Applicant: **Pearson, Jasmine**
Organisation: **Zoological Society of London**
Funding Sought: **£0.00**

DIR30IN\1191

Addressing wildlife entanglement in discarded fishing nets through community-based approaches

Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary, Bihar, is the only dolphin sanctuary in India and is crucial for conserving the endangered species. Entanglement in ‘Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gears’ (ALDFG) is a significant factor contributing to declining populations of dolphin and other key River Ganga species (WII-ZSL, 2023). This project will establish an innovative net recycling model in Bihar, suitable for widescale replication at a national level, to significantly reduce ALDFG species entanglement, whilst benefiting communities through incentivised waste management.

DIR30IN\1191

Addressing wildlife entanglement in discarded fishing nets through community-based approaches

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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GMS ORGANISATION

Type	**Charity/ trusts**
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Section 2 - Project Summary, Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

Q3. Title

Addressing wildlife entanglement in discarded fishing nets through community-based approaches

Please attach a cover letter as a PDF document.

ZSL Cover Letter
23/10/2023
17:48:13
pdf 184.37 KB

Q4a. Is this a resubmission of a previously unsuccessful application?

No

Q5. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

Please select up to 3 biomes that are of focus, up to 3 conservation actions that characterise your approach, and up to 3 threats to biodiversity you intend to address, from dropdown lists.

Biome 1

Freshwater Realm (Rivers and streams)

Biome 2

No Response

Biome 3

No Response

Conservation Action 1

Land / Water Management

Conservation Action 2

Awareness Raising

Conservation Action 3

Research & Monitoring

Threat 1

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

Threat 2

Pollution (domestic, commercial, agricultural)

Threat 3
No Response

Q6. Summary of project

Please provide a brief non-technical summary of your project: the problem/need it is trying to address, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on the website.

Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary, Bihar, is the only dolphin sanctuary in India and is crucial for conserving the endangered species. Entanglement in 'Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gears' (ALDFG) is a significant factor contributing to declining populations of dolphin and other key River Ganga species (WII-ZSL, 2023). This project will establish an innovative net recycling model in Bihar, suitable for widescale replication at a national level, to significantly reduce ALDFG species entanglement, whilst benefiting communities through incentivised waste management.

Section 3 - Dates & Budget Summary

Q7. Country(ies)

Which eligible country(ies) will your project be working in?

Country 1	India	**Country 2**	*No Response*
Country 3	*No Response*	**Country 4**	*No Response*

Do you require more fields?

⦿ No

Q8. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 1 year, 8 months):
01 April 2024	31 March 2026	2 years

Q9. Budget Summary

Darwin Funding Request	2024/25	2025/26	Total request
(Apr - Mar) £	£102,912.00	£97,058.00	199,970.00

Q10. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

⦿ Yes

Please ensure you clearly outline your matched funding arrangement in the budget.

Q11. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you will fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

No Response

Q12. Have you received, applied for or plan to apply for any other UK Government funding for the proposed project or similar?

⦿ No

Section 4 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q13. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and its relationship with multi-dimensional poverty.

For example, what are the causes of biodiversity loss, preventing conservation, and/or keeping people in multi-dimensional poverty that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify the need for your project? Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in your additional attached PDF document).

The River Ganga is the fifth largest in the world (Welcomme, 1985). The region is globally important for biodiversity, hosting multiple endemic aquatic species of conservation importance. The 60km stretch of the Ganga in Bihar was designated in 1991 as India's sole dolphin sanctuary - Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS) - crucial for Gangetic river dolphin conservation, and home to the Vulnerable Indian smooth-coated otter. It is recognised as an 'Important Bird Area' (Islam, et al 2004), hosting diverse avian species such as skimmers, Pallas's fish eagle, greater spotted eagle, lesser kestrel, greater adjutant and lesser adjutant. The sanctuary also boasts gharial, freshwater turtles, and numerous fish species.

The river holds high cultural, heritage and religious values, whilst also providing key income and sustenance to over 25,000 fisherfolks (Badola et al 2020). India is the third leading producer of fish in the world (DoF, 2020); however, the Ganga is also considered to be the second largest plastic pollution-contributing river catchment in the world, with 120,000 tons discharged annually (Nelms et al. 2021). In addition, pollution from agricultural runoff, industrial effluents and unregulated developments are posing significant threats to key species.

A biodiversity threat assessment ranked the three-striped roofed turtle, Ganga river dolphin, Black spotted turtle, Northern river terrapin, and Smooth coated otter at most risk from entanglement with, and impacts from, ALDFGs (Nelms et al., 2021). Another study attributed 61% of dolphin mortality to entanglement, particularly in monofilament gill nets (Kolipakam et. al., 2022).

In Bhagalpur, Bihar, there are 76 fish species landed in fisheries, of which 43% are caught using monofilament gill nets (Chaudhary et al 2006). Our feasibility study indicated fishers dispose of 13.51kg of end-of-life nets

annually, with 45% discarded directly into the river and another 14% nearby, later entering the river when water levels rise during the monsoon season (WII-ZSL, 2023). A small percentage of nets are burnt, repurposed, or stored in backyards. With very low socioeconomic conditions for fishers, there is a huge reliance on fishing for livelihoods. The sheer quantity of end-of-life fishing nets poses a significant challenge for local communities with no effective waste management system.

Our feasibility study evidenced a significant need for innovation and identified local actors in Bihar State with an appetite to co-develop a net collection model. This project will engage 24 villages bordering the VGDS, from three blocks (Bihpur, Kahalgaon and Gopalpur) within the district of Bhagalpur in Bihar State. Learnings will be adapted from 'Net-Works' in the Philippines (Tolentino- Zondervan et al., 2018, 2022) to establish the first ever sustainable net recycling model on the River Ganga. The 'Sea to Source: Ganges Expedition', in which our team travelled the entire length of the main Ganges river to understand pathways of plastic pollution and its impacts upon biodiversity, demonstrated a significant need for wide scale implementation of this approach at a national level. This project will therefore provide a blueprint for national stakeholders to replicate at a national level and significantly mitigate impacts on vulnerable Ganga species.

