Darwin Initiative Main: Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note":
(https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources/information-notes/)

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

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2024

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

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	30-026
Project title	Conserving biodiversity through community engagement in Gaurishankar Conservation Area, Nepal
Country/ies	Nepal
Lead Partner	-
Project partner(s)	-
Darwin Initiative grant value	£427,800.00
Start/end dates of project	01 April 2023/31 December 2026
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2023 – Mar 2024) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2023-March 2024 and Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Dr. Madhu ████
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.ntnc.org.np
Report author(s) and date	Dr. Madhu ████ and Bibash ██████, 30.04.2024

1.   Project summary

The project "Conserving Biodiversity through Community Engagement in Gaurishankar Conservation Area (GCA), Nepal" targets critical biodiversity challenges exacerbated by habitat degradation, human-wildlife conflicts, and poaching. The challenges are relevant to various stakeholders, including local communities, conservation organizations, and governmental bodies, as they threaten both ecosystems and the livelihoods of those reliant on natural resources. By enhancing local institutions' capacity, assessing biodiversity status, investigating drivers of human-wildlife conflict, and creating green job opportunities, the project aims not only to conserve biodiversity but also to address human development challenges such as poverty reduction. The identification of these problems likely involved a comprehensive assessment of environmental, social, and economic factors, and the project operates within the diverse ecosystems of the GCA, Nepal.

Large infrastructure developments, high dependency on forest resources, and a low level of awareness among communities threaten the habitats of species of global significance in GCA. To address these concerns, a multi-faceted approach was taken. Scientific research and data analysis were conducted to assess biodiversity, while consultations with local communities, conservation organizations, and governmental bodies provided insights into socio-economic dynamics and knowledge. Field assessments and participatory workshops were used to gather qualitative data from stakeholders. This collaborative and interdisciplinary approach ensures a comprehensive understanding of the complex issues facing biodiversity conservation and human development in the area. The project is implemented in GCA which lies in between the Langtang National Park in the west, and Sagarmatha National Park in the east. The northern border adjoins the Tibetan Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China. The Government of Nepal declared Gaurishankar region as a "Conservation Area" in January 2010. It extends between 85^0 46.8' to 86^0 34.8' E and 27^0 34.2' to 28^0 10' N with an area of 2179 sq. km. GCA has three physiographic zones of high Himalaya, high Mountain, and Middle Mountain. It includes three districts, viz. Sindhupalchok, Dolakha, and Ramechhap.

Figure 1: Location of the Gaurishankar Conservation Area in Nepal.

2.   Project stakeholders/ partners

The project has had significant milestones, including successful implementation of various initiatives, impactful interventions, and measurable outcomes in the target areas. For the effective implementation of the project programs, there have been valuable contributions of different stakeholders. All stakeholders have been actively involved in project planning, monitoring, evaluation, and decision-making processes. During this first year, the project faced some challenges such as occasional divergent interests of communities, conflict of interest of different groups, strategic problem-solving likewise human-wildlife conflict management, and geographical-wise program demanding. In addition, the project also experiences weak coordination among different stakeholders.

The list of partners and stakeholders who supported all project programs are:

- **Lead partner:** The National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) is the main management authority of GCA. NTNC will ensure the timely implementation of the project and reporting. Field activities were carried out through its field base office at GCA.

- **Partner name:** The Department of National Park and wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) is facilitating other government stakeholders and line agencies for the smooth implementation of the project. It also provided technical guidance when necessary and research permits.

- **Partner name:** Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences (INN), Norway is mainly responsible for technical backstopping in research design and statistical analysis.

- **Stakeholders:**

CAMCs/FMSCs: Conservation Area Management Committees (CAMCs)/ Forest Management Sub-Committees (FMSCs) are the primary stakeholders of the GCA. These institutions are the legal institutions formed under the Conservation Area Management Regulations, 1996 of the Government of Nepal.

Local communities: Local communities are the primary stakeholders as they are directly benefited by the project's outcomes. Their involvement ensures that interventions are culturally appropriate and meet their actual needs.

Government bodies: Public institutions, including local government bodies, play a vital role in policy implementation and resource allocation. Collaboration with public institutions involves co-ordinating activities, and advocating for policy changes that support the project's objectives.

3. Project progress

The project has made significant progress in the first year across all components, focusing on improving access to education for marginalized communities, enhancing awareness and training on animal management, rescues and rehabilitation, wildlife crime control, nature-based tourism promotion, livelihood, and food security, and implementation infrastructure development initiatives. These efforts are geared towards achieving the overall impact of the goal of conserving biodiversity and enhancing the well-being and livelihoods of marginalized communities. Outcome indicators have been established to measure progress towards this goal, including the enhancement of the national and local capacity in mountain biodiversity conservation in Nepal through training, and awareness programs, establish biodiversity database and maintaining corridors and connectivity, and enhanced co-existence between humans and wildlife through awareness, revived traditional methods and implementation of mitigation strategies. Moreover, Output indicators have been identified to track specific project activities, such as the number of training workshops conducted, wildlife crime control measures implemented, natured-based tourism initiatives launched, GESI, research, educational and community infrastructure projects completed, and households participating in sustainable agriculture and livelihood programs. By focusing on these indicators, the project aims to ensure tangible outcomes for sustainable biodiversity conservation and improving livelihood in the target communities.

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1: Enhance the national and local capacity in mountain biodiversity conservation in Nepal through trainings, and awareness programme

1.1: Survey and monitoring training (Camera traps, GPS, data punching) to selected community members

Survey and monitoring training were held on September 29, 2023, at the Conservation Area Management Committee (CAMC) in Kalinchowk. The training provided community members (30 participants; 22M, 8F) with skills to use camera traps, GPS, and data recording techniques.

Likewise, on January 1, 2024 at CAMC Khare (62 participants; 34M, 28F), on February 15, 2024 at CAMC Laduk (36 participants; 28M, 8F), on February 9, 2024 at CAMC Marbu (34 participants; 19M, 15F), on February 11, 2024 at Simigaun (43 participants; 31M, 12F) and on January 5, 2024 at Singati (37 participants; 35M, 2F). Survey and monitoring training equips individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to conduct surveys, collect data, and monitor wildlife populations and habitats along with providing how to set up camera traps, functions, GPS handling, and data punching methods. The project has also purchased 47 sets of camera traps for future biodiversity surveys and monitoring.

