrat K Behera, 2024	Male	Indian	WTI, Delhi	WTI organises meeting of Primary Response Team to reduce Human – Large ...
Empowering community leaders and forest staff in human-wildlife conflict management in Valmiki Tiger Reserve	Blog post	Subrat K Behera, 2024	Male	Indian	WTI, Delhi	Empowering community leaders and forest staff in human-wildlife ...
Fuelling human-wildlife coexistence with energy efficient Improved Cook Stove	Feature article	Kamalika Bhattacharya, 2024	Female	Indian	WTI, Delhi	https://www.wti.org.in/feature/improved-cook-stoves/

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

The supplementary materials as evidence are annexed as a standalone PDF file as the inserted pictures etc were inflating the file size significantly beyond 10MB in MSword format

Checklist for submission

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