Q14. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q14a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below. Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported.

- ☑ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- ☑ Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- ☑ Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)
- ☑ Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q14b. National and International Policy Alignment

Using evidence where available, please detail how your project <u>will contribute</u> to national policy (including NBSAPs, NDCs, NAPs etc.) and in turn international biodiversity and development conventions, treaties and agreements that the country is a signatory of.

This work supports both the Environmental Protection Act 1986, on provisions for environmental issues affecting fisheries and aquaculture industry in India, and Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, which prevents the fishing of rare species of fishes.

India is focusing on downstream measures to tackle plastic pollution, and this project directly addresses these needs. The Government of India MoEFCC established the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, on 12 August 2021, and India is actively engaging in the development of the UN Global Plastics Treaty - both in developing solutions to existing issues and building in capacity to adopt these and address the issues.

Co-developing mechanisms to address ALDFGs in the River Ganga fundamentally supports Targets 5, 7, 9 and 10 of the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), SDG Targets 12.2, 12.4, 12.5, 14.1, 15.1, 15.5 and 15.9, and RAMSAR Targets 1, 2, 3, 11 and 13 by ensuring that biodiversity is sustainably used and managed, local communities are benefitting from it, sources of pollution and their impacts on aquatic species are being reduced, and governments have the evidence to strengthen relevant policy. Developing training programmes, relevant infrastructure, and social marketing campaigns for local communities to benefit from the reduced impacts on biodiversity and associated circular economy of net recycling will support GBF 20 and 22, SDG 9.3, 9.b, 12.8 and 12.a and RAMSAR 16.

The Ganga river dolphin, a species known to be impacted by ALDFGs, is listed on Appendix I of CMS and has associated Concerted Actions that this project will help to address. Indeed, a recent CMS report highlighted the River Ganga as a case study for the impacts of plastic pollution on migratory species.

This work also aligns with the Global Ghost Gear Initiative, a cross stakeholder alliance focused on tackling lost and abandoned fishing gear worldwide.

Section 5 - Method, Innovation, Capability & Capacity

Q15. Methodology

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

- **how you have reflected on and incorporated evidence and lessons learnt from past and present similar activities and projects in the design of this project.**
- **the specific approach you are using, supported by evidence that it will be effective, and justifying why you expect it will be successful in this context.**
- **how you will undertake the work (activities, materials and methods).**
- **what the main activities will be and where these will take place.**
- **how you will manage the work (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).**

This project will build upon learnings from our feasibility study of 2021; the 'Sea to Source: Ganges' expedition of 2019 (Napper et. al, 2021); and the Darwin-funded Net-Works initiative (Darwin 21-010 and 24-027) - a community-based model redesigning global supply chains to replenish the ocean and tackle poverty in the most marginalised and biodiverse parts of the world. A team will lead delivery on-the-ground in Bihar State, with remote support from UK-based technical experts who will travel to Bhagalpur each year to build team capacity and support implementation.

Our approach is structured across four main outputs:

Output 1 - Our feasibility study indicated strong appetite from the community for a locally-led supply chain model, to be led by a female majority. There are high levels of women in local Self-Help Groups (SHGs), with whom we will engage to drive participation in both managing net sales and actively collecting nets from the environment. Community savings schemes will be set up to finance the supply chain, and members will receive training for both managing finances and the net collection model. A cost analysis conducted for the supply chain, including collection and processing centres, will inform the business model in output 2. Coordinator(s) will be recruited, and a robust reporting mechanism agreed. Diverse feedback mechanisms will be embedded to enable equitable management.

Output 2 - Our feasibility study demonstrated that Nylon-6 mesh nets are a high-value recycling material, and our riverbank surveys and key informant interviews indicated a sufficient supply of end-of-life nets to sustain a business model in Bhagalpur. Together with a consultant we will create a robust profit & loss model, and select a recycling partner with clear ethical and environmental practices, and a minimum price guarantee to ensure the business model is resilient to market changes and self-sustaining by nature. We will also engage with relevant policymakers to encourage and support observed trends that will improve the market for recycled plastics – such as the UN Global Plastics Treaty. We will also look to minimise transportation costs by leveraging existing transportation arrangements.

Output 3 - The Ganga Prahari are trained community volunteers working to conserve the VGDS. Taking learnings from our feasibility study, we will collaborate with the Ganga Prahari to deliver a campaign across 24 target villages and drive increased engagement in conservation activities. Community members will be trained in releasing entangled species and conducting ALDFG monitoring along the VGDS. In parallel we will co-design a strategy with the Fisheries and Forestry Departments for monitoring species entanglement rates in ALDFGs, leveraging learnings from previous successful approaches.

Output 4 - Our team will consolidate recommendations into an open-source, online toolkit, available in Hindi and English. We will host online webinars and an in-person event with key national stakeholders to drive replication/scaling of the innovation along the wider River Ganga and its tributaries. We will work with national actors to identify future implementation sites, and share this model with government as a scalable solution to fulfil UN Global Plastics Treaty commitments.

Q16. Innovation

Please specifically outline how your approach or project is innovative.

Is it the application of a proven approach in a distinctly different geography/issue/stakeholder (novel to the area), or in a different sector (novel to the sector), or an unproven approach in any sector (novel to the world)?