Photo 1: Camera trapping, GPS handling, Survey and Monitoring Training.

Table 1: Survey equipment purchase for biodiversity monitoring.

1.2: Leadership and advocacy training to CAMCs, FMsCs, and mother groups on biodiversity conservation and its significance

Two units of Leadership & advocacy training were held on September 30, 2023 at CAMC, Kalinchok and on February 11, 2024 at CAMC Gaurishankar in Simigaun; altogether 64 participants (43M, 21F) from Kalinchok and 24 (19M, 5F) from Gauirishankar participated in the training. This program aimed to improve leadership skills, build advocacy, and promote biodiversity conservation.

Photo 2: Workshop and Orientation Program of leadership and advocacy training on biodiversity conservation.

1.3: Support to bachelor's and master's students in research and trainings

The project has funded eight bachelor's and master's students (4M, 4F) from government-affiliated universities to conduct research on avifaunal, fish, herpeto-fauna, human-wildlife conflicts, floral diversity, and medicinal and aromatic plants. The grants aim to fill the biodiversity data gap in GCA, enhancing students' skills and promoting research.

Table 2: Student Research Grant Program Support announced by NTNC-GCAP/Darwin Initiative Project.

1.6: Forest fire control trainings and support

In response to the challenge of forest fire, forest fire control training was provided to the different CAMCs/FMSCs. The aim was to train communities on effective forest fire control techniques and strategies. Especially, in Khare, Laduk, and Lamabagar the training programs were held on February 3, 2024, February 9, 2024, and February 15, 2024, respectively. During the forest fire training program, 62 participants (33M, 29F) from Khare, 34 participants (19M, 15F), and 36 participants(28M, 8F) from 132 households participated. The project also supported forest fire fighting tools to the communities.

Photo 3: Participants of the Forest fire control training program.

Table 3: List of Forest fire control tools/equipment provided to 3 CAMCs.

1.7: Attitude and perception survey

The attitude and perception program was conducted in different parts of GCA from May 1st, 2023. The target was to access local attitudes and perceptions about human-wildlife conflict, biodiversity conservation, and management of GCA. The questionnaire survey template is provided in Annex 5. The project is compiling and analyzing the database.

1.8: Trainings on behavioral change and attitude towards wildlife conservation (Community level)

A training project was conducted in collaboration with the CAMC, Laduk on 21st September, 2023 aiming to encourage local communities in wildlife conservation. Altogether, 68 participants (32M, 36F) participated in the training sessions. Also, this program was held in Ramechhap (At CAMC Gumdel) where 34 participants (28M, 6F) were engaged in this training. The training focused on behavioral change and attitudes towards wildlife conservation, raising awareness about threats like habitat loss and impacts of climate change.

Photo 4: Trainings on behavioural change and attitude towards wildlife conservation.

Output 2: Establish biodiversity database and maintain corridors and connectivity

2.1 Conduct status research of megafauna (snow leopard, Himalayan wolf, common leopard and prey species musk deer and Himalayan tahr)

The Himalayan wolf, a unique species in the Himalayas, is facing rapid population decline due to habitat loss, fragmentation, and human-wildlife conflict. A grant has been provided to assess the status of the Himalayan wolf in GCA based on noninvasive DNA scat sampling. The findings of this research will be crucial for developing effective conservation strategies for the Himalayan wolf.

Table 4: Himalayan Wolf Research Grant Support announced by NTNC-GCAP/Darwin Initiative Project.

2.2 Conduct research for assessing the distribution and habitat of the small carnivore community

The program focusing on assessing the distribution and habitat of the small carnivore community is progressing steadily. Camera traps have been successfully installed in some parts of the Gaurishankar Conservation Area (GCA), such as Lapchi block and Rolwaling block, to capture data on the presence of small carnivores. However, due to the extensive nature of the research and the vast area to cover, the project is taking longer than anticipated to complete.

2.6 Support CAMC and FMsC for regular forest patrolling operations

The Gaurishankar Conservation Area faces a critical challenge with the escalating threat of illegal poaching and inadequate forest patrolling. Despite its ecological significance and diverse wildlife, the delicate balance of this pristine environment is continuously disrupted by illicit activities that jeopardize the survival of endangered species. This year the project conducted 26 forest patrols in different areas of GCA, including 13 CAMCs such as Lamabagar, Orang,

Bulung, Laduk, Chilankha, Alampu, Bigu, Khare, Marbu, Gaurishnkar, Kalinchok, Chankhu. etc. The main aim was to control illegal activities and increase ownership among the inhabitants.

Photo 5: A glimpse of community members while conducting forest patrolling in Simigaun and Lapchi Village.

Output 3: Enhanced co-existence between humans and wildlife through awareness, revived traditional methods and implementation of mitigation strategies

3.2: Conduct awareness programs on human wildlife conflicts at community level, especially targeting issues related to retaliatory killing

The awareness program was conducted in CAMCs of Laduk, Marbu, Chilankha, Khare, Giddhesalleri, and Thadi from September 16 to 23, 2023, focusing on human-wildlife conflicts and retaliatory killings. During this program in six different places altogether 368 (232M, 136F) participants attended. The program was based on crop raiding and wildlife depredation and aimed to address the root causes of conflicts, find sustainable solutions, and prevent retaliatory killings.

Photo 6: Human-wildlife conflict mitigation awareness program conducted in Laduk CAMC.

3.3 Provide support to local communities to construct animal barriers like mounds, trenches, and biological hedge fences around their farms

This program is conducted in Lapchi village, where the major problem of this area is human-bear conflict. On March 30, 2024, the meeting was held at Numnag village with all 13 household members (100% village coverage). After the consultation with residents about the management of bear conflict, they decided to make a storehouse to protect their grains and foods. The project made an agreement with CAMC for the construction of a storage house. The community also decided to plantation of thorny plants for biological fencing.