A model for recycling ALDFGs has already been successfully established in the Philippines through Net-Works (Darwin 21-010 and 24-027), and replicated in Indonesia and Cameroon (diverting 267 million metres of net from the ocean, reducing vulnerable species entanglements, and regenerating the recycled material into high value carpet tiles). This project will pilot the approach in a new setting in Bihar, adapting to a different context, and demonstrating wide-scale replicability across India. Not only will the model effectively clear all ALDFGs from the riverbanks, and divert future end-of-life nets away from the River Ganga to reduce species entanglements, but this community-led model will also build capacity and diversify livelihoods within local communities. This project will be the first of its kind to adapt this proven approach in India, where the potential for addressing ALDFG-related challenges along the Ganga is significant, as evidenced through the 'Sea to Source: Ganges Expedition'. Our feasibility study confirmed that Nylon-6 nets, the most commonly used net by inland India fisheries, provide a highly valuable material, and the high quantities can sustain an effective business model. Whilst there is a will for this work to happen, there is currently no Government mandate for recycling ALDFGs in India, which means responsibility sits with the community level to deliver a solution for managing end-of-life nets. To date, communities in India lack the resources to do this; however, this innovation would provide a critical opportunity to establish a self-sustaining mechanism and inspire wide-scale replication across the Ganges and its tributaries.

Q17. Capability and Capacity

How will the project support the strengthening of capability and capacity of identified local and national partners, and stakeholders during its lifetime at organisational or individual levels? Please provide details of what form this will take, who will benefit (noting any Gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) considerations), and the post-project value to the country.

The project will result in an inclusive and equitable management plan for the VGDS in protecting Endangered Gangetic dolphin habitat, supported by local fishing communities. In total, 24 target village communities which sit along the VGDS in blocks Bihpur, Gopalpur, and Kahalgaon will be able to diversify their livelihoods through the net collection supply chain model, be this through net sales, or profit shares as a member of the financing scheme. For those managing the savings scheme and the net collection model, training will be delivered in both a) savings management, and b) running a community-based supply chain. Together with the Ganga Prahari, a community outreach campaign will be co-developed and delivered across all 24 target villages to increase awareness and understanding of local wildlife conservation and the impacts of ALDFGs within the VGDS. The

Ganga Prahari volunteers will then deliver training for community members to develop their abilities in rescue and rehabilitation of entangled Gangetic dolphin and other species. In addition, community members will be invited to participate in clean-up events, where training will build capacity within the community to conduct scientific monitoring approaches, including the use of the citizen science Marine Debris Tracker App. Conservation of the VGDS is a priority for the Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department of Bihar, as well as the communities living along the Ganga. This initiative will strengthen the governance of the VGDS by upskilling the community to remove the flow of ALDFGs into the River Ganga. In addition, all partner organisations will receive mandatory training in ZSL's Code of Conduct, Global Safeguarding, and GDPR. ZSL's other policies (including on Fraud, Corruption and Anti-Bribery; and Global Whistleblowing) will be made available to partners to enable capacity building and alignment with internal policies and procedures.

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

ZSL Additional attachment
23/10/2023
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pdf 693.42 KB

Section 6 - Gender, Awareness, Change Expected & Exit Strategy

Q18. Gender equality and social inclusion

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to promoting equality between persons of different gender and social characteristics. Explain your understanding of how individuals may be excluded from equal participation within the context of your project, and how you seek to address this. You should consider how your project will proactively contribute to ensuring individuals achieve equitable outcomes and how you will engage participants in a meaningful way.

ZSL recognises the importance of gender mainstreaming to achieve fair societal outcomes, and acknowledges the objectives set out by the UK International Development (Gender Equality) Act and the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 5. ZSL is committed to ensuring that Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) principles are integrated into all stages of project design, planning, implementation and M+E. ZSL uses a range of tools, including gender sensitive analyses, consultations and engagement plans to ensure women's voices, opinions and needs are foregrounded. We will monitor gender equity by analysing gender disaggregated data at baseline and subsequent evaluation points.

Women engaged during the feasibility study have shown enthusiasm for participating in an end-of-life net recycling model, across collecting, cleaning, baling, sorting, and storing of nets. Social factors such as dependency on husbands, restrictions from the elders, and responsibilities of children are barriers to their involvement in working sectors. On the other hand, with poor economic conditions and family needs, women are often required to work. Existing women-led self-help groups (SHGs) and cooperatives will be leveraged to gain access to female networks and drive engagement. The recycling model will be financed by a community savings scheme, which will be managed by a female majority. Appropriate training will upskill women as required to manage the fund and collection model. Through this approach, women will be meaningfully incorporated into the governance of the supply chain and can influence the development of the model. We will ensure participating females take on decision-making roles that would otherwise typically be male dominated.

Socioeconomic conditions of fishing communities in India are very low, with people struggling to meet basic needs. This model presents an opportunity for all community members, including the informal recycling sector workers, to diversify livelihoods through net sales.

Q19. Change expected

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

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

During the 24-month period of this project, a sustainable solution for end-of-life fishing nets will be co-developed with fishing communities in Bihar State, who have, until now, lacked an effective waste management approach for disposing of these. This will see an immediate change in net disposal behaviours and eliminate new ALDFGs from entering the River Ganga. Instead, fishers will be able to sell their end-of-life nets directly into the local model as feedstock, reducing littering behaviour and preventing nets from entering the environment, whilst also diversifying livelihoods through net sales.

End-of-life fishing nets currently discarded on riverbanks will be completely cleared by members of the community, preventing them from being consumed by the river during the monsoon season when water levels rise. Community members will receive payment when feeding these collected nets into the recycling model.

We estimate that the 100% reduction of new ALDFGs entering the River Ganga will result in at least 50% reduction in entanglements of key species in the lifetime of this project. In addition, a community campaign delivered with the Ganga Prahari will foster pro-wildlife behaviours, building awareness of the issue of plastic pollution, whilst upskilling volunteers in activities such as conducting riverbank monitoring and safe release of entangled species. This will all contribute significantly towards the goals of the VGDS.

Members of the community savings schemes in each target village, which we will ensure are at least 50% women, will receive training in both managing a local savings scheme and running a net collection supply chain. Profits from the savings scheme will be shared annually amongst those managing it, thereby supporting families with an alternative livelihood. To establish these we will leverage the existing Self-Help Groups (SHGs) network; a movement based on the principles of group solidarity and microfinance, which has existed in India for 50 years and are linked to the National Rural Health Mission of the Government of India. There are around 1.2 crore SHGs at present, 88% being all-women SHGs, with bank repayment levels of more than 96 per cent, demonstrating their credit discipline and reliability (Government of India, 2023).

Efforts to clear existing ALDFGs from within the River Ganga will also be explored with the Ganga Prahari, which would lead to an even higher reduction in entanglement rates in the immediate and long-term. A toolkit will evidence the effectiveness and recommendations from this pilot, serving as a blue-print for replication along the Ganga. Together with webinars, in person events, and stakeholder meetings to map future implementation sites, this work holds potential for wide-scale implementation, which would significantly reduce the amount of macro, and thereafter micro, plastic pollution which the River Ganga contributes to the wider ocean plastic problem.

Q20. Pathway to change

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

A women-led supply chain model will be established for buying end-of-life fishing nets from a) fishers and b) community members collecting ALDFGs from the environment. Livelihoods will be diversified through net sales, and supply chain managers will share profits annually. All existing ALDFGs on riverbanks will be removed within 24 months and fed into the model, whilst future end-of-life fishing nets will be redirected into the supply chain, rather than the Ganga. Nylon-6 mesh nets used for fishing in the Ganga is a high-value material, therefore everything collected will be recycled with a national/regional partner. Payment will be redirected into the supply chain to make the model self-sustaining. In parallel, a social marketing strategy will drive pro-wildlife conservation behaviours within the local community. Ganga Prahari's volunteers will increase in both the riverbank clean-ups and 'safe release from entanglement' training course. Awareness will build of plastic pollution, and the threat posed to key species within the VGDS. A toolkit with results and recommendations will equip key national stakeholders with a strong case for wide-scale replication across the Ganga and its tributaries, which will significantly reduce the threat of ALDFGs to all vulnerable biodiversity within the river and the ocean it feeds.

Q21. Sustainable benefits and scaling potential

Q21a. How will the project reach a point where benefits can be sustained post-funding? How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits? How will you ensure your data and evidence will be accessible to others?

This project will establish a self-sustaining supply chain to recycle the ALDFGs. By working in fishery and district co-operatives, we're capitalising on existing governance structures, rather than creating new ones, and future ownership will be built into these. The supply chain will be managed by local coordinator(s) who will maintain leadership beyond the timeline. Community savings mechanisms are designed to be self-sustaining, and training will be delivered to build capacity within the local community to manage the model. Fostering strong relationships and pro-wildlife conservation behaviours within the community with the Ganga Prahari will also embed long-term benefits. The model meets a need identified by the Indian government, and we will work with the Panchayat, a village level government institution, to enable long-term sustainability beyond the project period. All project outputs and reports will be hosted on the NMCG website.

Q21b. If your approach works, what potential is there for scaling the approach further? Refer to Scalable Approaches (Landscape, Replication, System Change, Capacitation) in the guidance. What might prevent scaling, and how could this be addressed?

This project will pilot a tried-and-tested approach in a new context and create a blueprint for scaling and replication across the entire trans-boundary Ganga basin. Output four is solely dedicated to this purpose, capturing learnings and recommendations, and sharing them via webinars and in-person events to a diverse range of national and regional stakeholders. We will produce an easy-to-use toolkit, hosted free of charge online, in English and Hindi. We will collaborate to identify future sites, using our learnings from the trans-boundary, 'Sea to Source: Ganges Expedition'. Just 60km of the Ganga makes up the VGDS in Bihar, but the River Ganga stretches 81, 6000 km2 in India alone. With India being the third leading producer of fish in the world, and the inland fisheries sector as the largest contributor, the potential for scaling this innovation is significant; indeed, partners have already demonstrated appetite for adopting this innovation.

Section 7 - Risk Management

Q22. Risk Management

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

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Fiduciary (financial) Funds transferred to partners are not spent or accounted for as agreed.	Major	Rare	Moderate	ZSL have worked with WII for 13 years and both organisations have systems in place to ensure that mishandling of funds is very unlikely.	Minor
Safeguarding Community members are involved in ways that make them unsafe and/or vulnerable to exploitation and are not able to step away.	Major	Rare	Moderate	Both ZSL and WII have robust safeguarding systems in place to ensure that community members, indigenous, and/or vulnerable people are protected from harm. Further, all beneficiaries will be fully informed of the process and able to step away from the project if they feel at risk at any point.	Minor
Delivery Chain Partners and communities fail to deliver the agreed activities/workplan.	Major	Rare	Moderate	We are proposing to deliver the project through trusted partners, and in a state where we have previously worked with the communities that we will engage with during the project. As such we believe the delivery chain is robust and any associated risk is low.	Minor
Risk 4 Increased risks from natural disasters such as flooding and landslides	Major	Rare	Moderate	H&S assessment carried out at project inception phase to guide site selection for project activities and data collection. Close collaboration with local authorities to progress activities in safe conditions. Integration of nature-based solutions like bamboo plantation in relevant output activities to reduce flooding risk.	Moderate

Risk 5 Local government or development stakeholders remain silent over addressing wildlife entanglement in discarded end-of-life fishing nets through community-based approaches.	Major	Rare	Moderate	ZSL and partners will sensitise community members on addressing wildlife entanglement in discarded end-of-life fishing nets through community-based approaches.	Moderate
Risk 6 Business model is not sustained over time, e.g. due to fluctuations in market such as oil prices and competition with virgin plastic; logistics e.g. shipping costs; lack of buy-in at the community level.	Major	Rare	Moderate	We will encourage policy makers to support opportunities for improving the market for recycled plastics and partner with a recycler that provides a minimum price guarantee. Communities, which already demonstrated significant buy-in, will continue to be engaged via the Ganga Prahari going forwards, and will be incentivised through net sales.	Moderate

Q23. Project sensitivities

Please indicate whether there are sensitivities associated with this project that need to be considered if details are published (detailed species location data that would increase threats, political sensitivities, prosecutions for illegal activities, security of staff etc.). Please note your response to this question won't influence the outcome of your application.