3.4 Training to encourage and support locals to continue traditional scaring methods (shouting, beating drums and metal pots, installing scarecrows, fireball etc.) against crop depredation

The program aims to train local people in Bigu rural municipality on controlling human-wildlife conflict using traditional scaring techniques. On September 24th, 2023, 74 (38M, 36F) participants attended the training session. The training is culturally relevant and aims to empower communities with the skills to use these methods. Likewise, on March 5, 2024 (participants: 28 (18M, 10F) attended the program and decided to implement different traditional scaring method techniques to control human-wildlife conflict in their villages.

Photo 7: Training to encourage and support locals to continue traditional methods.

3.5 Support on the construction of predator-proof corrals/cattle shed

The construction of a predator-proof coral/cattle shed is a vital step in mitigating human-wildlife conflict and protecting livestock from predators (for example–common leopard). The project visited each targeted community site and assisted in designing. Upon completion, the project officials visited each corral site for quality checks. A total of total 89 predator-proof corrals have been constructed in high-conflict areas of Bulung, Laduk, Lamabagar, and Chilankha CAMCs. Individual households also contributed as a labour cost.

Photo 8: A view of the predator-proof corral house of Bulung CAMC.

3.6 Support locals to build raised platforms (machans) to guard crop field

With the support of this project, several raised platforms (machans) have been constructed by locals to effectively guard crop fields, ensuring the safety and security of the crops from crop raiding by wildlife. This initiative has not only empowered the community but also enhanced the protection of agricultural production, leading to increased yields and improved livelihoods of the farmers. In different places of GCA, a total 17 machans were constructed during the first year.

Photo 9: A view of the machans in Laduk.

2.7 Coordination meeting among government officials and security personnel to establish information networks to control illegal activities

A District level coordination meeting was conducted in the District Administration Office on 26 Dec, 2024. Altogether, 30 participants (28M, 2F) were presented and the program was about forest fire control, forest encroachment, illegal wildlife trade control, and regular forest patrolling and forest management.

3.7 Training to farmers for regulating grazing of livestock in the prime wildlife habitats

The training helps herders understand the importance of balanced grazing practices, leading to improved pasture productivity, reduced land degradation, and overall ecosystem resilience. Training to farmers for regulating grazing of livestock and support in the prime wildlife habitats was held in GCA Marbu, on February 2, 2024, where altogether 31(25 M, 6F) participants participated in the program. Similarly, in Laduk, on February 6, 2024, where 40 (26M, 14F) participants participated, and in Gonger, on February 9, 2024, where 10 (8M, 2F) participants attended the program. Out of 80 participants 60 were herders who were directly involved in rearing yaks.

Photo 10: Program conducted on regulating grazing of livestock and support in the prime wildlife habitat in Lamabagr and Marbu CAMCs.

3.8 Establish and operationalize relief fund at each CAMCs for providing compensations for human injury and livestock depredation

The relief fund has been successfully established under the name "Human-wildlife conflict management relief fund-2080" and is ready to operationalize at each CAMC to provide compensation in cases of human injury and livestock depredation. In this fund NRS. 55, 00,000 has been deposited and ensures that affected individuals receive timely support and compensation, thereby fostering a sense of security and well-being within the community.

3.9 Coordinate with insurance companies to implement insurance scheme for providing compensation to the residents for loss of livestock due to wildlife depredation and premium support

The program has successfully initiated coordination with insurance companies to implement an insurance scheme for providing compensation to residents for the loss of livestock due to wildlife depredation. As part of this initiative, the program operationalized the insurance scheme by providing 50% premium support to 60 herders from Marbu, Laduk, and Lamabagar CAMCs, ensuring contract agreement among the herders.

Output 4: Alternative livelihood options through green economy and enterprises

4.1 Form conservation farmer (CF) groups and provide nursery management training
A total of 45 individuals were trained in nursery management through the formation of conservation farmer groups. The groups were identified from Alampu (16 CFs), Bulung (14 CFs), and Khare (15 CFs). The CFs are actively involved in the production of a variety of plant species and involved in nursery management activities.

4.2 Support CF for establishment of multipurpose nursery at community level

The program supported the establishment of a Multipurpose Nursery at the community level. The nurseries are currently located at Laduk, and Chanku CAMC. This multipurpose nursery serves as a central hub for providing a variety of seedings for conservation farmer groups, and hydropower developers. It will also support plantation, afforestation and reforestation in FMSCs and also support community groups in their agriculture and environmental efforts.

Photo 11: Multipurpose Nursery in Laduk (Olitar) and Chankhu.

4.6 Conduct skill-based training (local knitting/handicrafts) to women
The skill-based training program in local knitting and handicrafts for the women from Lamabagar, Simigaun, and Tashinam has been completed with great success. Over the course of the training, 40 women enthusiastically participated and honed their skills in these traditional crafts. This program was conducted from March 1, 2024 to March 21, 2024.

Photo 12: Participants of the local knitting/handicraft training at Lamabagar.

4.8 Identify and signposting for important ecotourism trails and branding (musk deer trails, red panda trails, Himalayan tahr/Birds trails)
The program to identify and signposting in important ecotourism trails, including musk deer trails in Lapchi area (Thansing to 58 number pillar of Nepal –Tibet border), bird trails in Simigaun-Dongang-Rigu, and red panda trails from Dongang to Beding, were done. A total of 6 (Musk deer trail: 2, Bird trail: 2, Red panda trail: 2) information boards will be installed. Once this final step is accomplished, the program will be in full operation, attracting visitors and promoting conservation efforts in these ecologically significant areas.

4.9 Support locals for establishing new homestays and teashops
The support program for assisting locals in establishing new homestays and teashops is currently in progress and nearing completion. The necessary materials for this initiative have already been purchased and will be distributed among the owners.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Enhance the national and local capacity in mountain biodiversity conservation in Nepal through trainings, and awareness programme

Output 1 of the project aimed to enhance national and local capacity in mountain biodiversity conservation in Nepal through various activities such as training programs and awareness initiatives.

1.1: Survey and monitoring training (Camera traps, GPS, data punching) to selected communities' members

Baseline Condition: Community members lacked skills in using camera traps, GPS, and data recording techniques.

Change Recorded: Multiple training sessions were conducted at different locations, equipping participants with the necessary skills. Additionally, 47 sets of camera traps were purchased for conducting various biodiversity surveys.

Sources of Evidence: Trainees attended sheet and reports.