⦿ Yes

Please provide brief details.

Previous engagement with fishers along the Ganga indicate that catches might use illegal fishing gear. Monofilament Nylon nets or other nets with mesh size of 4cm is illegal to use in Bhagalpur during from June to August. Mosquito nets, which are also monofilament nylon, are also commonly used but illegal. These issues may be discussed as part of community discussions and socio-economic surveys, and participants will be encouraged to only use legal gears, both to ensure that they are fishing within the law and to ensure that juvenile fish are not removed from the river.

Section 8 - Workplan

Q24. Workplan

Provide a project workplan that shows the key milestones in project activities.

ZSL Workplan
23/10/2023
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Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q25. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

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

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

ZSL has a strong reputation for managing global conservation projects based on sound science and recognises that the real challenge has been finding a mechanism to ensure that community-based management is well implemented and sustained. We have pioneered a suite of techniques and approaches in designing and implementing the monitoring and evaluation of community-led conservation initiatives. These have been integral to developing standardised approaches and indicators to enable rigorous project management, shared learnings and impact evaluation contributing directly to ZSL's mission.

To ensure targets are met on-time and on-budget, the project team will produce annual M&E and work plans. The UK-based Senior Project Manager and Environmental & Social Safeguarding Specialist will visit India annually for in-person project planning and evaluation, as well to conduct site visits and training, and meet with staff and communities. Outside of these formalised management and evaluation meetings, there will be regular communication between team members in India and the UK, and with partners via email, Microsoft Teams, and WhatsApp. This will enable adaptive management of the project, informing adjustment of workplans and logframe as required, to ensure they are 'living' documents. Progress in project activities and completion of key milestones will be monitored through monthly reports submitted to ZSL HQ by project staff and partners, ensuring alignment with the overarching ZSL impact framework. This established ZSL project management tool ensures timely completion of activities, and quickly flags up any issues for attention. Monthly reports provide the basis for writing a half-year and annual progress report that are submitted to all project partners and donors, according to the required format.

Indicators will be monitored periodically by the Project Leader in India, with support from the UK team, through a range of tools across relevant themes to ensure that the project is meeting targets and to measure impact. Social and economic effects will be evaluated through surveys and focus groups, which will be designed at project inception in order to define context-specific metrics (e.g., well-being measures not only changes in income but also empowerment and security dimensions). Behavioural changes towards freshwater conservation will be measured through attitudinal surveys, designed at project inception and administered pre- and post-intervention.

Data collection will largely be undertaken by experienced project staff, though communities will be engaged in the design and implementation of monitoring strategies. All data will be stored centrally. Working in remote communities, in countries that lack the capacity and funds to facilitate such extensive data collection, this project contributes to the challenges of data deficiency and actively monitoring targets that influence policy implementation at local, national and international levels.

Total project budget for M&E (£) **(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)**	£[redacted]
Total project budget for M&E (%) **(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)**	[redacted]
Number of days planned for M&E	488

Section 10 - Logical Framework

Q26. Logical Framework (logframe)

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

ZSL Logframe and Theory of Change
23/10/2023
18:46:26
pdf 156.81 KB

Impact:

Plastic net entanglements of key Ganga species are substantially reduced, improving the effectiveness of the Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin
Sanctuary (VGDS) and providing a scalable, innovative model for national adoption.

Outcome:

An inclusive, innovative, community-led, net recycling pilot for India is established, reducing negative impacts of ALDFGs on biodiversity in the VGDS and benefiting people through better waste management.

Project Outputs
Output 1: Community-led savings scheme is established and underpins creation of a net collection gender inclusive supply chain within 24 villages in Bihar living alongside the VGDS.
Output 2: A sustainable net recycling business model is established and underpins a solution that rediverts ADLFGs from entering the VGDS and prevent key Gangetic species entanglement.
Output 3: Pro-wildlife conservation behaviours and actions are fostered in 24 villages across three blocks to strengthen the effectiveness of the VGDS.
Output 4: Scaling/replication opportunities for net recycling are identified with national/regional partners.

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have less than 6 Outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the activity level.

⦿ No

Activities

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

Output 1:

1.1 Co-design a community engagement plan to reach as many women as possible across all 24 villages to encourage participation in the supply chain
model by end of Y1Q3.

1.2 Establish community savings schemes in each of the 24 villages, ensuring a minimum of 50% women members. Identify training and support needs,
and work with a consultant to build capacity by end of Y1Q3.

1.3 Conduct a cost analysis for the supply chain and create site map for collection / processing / consolidation centres by end of Y1Q4.

1.4 Identify transportation routes and finalise agreements. Recruit local coordinator(s) and finalise supply chain model reporting mechanism by end of
Y1Q4.

1.5 Create equipment lists for supply chain and place orders as required by end of Y1Q4.

1.6 Co-design and implement equitable and inclusive feedback mechanisms by end of Y2Q1.

Output 2:

2.1 Identify existing national/regional plastic recyclers. Establish criteria for assessing ethics / environmental impacts of their practices by end of Y1Q2.

2.2 Calculate a profit and loss model with consultant and test business model feasibility by end of Y1Q3.

2.3 Agree a partnership model with chosen recycler and draft / sign contract by end of Y1Q4.

Output 3:

3.1 Co-design and deliver community engagement campaign with Ganga Prahari by end of Y2Q1.

3.2 Support Ganga Prahari to deliver training on safe release of entangled species by end of Y2Q2.

3.3 Support Ganga Prahari to deliver riverbank clean-up events and train volunteers in robust monitoring of

ALDFG abundance by end of Y2Q4.

3.4 Co-design and implement species entanglement monitoring strategy with the Fisheries and Forestry Departments by end of Y2Q4.

Output 4:

4.1 Produce toolkit and deliver online webinars and in-person event to share approach and drive replication/scaling along the Ganga by end of Y2Q4.

4.2 Identify key criteria for future implementation sites, and collaborate to conduct a mapping exercise for future replication zones by end of Y2Q4.

4.3 Produce government briefing of pilot case study, create engagement opportunities by end of Y2Q4

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q27. Budget

Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

ZSL Budget India Innovation
23/10/2023
19:10:50
xlsx 95.87 KB

Q28. Alignment with other funding and activities

This question aims to help us understand how familiar you are with other work in the geographic/thematic area, and how this proposed project will build on or align with this to avoid any risks of duplicating or conflicting activities.

Q28a. Is this new work or does it build on existing/past activities (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

◉ Development of existing/past activities

Please give details.

This work builds on learnings from Coast 4C, a social enterprise launched by ZSL in 2020 to drive ocean and climate restoration through inclusive value chains for regenerative seaweed and end-of-life fishing nets. Coast 4C builds on the award-winning Net-Works project co-created by ZSL and Interface, which validated the inclusive value chain model in the Philippines and successfully tested replication in Cameroon and Indonesia. To date, this work has not been trialled in India. In addition to the learnings of Coast 4C, the project also expands on a study, conducted by ZSL and WII in 2019, funded by the National Geographic Society, which sought to understand the sources of plastic pollution in the River Ganga, both in India and Bangladesh. Through this the local fishing communities were engaged and the issues that we have included in the present project were surfaced. Following on from this, in 2021 we conducted a feasibility study for fishing net recycling in Bhagalpur, which was received positively by local communities, with a focus on female leadership of the supply chain model. This work also aligns with the Namami Ganga Programme – also known as Clean Ganga initiative – of the Indian Government.

Q28b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for work in the geographic/thematic area to the proposed project?

⦿ Yes

Please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional, avoiding duplicating and conflicting activities and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and share lessons learnt for mutual benefit.

The team is aware of research in India looking to understand the rates of species entanglement, but we aren't aware of other initiatives looking to tackle ALDFGs entering the environment. As referenced in this application, the Net-Works project was spun out of ZSL in 2022 to form an independent company that has attracted external investment, called Coast4C (www.coast4c.com). ZSL sits on the board of Coast4C and acts as a partner to the company in the Philippines. Coast4C has focused on the sustainable seaweed supply chain as its core business model to support coastal communities in its intervention areas in the Philippines. However, the recycling of discarded fishing nets remains a core component of the business model and engagement with communities.

Q29. Value for Money

Please demonstrate why your project is good value for money in terms of impact and cost-effectiveness of each pound spend (economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity). Why is it the best feasible project for the amount of money to be spent? Please make sure you read the guidance documents, before answering this question.

ZSL has 13 years' experience working with WII, the Government of India and the local communities, improving ZSL's access to information, tools, permits and local expertise, enabling cost-effective, timely deliverables and impact. The project utilises methods, data, infrastructure and learning from our existing ZSL-WII programmes and wider portfolio of community-based conservation and development projects.

ECONOMY

Costs are reduced by using existing systems, equipment, and infrastructure in India; match-funding for key technical staff; and employing local staff. Required capital equipment, where feasible, will be sourced in-country, avoiding unnecessary shipping/customs charges.

EFFICIENCY

Building on established relationships with experienced local partners, having carried out similar work before, means systems are in place to ensure inputs are efficiently translated into outputs, keeping administrative costs low from the outset of the project.

EFFECTIVENESS

Implementing tested approaches will support effective project implementation. For example, community banks are excellent investments, as demonstrated by our previous successful projects across South and Southeast Asia and Africa, and particularly relevant, with coastal communities.

EQUITY

The requirements for equal sharing of responsibilities and benefits will be mainstreamed in all management documents, SHGs' Constitution and Fisheries Cooperatives throughout the project to enable increased participation of vulnerable households.

OVERALL COST-EFFECTIVENESS

ZSL is experienced in developing deliverable, locally cost-effective budgets. The project will implement cost-effective management interventions with low start-up costs and overheads but large impacts on conservation and community development.

Q30. Capital items

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

All capital equipment (3 baling machines, 2 laptops, and 1 camera) purchased during this project will remain the property of Wildlife Institute of India upon closure of the project. The inventory record of capital items purchased will always be maintained by ZSL and partner organisations. We are not requesting more than 5% in capital costs.

Section 12 - Outputs, Open Access, Ethics & Safeguarding

Q31. Safeguarding

All projects funded under the Biodiversity Challenge Funds must ensure proactive action is taken to promote the welfare and protect all individuals involved in the project (staff, implementing partners, the public and beneficiaries) from harm. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have specific procedures and policies in place.

Please upload the following required policies:

- **Safeguarding Policy: including a statement of commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse.**
- **Whistleblowing Policy: which details a clear process for dealing with concerns raised and protects whistle blowers from reprisals.**
- **Code of Conduct: which sets out clear expectations of behaviours – inside and outside the workplace – for all involved in the project and makes clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards, including compliance with IASC 6 Principles.**

If any of these policies are integrated into a broader policy document or handbook, please upload just the relevant or equivalent sub-sections to the above policies, with (unofficial) English translations where needed.