Measurement of output indicators: Monitoring the number of trained individuals actively participating in biodiversity and monitoring.

1.2: Leadership and advocacy training to CAMCs, FMsCs and mother groups on biodiversity conservation and its significance

Baseline Condition: Lack of leadership skills and advocacy knowledge among CAMCs, FMSCs, and Mother Group.

1.3: Support to bachelor's and master's students in research and trainings

Baseline Condition: Limited research on various aspects of biodiversity in the GCA.

Changed Recorded: Eight students were funded to conduct research on different biodiversity topics, aiming to fill data gaps and enhance research skills.

Source of Evidence: Research proposals and their project reports.

Measurements of output indicators: Tracking the number of research projects completed and their impact on biodiversity conservation efforts.

1.6: Forest fire control trainings and support

Baseline Condition: Lack of knowledge on control forest fire and tools for effective forest fire control.

Changed Recorded: Training programs conducted in multiple locations, providing participants with techniques and tools for forest fire management.

Source of Evidence: Number of participants and their feedback.

Measurement of output indicators: Monitoring the number of forest fire incidents and assessing the effectiveness of trained communities in controlling fires.

1.7: Attitude and perception survey

Baseline Condition: Lack of understanding of attitudes and perceptions towards wildlife conservation.

Change Recorded: Attitude and perception surveys conducted in GCA, awaiting the publication of results in a scientific journal.

Source of Evidence: Survey data and questionnaire responses.

Measurement of output indicators: Analyzing survey results to track changes in community attitudes towards conservation.

1.8: Trainings on behavioral change and attitude towards wildlife conservation

Baseline Condition: Need for behavioral change and attitude shift towards wildlife conservation

Changed Recorded: Training programs conducted to raise awareness and encourage sustainable practices among communities.

Source of Evidence: Training reports and participant feedback.

Measurement of Output Indicators: Observing changes in community behaviors and attitudes towards wildlife conservation post-training.

Output 2: Establish biodiversity database and maintain corridors and connectivity

2.1 Conduct status research of megafauna (snow leopard, Himalayan wolf, common leopard and prey species musk deer and Himalayan tahr)
Baseline Condition: Himalayan wolf population has declined due to various threats.

Change Recorded: Grant provided for assessing Himalayan wolf status.

Sources of Evidence: Himalayan wolf research grant support announcement.

Measurement of output indicators: Research findings to inform conservation strategies.

2.2 Conduct research for assessing distribution and habitat of the small carnivore community
Baseline Condition: Limited knowledge on the distribution and habitat of small carnivores.

Changed Recorded: Conducted deployment of camera traps in different places of GCA.

Source of Evidence: Photographic evidence during camera traps

Measurement of output indicators: Data in small carnivore presence.

2.6 Support CAMC and FMsC for regular forest patrolling operations
Baseline Condition: Limited movement in forest patrolling in CAMC and FMSCs.

Change Recorded: Participation of locals and take ownership

Source of Evidence: Budget allocation and attendance of participants

Measurement of output indicators: Increase in frequency and effectiveness of patrolling activities.

Output 3: Enhanced co-existence between humans and wildlife through awareness, revived traditional methods and implementation of mitigation strategies

3.2: Conduct awareness programs on human wildlife conflicts at community level, especially targeting issues related to retaliatory killing
Baseline data: Increasing human-wildlife conflict.

Change Recorded: Awareness programs conducted in CAMCs.

Source of Evidence: Program report and participant data.

Measurement of output indicators: Number of participants and impact on conflict mitigation.

3.3: Provide support to local communities to construct animal barriers like mounds, trenches, and biological hedge fences around their farms
Baseline Condition: Human-bear conflicts in Lapchi village.

Changed Recorded: Decision to construct storehouse and plant biological fencing.

Source of Evidence: Meeting report and consultation outcomes.

3.4: Training to encourage and support locals to continue traditional scaring methods (shouting, beating drums and metal pots, installing scarecrows, fireball, etc.) against crop depredation
Baseline Condition: Crop depredation issues

Change Recorded: Training sessions conducted in Bigu rural municipality.

Source of Evidence: Photos and videos, reports, and participant decisions.

Measurement of output indicators: Adoption of traditional scaring techniques.

3.5 Support on construction of predator proof corrals/cattle shed
Baseline Condition: Livestock depredation by carnivores in the project area.

Change Recorded: Provision of materials and technical assistance for constricting predator-proof corrals houses.

Source of Evidence: Implementation progress report, images, interviews, and feedback from beneficiaries.

Measurement of output indicators: Number of predator-proof structures built and reduction in livestock losses.

3.6 Support locals to build raised platforms (machans) to guard crop field

Baseline Condition: Crop damage by wildlife species.

Change Recorded: Training and assistance provided to locals for constructing raised platforms.

Sources of Evidence: Field reports and community feedback.

Measurement of output indicators: Number of machans built and decrease in crop damage incidents.

3.7 Training to farmers for regulating grazing of livestock in the prime wildlife habitats
Baseline Condition: Unregulated grazing leading to habitat degradation.

Change Recorded: Conducting training sessions on sustainable grazing and material support to habitat management.

Sources of Evidence: Training attendance records and material support bills.

3.8 Establish and operationalize relief fund at each CAMCs for providing compensations for human injury and livestock depredation
Baseline Condition: Lack of financial support for individuals affected by human injury and livestock depredation.

Change Recorded: Establishment and operationalization of relief funds at CAMCs.

Source of Evidence: Fund establishment documentation

3.9 Coordinate with insurance companies to implement insurance scheme for providing compensation to the residents for loss of livestock due to wildlife depredation and premium support
Baseline Condition: Limited financial protection for residents against livestock losses due to wildlife depredation.

Change Recorded: Collaboration with insurance companies to implement an insurance scheme.

Source of Evidence: Insurance scheme documentation and enrollment records.

Measurement of output indicators: Number of residents enrolled in the insurance scheme and compensation claims processed.

Output 4: Alternative livelihood options through green economy and enterprises

4.1 Form conservation farmer (CF) groups and provide nursery management training

Baseline Condition: Limited engagement of farmers in conservation activities.

Change Recorded: Establishment of CF groups and provision of nursery management training.