Please outline how (a) beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff are made aware of your safeguarding commitment and how to confidentially raise a concern, (b) safeguarding issues are investigated, recorded and what disciplinary procedures are in place when allegations and complaints are upheld, (c) you will ensure project partners uphold these policies.

If your approach is currently limited or in the early stages of development, please clearly set out your plans address this.

a) ZSL's Global Safeguarding Policy is publicly available. Partners are made aware of ZSL policies before forming collaboration agreements. Contracts must include either a commitment to act in accordance with ZSL's Global Safeguarding Policy, or a clear, verified statement that the partner has in place a policy of equivalent standard. As part of this project we will ask partners to evidence that they have cascaded ZSL's policies to all staff involved.

Internal and external stakeholders can report to the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO), email safeguarding@zsl.org, or report anonymously through the whistleblowing hotline.

(b) Personnel who report a concern/incident will receive information about the progress of the investigation where possible. ZSL will apply appropriate disciplinary measures to staff/partners found in breach of the Policy, which may result in termination of employment/engagement and notifying police.

c) Due diligence processes will be in place to ensure compliance, forming part of ZSL's partner monitoring arrangements. ZSL will build capacity of partners to develop and implement the safeguarding policy and procedures, also covered in partner agreements.

Q32. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the key principles of good ethical practice, as outlined in the guidance.

ZSL has robust structures in place to ensure that interventions relating to both humans and animals meet the highest ethical and health and safety standards. All activities are risk assessed and reviewed by relevant health and safety officers, as well as having an associated emergency response plan. Risk registers will be kept in line with Q20. Any research involving animals will be reviewed by ZSL's Ethics Committee for Animal Research before commencing. Similarly, ZSL's Human Ethics Committee will ensure that activities involving human participants and/or their data is delivered in an ethical and legal manner – the technical advisor on this project presently chairs this group. ZSL safeguards the rights and needs of project participants through Free, Prior and Informed Consent. Once the project methodology has been approved, all data will be held according to the stipulations of the UK Data Protection Act (2018) and India's Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. The work will align with ZSL's FAIRER Programme, which ensures projects not only plan, manage and mitigate the environmental and social risks but safeguard and centre the local communities, people, and places with which we work, alongside building the values and reflexivity required to deliver FAIRER approaches.

Section 13 - British Embassy or High Commission Engagement

Q33. British embassy or high commission engagement

It is important for UK Government representatives to understand if UK funding might be spent in the project country/ies. Please indicate if you have contacted the relevant British embassy or high commission to discuss the project and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

◉ Yes

Please attach evidence of request or advice if received.

ZSL message to FCDO in India
23/10/2023
19:20:07
pdf 902.17 KB

Section 14 - Project Staff

Q34. Project staff

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

Name (First name, surname)	Role	% time on project	1 Page CV or job description attached?
Dr. Harish Guleria	**Project Leader**	20	Checked
Shauna Young	Marine Plastics Senior Project Manager	20	Checked
Surshti Patel	Environmental & Social Safeguarding Specialist	13	Checked
Dr. Ruchi Badola	Project Lead, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NCMG) and DEAN, FWS, Wildlife Institute of India	20	Checked

Do you require more fields?

⦿ Yes

Name (First name, surname)	Role	% time on project	1 Page CV or job description attached?
Anshul Bhawasar	Project delivery and M&E	100	Checked
Sneha Sharma	M&E	100	Checked
New hire 1	Project Scientist (Social Scientist)	100	Checked
New hire 2	Field Assistant 1 (Bihpur)	100	Checked
New hire 3	Field Assistant 2 (Gopalpur)	100	Checked
New hire 4	Field Assistant 3 (Kahalgaon)	100	Checked
No Response	*No Response*	0	Unchecked
No Response	*No Response*	0	Unchecked

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

ZSL combined CVs and JDs India Innovation Final
23/10/2023
19:29:01
pdf 864.01 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

⦿ Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q35. Project Partners

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

Lead Partner name:	Zoological Society of London (ZSL)
Website address:	www.zsl.org
Why is this organisation the Lead Partner, and what value to they bring to the project? **(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**	ZSL is an international conservation charity established in 1826, with a vision of a world where wildlife thrives. ZSL has extensive experience managing large field-based conservation projects effectively, working with local partners and communities to successfully achieve conservation outcomes in over 40 countries. ZSL has worked in India for over 13 years. It will be responsible for overall management of the project including synthesis and analysis of data for the review and feasibility assessments; writing, publication, and dissemination of reports and papers; delivery and administration of community-based components and M&E; coordination, technical and logistical support, and implementation of key project activities. ZSL will work with the government and implementing partners to ensure timely and quality delivery of the project. ZSL will also orient partners on the project's aims and necessary compliances; share learning nationally and internationally; provide technical support for project implementation; coordinate with partners, communities and stakeholders; conduct project-level monitoring, baseline and end line studies, and other assessments; and lead annual technical and financial reporting.
International/In-country Partner	⊙ International
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	[redacted]
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	⊙ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from the Lead Partner?	⊙ Yes

Do you have partners involved in the project?