Source of Evidence: CF group formation records

4.2 Support CF for establishment of multipurpose nursery at community level
Baseline Condition: Lack of access to quality nursery plants for conservation purposes.

Change Recorded: Assistance provided to CAMC for setting up a multipurpose nursery.

Source of Evidence: Nursery establishment progress reports

Measurement of output indicators: Functionality of the nursery and availability of diverse plant species.

4.6 Conduct skill-based training (local knitting/handicrafts) to women
Baseline Condition: Limited income-generating opportunities for women in the community.

Change Recorded: Organizing skill-based training sessions on local handicrafts.

Source of Evidence: Training participation records.

Measurement of output indicators: Women's proficiency in handicrafts and increase in income from these activities.

4.8 Identify and signposting for important ecotourism trails and branding (musk deer trails, red panda trails, Himalayan tahr/Birds trails)
Baseline Condition: Limited visibility and accessibility of ecotourism sites.

Source of Evidence: Trail mapping documentation and branding initiatives.

Change Recorded: Identification and signposting of key ecotourism trails.

3.3   Progress towards the project Outcome

By the end of the project funding period, the project aims to achieve enhanced coexistence between wildlife and local communities, leading to a significant reduction in human-wildlife conflict incidents, increased household income through diversified livelihood options, and improved attitudes towards wildlife conservation among community members. The project area will be explored based on scientific research and the biodiversity database will be updated. Findings will be published in scientific peer-reviewed journals in the following year.

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

Annex 2: Project's full current log-frame as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed).

3.4   Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: The project assumed that there would be no major changes in the market conditions during the project timeline.
Comments: To assess whether this assumption still holds true, the project can look at the current market conditions and compare them to the initial assumptions made at the start of the project.

Assumption 2: The project assumed that delivering every program like survey and monitoring, forest patrolling, grazing program, awareness programs; and community members would enhance local capacity in mountain biodiversity in Nepal.

Comments: To assess the validity of this assumption, the project should evaluate the effectiveness by measuring the participants' knowledge and skills before and after the training.

Assumption 3: The awareness program will effectively educate local communities about the importance of wildlife conservation and reduce instances of human-wildlife conflict.

Comments: Monitoring of this assumption is crucial to assess the effectiveness of the awareness program in achieving its intended outcomes. To determine if the assumption still holds true, several factors need to be considered: community engagement, behavioural change, knowledge, and retention.

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

Darwin Initiative project outlined aspiring goals for both biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction. The project has diligently worked towards achieving these objectives by implementing a variety of targeted interventions. On the front of biodiversity conservation, our efforts have focused on habitat restoration, species conservation, and sustainable land management practices. In parallel, our project has made significant strides in poverty reduction and human development. By empowering local communities through income-generating activities and alternative livelihood programs, the project has enhanced economic opportunities and minimized the dependency on natural resources.

The project supports the main objectives of the CBD, as a main goal is to support activities promoting sustainable use of natural resources to benefit conservation of biological diversity. Through community involvement, capacity building, training/awareness, and research, the project aims to contribute to future upgrading of the national biodiversity conservation status. The project will address the following strategies: mitigate human-snow leopard conflict, improve people's livelihoods, strengthen institutions, engage local communities, strengthen law enforcement, and enhance wildlife corridors and connectivity.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project has actively engaged with national policy frameworks and reporting mechanisms to ensure alignment with broader biodiversity and development goals. Over the reporting period, the project has made significant contributions to national policies, including National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and other relevant policy instruments. Through collaboration with host country stakeholders and UK partners, the organization has facilitated the integration of project outcomes and recommendations into these policy documents.

The conventions, treaties, or agreements that support this project are:

- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2014-2020)

- The Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD)

- Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030)

5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The project aimed "Sustainable Livelihoods and Biodiversity Conservation in Upper Middle-Income Countries contributing to a reduction in poverty through targeted interventions that address the interconnected challenges of biodiversity loss and poverty in Upper Middle-Income Countries. The project understands the significance of demonstrating clear and tangible impacts on poverty reduction, as mandated by the Darwin Initiative guidelines.

Expected Beneficiaries: The primary beneficiaries of this project are marginalized communities living in ecologically sensitive areas within Upper Middle-Income Countries. These communities often rely heavily on natural resources for their livelihoods but face challenges such as habitat degradation, loss of biodiversity, and limited access to markets and resources.

Direct Poverty Impacts: The project anticipates several direct poverty impacts, including:

1. Increased household income: By facilitating access to alternative income-generating activities such as sustainable agriculture, eco-tourism, and handicraft production, the project aims to enhance the economic stability of participating households.

2. Improved personal security: Strengthening community-based conservation efforts not only safeguards biodiversity but also enhances personal security for community members and rangers by reducing conflicts over natural resources and mitigating risks associated with illegal activities like poaching and logging.

Indirect Poverty Reduction: While some impacts may be indirect, they are nonetheless critical for long-term poverty reduction:

1. Enhanced ecosystem services: By promoting sustainable land management practices and restoring degraded ecosystems, the project seeks to improve ecosystem services such as water provision, soil fertility, and carbon sequestration. These services are essential for supporting agricultural productivity and mitigating the impacts of climate change, thereby indirectly benefiting local livelihoods and reducing vulnerability to poverty.

2. Increased awareness and appreciation of wildlife: Through targeted education and outreach initiatives, the project aims to raise awareness among local communities about the importance of biodiversity conservation for their well-being. By fostering a sense of stewardship and promoting sustainable resource use practices, the project anticipates long-term benefits for both biodiversity and poverty reduction.

6. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board[1].	In Gaurishankar Conservation Area Project, four women are working out of twenty

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

	employees.
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].	1:5 proportions of women have a senior leadership team in this project.

GESI Scale	Description	Put 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 taken this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	
Empowering	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups.	X By ensuring that women and marginalized groups have equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from the project, it can lead to more sustainable and inclusive development outcomes. The project conducted many programs advocating women's empowerment, leadership programs for

[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.

		women, and encouraging participation of women in income generation activities. The project also celebrated women's day and interaction program to enhance their capacity and empower them.
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 has developed a high-standard Monitoring and Evaluation plan based on the log frame for the smooth implementation and effective monitoring of the project. The project's four major components, a) capacity building, b) biodiversity conservation, c) human-wildlife conflict, and d) alternative livelihood and economy will require different interventions and monitoring. The major project interventions are a) community training and awareness, b) demonstrating pilot activities, and c) testing pilot livestock insurance schemes and human-wildlife conflict mitigation activities for effectiveness. All training and awareness programs were monitored using NTNC's M&E guidelines. The progress of the program was monitored based on a weekly and monthly progress report that was currently in place at the lead partner organizational level. M&E guidelines developed consulted for standardizing monitoring methods.

To ensure comprehensive monitoring and evaluation, the project has established several systems and processes internally:

1. **M&E Framework Development**: The project has developed a robust M&E framework that identifies key indicators for monitoring progress across the project's major components and interventions. This framework guides our data collection efforts and helps us track the achievement of outputs and outcomes.

2. **Utilization of Existing Guidelines**: The project has consulted established M&E guidelines from organizations such as NTNC and Defra to standardize monitoring methods and ensure alignment with best practices in the field.

3. **Regular Reporting and Review**: The project has maintained a system of weekly and monthly progress reporting to track the implementation of activities and address any challenges or

deviations from the plan. These reports facilitate ongoing monitoring and allow for timely adjustments as needed.

In terms of demonstrating the contribution of outputs and activities to project outcomes, the project conducted regular assessments to measure the effectiveness of interventions. For example, the project tracks the number of community training sessions and assesses participants' knowledge and skills gained. The project also evaluates the impact of pilot activities such as livestock insurance schemes and human-wildlife conflict mitigation measures on reducing conflicts and improving livelihoods.

8.   Lessons learnt

Reflecting on the first year, the project has gathered valuable insights from various levels of project implementation, including administrative, management, technical, and M&E aspects. These lessons learned serve as a foundation for continuous improvement and adaptive management, guiding our approach moving forward.

What Worked Well?
1. **Community Engagement**: The project approach to mobilizing and engaging local communities proved effective, leveraging the project team's extensive experience to build trust and foster collaboration. This led to strong community participation in project activities.
2. **Weekly and Monthly Reporting**: The established reporting mechanisms enabled regular monitoring of progress and timely identification of challenges, allowing for swift corrective actions.

What Didn't Work Well?
1. **Resource Constraints**: Limited resources, including staff time and financial allocations for M&E activities, posed constraints on the depth and scope of monitoring efforts, particularly in remote field locations.

If We Had to Do It Again: If allowed to revisit the project's implementation, the project would prioritize the following actions:
1. **Stakeholder Engagement**: Strengthen engagement with diverse stakeholders; including government agencies, local authorities, and non-governmental organizations, to foster broader ownership and sustainability of project interventions.
2. **Capacity Building**: Place greater emphasis on building the capacity of local partners and communities in M&E techniques, enabling them to actively contribute to monitoring efforts and enhance project sustainability.

Recommendations for Similar Projects: Based on this project's experiences, the following are the recommendations to others undertaking similar projects:
1. **Prioritize Community Involvement**: Invest in building strong relationships with local communities from the outset, ensuring their active participation and ownership of project activities.

2. **Flexibility and Adaptation:** Remain flexible and responsive to evolving circumstances, adjusting strategies and approaches as needed to address emerging challenges and opportunities.

Building Learning into Future Plans: To integrate these lessons learned into the project and future plans, we will:

1. **Incorporate Feedback Mechanisms:** Establish feedback mechanisms to solicit input from project stakeholders, allowing for ongoing learning and adaptation.

2. **Continuous Improvement:** Foster a culture of continuous improvement within the project team, encouraging reflection, knowledge sharing, and innovation.

Plan for Next Year: In light of the lessons learned, the project plans to adjust the existing M&E plan for the upcoming year to address identified challenges and improve the effectiveness of monitoring efforts. This may include reallocating resources, refining data collection methods, and strengthening collaboration with partners. While specific changes will be outlined in a Change Request, our overarching goal remains to enhance project impact and contribute to lasting positive change in the target communities and ecosystems.

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

Not Applicable.

10. Risk Management

Over the past 12 months, the project has identified several new risks that were not previously accounted for in the initial project design. These risks primarily relate to external factors such as unforeseen changes such as natural disasters, and socio-economic disruptions.

The project appreciates the importance of ongoing risk management and remains committed to proactively identifying, assessing, and addressing risks to ensure the successful implementation of the project and the achievement of our objectives. The project will update the risk register to provide a comprehensive overview of risk management efforts and demonstrate the project's commitment to transparency and accountability.

Here the project mentioned risk and their mitigation actions are:

Risk description	Mitigating actions	Rationale and responsibility
Strategic Risk		
Human resource issues, such as staffing	Legal requirements. When onboarding an employee, the project must follow and fulfill all legal requirements to ensure that it protects the project and the employee.	Conduct proper background checks, provide necessary training and support to employees, and maintain accurate records to demonstrate compliance with legal requirements.
Reputational Risk		

Changing beliefs and expectations	To evaluate reality, regular surveys of employees, customers, and other stakeholders can reveal whether their priorities are changing.	By designing surveys, collecting and analyzing data, and communicating the findings to relevant stakeholders.
Operational Risk		
Process	Understand what resources are required for a process. Monitor for changes, such as the need to scale up or down.	Exclusive monitoring and evaluation.
People	Brainstorming sessions	Conduct staff training.
External factors	Proactive management of risk factors.	Continuously assess the external environment, and develop proactive risk mitigation strategies.
Project Risk		
Cost Risk	Accurate planning, cost estimation, and scope creep.	Flexible budget panning.
Schedule Risk	Proper planning.	Program calendar.
Performance Risk	Time and money on a project that ultimately will deliver.	Evaluate and summarise timely program implementation parts.
Conservation/Environmental Risk		
Dynamic	Social risk is formed by how people react to events and ideas and thus it is always evolving.	To monitor social trends, and assess stakeholder perceptions.

10.   Sustainability and legacy

The project has gained significant visibility and recognition within the country and relevant stakeholders due to its innovative approach to addressing biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction challenges. Efforts to promote the project's work have been multi-faceted, including outreach activities, knowledge-sharing events, and strategic partnerships with government agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and local communities.

Evidence of increasing interest and capacity resulting from the project includes:
1. Community Engagement: The project has witnessed growing interest and active participation from local communities in project activities, indicating increased awareness and ownership of conservation efforts.
2. Stakeholder Collaboration: There has been a notable increase in collaboration and partnerships with government agencies, demonstrating their recognition of the project's importance and potential for achieving shared conservation and development goals.

Regarding the sustainability of benefits post-project, the intended sustainable benefits remain valid, given the project's ongoing implementation and efforts to strengthen local capacity and institutional frameworks. overarching goals and objectives.

11. Darwin Initiative identity

The project has actively publicized the Darwin Initiative and recognized the UK Government's contribution to its work through various channels. The Darwin Initiative logo has been prominently displayed on project materials, including reports, publications, and presentations, to acknowledge the funding support received and raise awareness about the initiative's objectives and achievements.

The project has actively promoted Darwin Initiative funding opportunities and projects through its website, social media channels, and participation in relevant events and forums. This includes sharing information about upcoming funding rounds, success stories of funded projects, and opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Overall, the project is committed to maximizing the visibility and impact of the Darwin Initiative's funding support, both within the host country and globally, by promoting its objectives, achievements, and opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing.

12. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No
Have any concerns been reported in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	███████████████
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	No
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 100%

Have there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.

Over the past 12 months, the project has encountered several lessons and challenges related to safeguarding. These include:

Training and Awareness: One key lesson learned is the importance of ongoing training and awareness-raising activities on safeguarding issues for project staff, partners, and beneficiaries. Ensuring that everyone involved in the project understands their responsibilities and rights regarding safeguarding is crucial for maintaining a safe and respectful working environment.

Reporting Mechanisms: Establishing clear and accessible reporting mechanisms for safeguarding concerns is essential. Challenges have arisen in ensuring that all stakeholders know how and where to report any safeguarding issues they may encounter. Improving communication about reporting procedures and providing multiple channels for reporting can help address this challenge.

Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify.

Yes, the project has several developments and activities planned around safeguarding in the coming 12 months. These include:

Review and Update of Safeguarding Policies: The project will conduct a review of its existing safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure they remain comprehensive, relevant, and in line with best practices. Any necessary updates or revisions will be made to strengthen the project's safeguarding framework.

Training and Capacity Building: The project will continue to prioritize training and capacity-building initiatives on safeguarding for project staff, partners, and beneficiaries. This will include both initial training for new participants and refresher sessions for existing stakeholders to reinforce understanding and awareness of safeguarding issues.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Safeguarding Measures: The project will incorporate safeguarding indicators into its monitoring and evaluation framework to track the progress and effectiveness of safeguarding measures. Regular monitoring will help identify areas for improvement and ensure that safeguarding remains a priority throughout project implementation.

Project expenditure

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

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	1,46,407.000	1,46,407.000		

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

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact *Enhance biodiversity conservation by maintaining corridors and connectivity through local participation and ensure the socio-economic wellbeing of the population.*		
Outcome Enhance a science based biodiversity database, capacitate communities, increase co-existence between humans and wildlife, and improve the economy and livelihood of the people in the Himalayas.		
Outcome indicator 0.1 Up to 50 community members gain skills in wildlife survey, 150 community members develop skills in leadership and advocacy in conservation, 330 HHs develop skills in implementing forest fire control tools	Trained a total of 242 community members in the survey and monitoring program, Procured 47 sets of camera traps Enhanced 88 participants in leadership and advocacy Three CAMCs (Laduk, Khare and Lamabagar) were fully equipped with forest fire control tools and equipment; 132 HHs learned to use fire control tools	Deploying the newly acquired camera traps strategically with the participation of locally trained members Encourage participants to apply their leadership and advocacy skills in local conservation initiatives, fostering community-driven efforts for biodiversity preservation Conduct more programs and provide sufficient forest fire tools to control the forest fire
Outcome indicator 0.2 At least 100 community officials will have positive attitude towards wildlife conservation and positive	The Program on human-wildlife conflict management, where 368 participants were taught about mitigation measures and wildlife conservation	Facilitate knowledge and sharing sessions among community officials

perceptions increased by 40%	More than 100 community member's perceptions were surveyed and most of them (>80%) found positive attitudes toward wildlife conservation	
Outcome indicator 0.4 Government stakeholders positively support the conservation program, and regular forest patrolling will control illegal activities incidences by 50% by Year 3	26 units of forest patrolling were conducted with local community participation and engaging 300 local communities	More programs and budgets were required to mobilize local members
Outcome indicator 0.5 Up to 680 HHs benefitted from different awareness programme, wildlife mitigation measures, livestock depredation in improved corrals/pens decreased by 75% and crop damage by 50% in pilot sites	368 HHs participated in awareness program about wildlife mitigation measure 89 predator-proof corrals were constructed 17 Machans were built	Conduct a follow-up assessment to evaluate the effectiveness Monitor the performance and durability Monitor and evaluate plan to track the long-term impact of these actions on reducing human-wildlife conflict and promoting coexistence
Outcome indicator 0.6 Local perceptions and attitudes towards wildlife become positive due to establishment of relief fund and insurance scheme as measured from attitude and perceptions baseline survey, Year 3	Relief fund established 60 livestock herders were supported with 50% of the premium for Yak insurance	Explore opportunities to enhance the livestock insurance scheme
Outcome indicator 0.11 By end of the project and beyond, at least 3 wildlife-based eco-trails identified and functional	3 wildlife based eco-trails (musk deer trail, red panda trail, and bird trail) initiated	Work on more branding activities Monitoring, record of visitors/trekkers and their perceptions

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

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Enhance biodiversity conservation by maintaining corridors and connectivity through local participation and ensure the socio-economic wellbeing of the population.			
Outcome: Enhance a science-based biodiversity database, capacitate communities, increase co-existence between humans and wildlife, and improve the economy and livelihood of the people in the Himalaya			
Output 1 Enhance the national and local capacity in mountain biodiversity conservation	1.1 50 community members gain skills in camera trapping and prey base survey as a result of training, year 1 & 2 1.2 150 community members including women (50%) will develop skills in leadership and advocacy in conservation; Year 1,2, & 3 1.315 graduate students (15% girls) conduct research on various biodiversity topics;　　　　year 1=5, year 2= 5,　year3= 5 1.6 330 HHs of Conservation Area management Committees (CAMCs & Forest Management sub-Committees (FMsC) officials trained in forest fire control and use fire control tools (2 days, 22 trainings, 15 participants/training); Year 1, Year 2 & Year 3; 1.7 Base line database available on attitude and perceptions on wildlife conservation; Year 1 1.8 100 community officials will have increase knowledge on the importance of wildlife protection (5 workshops x 1 day each) & positive attitude and perceptions increased by 40 % Baseline year 1; Results: Year 3	1.1.1 Training attendance records, trainee involvement in camera trap surveys and monitoring 1.1.2 Training attendance records 1.1.3 Theses/Publications, Year 1, 2 & 3 1.1.6 Training attendance reports, Forest fire control community social audits 1.1.7 Survey report, Year 1 1.1.8 Local attitude and perceptions positive towards wildlife conservation as per perceptions and attitude survey by partner organizations; Year 3	Train local stakeholders participate in surveys; loss and theft of camera traps assured by local communities No change in the status among the implementing partners
Output 2	2.1 Science based data on the abundance and density	2.1.1 Research	No change in the NTNC

Established biodiversity database and maintain corridors and connectivity	of snow leopard, Himalayan wolf & common leopard and prey spp. - musk deer and Himalayan tahr available; Year 1&2: Snow leopard, Himalayan wolf & prey species; Year 3: Common leopard	reports/publications, 3 peer reviewed paper in International Journal by Year 3	mandate as main management authority Local community cooperation and support and safety of camera traps assured No natural disasters during the survey period
	2.2 Database on distribution and habitat of small carnivore communities available (This is linked to 2.1, camera trap data analyzed to produce report); Year 3	2.1.2 Research report/publication	
	2.6 22 CAMC conduct regular forest patrolling to control illegal activities (1 patrolling /CAMC/half yearly; 54 forest patrolling conducted), illegal activities decrease by 50% by Year 3.Baseline Year 1, Results Year 3	2.1.6 Community patrolling reports, Year 1, 2 & 3	
Output 3 Enhanced co-existence between humans and wildlife through awareness, revived traditional methods and implementation of mitigation strategies	3.2 180 HHs become aware of the government legal provision and punishment for killing wildlife and importance of wildlife conservation); Year 1–1, Year 2–2 & Year 3–2 3.3100 HHs have functional animal barriers like mounds, trenches and biological hedge fences around their farm; Year 1, 2 & 3. By the end of the project and beyond crop damage complaint decrease by 25% in the pilot site 3.4 100 HHs will practice traditional scaring methods to protect crop loss; Year 1, 2 & 3 3.5 250 HHs have predator proof corrals/cattle shed (250 HHs); Year 1, 2 & 3 (Baseline = 50-60 livestock depredation/year, Result: corrals depredation reduced by 75%) 3.6 50 HHs have raised platform (machan) to guard crop	3.1.2High conflict area map 3.1.3Field reports/Annual reports, photographs 3.1.4Field reports/Annual reports, crop depredation records, photographs 3.1.5Field reports/Annual reports, M&E reports, livestock depredation records, photographs 3.1.6Field reports/Annual reports, M&E reports, crop depredation records, photographs 3.1.7 Training attendance records, livestock depredation data, field reports/annual reports/photographs 3.1.8 CAMC annual audit reports;	No change in the NTNC mandate as main management authority Local community cooperation and support Timely execution of the activities by the communities

	3.760 herders will practice improved guarding techniques and documenting depredation losses at Lapchi valley andMarbu area; Year 1, 2 & 3 3.8 22 CAMCs will have relief fund operational for providing compensations for human injury and livestock depredation; Year 1(Baseline = 50-60 depredation livestock/year, Human injury = 4-5/year. Local perceptions and attitudes towards wildlife become positive as measured from attitude and perceptions survey baseline survey (activity 1.7) 3.9 Livestock insurance schemes piloted in 50 HHs (ca.1500 livestock head insured) at Bulung and Chilankha (Note: This will be coordinated with the insurance companies to implement insurance scheme for providing compensation against loss of livestock due to depredation); Year 1, 2 & 3	human injury and livestock depredation database 3.1.9 Insurance company contract; Annual reports; monitoring visit reports	
Output 4 Develop sustainable income generation scheme through green economy and enterprises	4.1 25 Conservation Farmers (CF) formalized, and have skills for nursery management and operation; Year 1 & 2 4.2 25 forest nurseries operational. By the end of the project 15 ha. degraded forest patches restored 4.6 40 women HHs of Simigaun and Tashinam will have skills in making local 4.8 30 km wildlife observation trail (Red panda, Himalayan tahr, musk deer and bird) branded and promoted; along with sign posting and wildlife display information board	4.1.1Training reports/Annual reports 4.1.2 50000 seedling production from Year 3 onwards; M&E reports; photographs 4.1.6 40 women HHs of Simigaun and Tashinam will have skills in making local 4.1.8 Three functional wildlife observation trails/tourist records	Local community cooperation and acceptance

14	**Jute Rope**	300 meter	3850	3850	1 Kg (300-350 Meter) of Natural Jute Rope Thin Jute Thread For Art and Craft
15	**Face Mask (Cloth)**	55	80	4400	
16	**Water Bag (Back Pack Pump)**	1	15000	15000	Fire Extinguishing & Water Back Pack in Nepal : Forest Fire Sprayer Flow: 1020 to 120 ML Per Press Spray Range: About 8 Meters Spray Gun Length: 68 CM PVC Hose Lenght 1.2M Back Pack Material: Water Proof PVC Net Cloth Back Pack Capacity: 20 Liters. Dry Back Pack Weight: about 0.75-0.8 Kgs. Dimension: 50*65.5 Cm Cap Diameter: 10 Cm

Table 4: Himalayan Wolf Research Grant Support announced by NTNC-GCAP/Darwin Initiative Project.			
SN	Name of Researcher	Research Title	Budget
1	Naresh Kusi	Study on Status of Himalayan wolf in Gaurishankar Conservation Area, Nepal	4,50,000/-