⊙ Yes

1. Partner Name:	Wildlife Institute of India
Website address:	www.wii.gov.in
What value does this Partner bring to the project? **(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**	Established in 1982, WII is an Autonomous Institution of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. WII is an internationally acclaimed Institution which offers training programs, academic courses, and advisory in wildlife research and management. The Institute is actively engaged in research across the breadth of the country on biodiversity-related issues, including endangered species recovery, landscape-level management planning, tiger conservation, and Dolphin Conservation and National Mission for Clean Ganga. WII is working to implement the “National Mission for Clean Ganga in India” jointly with various stakeholders such as State Ministry of Jal shakti and Forest Departments, other line agencies, and local communities to recover the population and habitat of dugongs in the Indian Ocean. WII will be leading implementation of plastic monitoring components in Ganga Riverscape in Bhagapur, Bihar and will provide coordination with various partners and financial management. WII will also provide technical support on engaging with local communities and measuring the impact of pilot alternative livelihood initiatives in India.
International/In-country Partner	⦿ In-country
Allocated budget:	[redacted]
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	⦿ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	⦿ Yes

2. Partner Name:	*No Response*
Website address:	*No Response*
What value does this Partner bring to the project? **(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**	*No Response*
International/In-country Partner	○ International ○ In-country
Allocated budget:	0
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	○ Yes ○ No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	◯ Yes ◯ No

3. Partner Name:	*No Response*
Website address:	*No Response*
What value does this Partner bring to the project? **(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**	*No Response*
International/In-country Partner	◯ International ◯ In-country
Allocated budget:	0
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	◯ Yes ◯ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	◯ Yes ◯ No

4. Partner Name:	*No Response*
Website address:	*No Response*
What value does this Partner bring to the project? **(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**	*No Response*
International/In-country Partner	◯ International ◯ In-country
Allocated budget:	0
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	◯ Yes ◯ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	◯ Yes ◯ No

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

What value does this Partner bring to the project? **(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**	*No Response*
International/In-country Partner	◯ International ◯ In-country
Allocated budget:	0
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	◯ Yes ◯ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	◯ Yes ◯ No

6. Partner Name:	*No Response*
Website address:	*No Response*
What value does this Partner bring to the project? **(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**	*No Response*
International/In-country Partner	◯ International ◯ In-country
Allocated budget:	0
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	◯ Yes ◯ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	◯ Yes ◯ No

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

No Response

Please provide a combined PDF of all Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included.

Letters of support combined - India Innovation
23/10/2023
19:33:27
pdf 758.61 KB

Section 16 - Lead Partner Track Record

Q36. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded Biodiversity Challenge Funds (Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund) funding before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

⦿ Yes

Please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
30-003	Susie Offord-Woolley	Developing a sustainable model for human-elephant coexistence in Thailand
30-005	Bhagawan Raj Dahal	Protection to community engagement: Managing Nepal's youngest transborder National Park
DAREX008	Ms Katherine Secoy	Championing change: Living in harmony with wildlife in lowland Nepal
29-011	Bishnu Prasad	Terai Arc: Community stewardship to secure wildlife corridors and livelihoods
DARCC001	Paul Barnes	Mainstreaming livelihoods, health, poverty, and wellbeing into EDGE species conservation
DARCC010	Fridah Mutili	Building effective and equitable multi-stakeholder mitigation for HWC in Tsavo

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

⦿ Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Q36. Certification

If this section is incomplete the entire application will be rejected.

Please note if you do not upload the relevant materials below your application may be ineligible.

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

Zoological Society of London

I apply for a grant of

£199,970.00

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

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

- **I have enclosed CVs for key project personnel, a cover letter, letters of support, a budget, logframe, theory of change, Safeguarding and associated policies, and project workplan.**
- **Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (or other financial evidence – see Finance Guidance) are also enclosed.**

Checked

Name	Catherine Martin
Position in the organisation	Senior Institutional Fundraising Manager
Signature (please upload e-signature)	Signature 23/10/2023 19:42:01 jpg 24.41 KB
Date	23 October 2023

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

ZSL Audited Accounts 2021-22
23/10/2023
19:39:37
pdf 1.26 MB

ZSL Audited Accounts 2020-21
23/10/2023
19:39:36
pdf 519.17 KB

Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct as a PDF

ZSL Combined policies
23/10/2023
19:39:48
pdf 502.2 KB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

I have read the Guidance**, including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Standard Indicator Guidance", "Risk Guidance", and "Finance Guidance".**	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions **for this fund.**	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates **for my project.**	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years **i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.**	Checked

I have checked that the budget is complete**, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.**	Checked
The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual **(clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).**	Checked
I have attached the below documents to my application: • **a** cover letter from the Lead Partner**, outlining how any feedback received at has been addressed where relevant, as a single PDF.**	Checked
my completed logframe **as a PDF using the template provided**	Checked
• **my 1 page** Theory of Change **as a PDF which includes the key elements listed in the guidance**	Checked
• **my** budget **(which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.**	Checked
• **a signed** copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts **for the Lead Partner (or other financial evidence – see Finance Guidance, or provided an explanation if not**	Checked
• **my completed** workplan **as a PDF using the template provided.**	Checked
• **a copy of the** Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct **(Question 31).**	Checked
• **1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 34, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.**	Checked
• **a** letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 35, or an explanation of why not, as a single PDF.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO **in the project country(ies) and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.**	Checked
My additional supporting evidence is in line with the requested evidence, amounts to a maximum of 5 sides of A4, and is combined as a single PDF.	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin website **immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.**	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website**.**	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

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

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

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

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

Project Title: Addressing wildlife entanglement in discarded fishing nets through community-based approaches

Output	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (24/25)				Year 2 (25/26)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1	**Community-led savings scheme is established and underpins creation of a net collection gender inclusive supply chain within 24 villages in Bihar living alongside the VGDS.**									
1.1	Co-design a community engagement plan to reach as many women as possible across all 24 villages to encourage participation in the supply chain model by end of Y1Q3.	9								
1.2	Establish community savings schemes in each of the 24 villages, ensuring a minimum of 50% women members. Identify training and support needs, and work with a consultant to build capacity by end of Y1Q3.	9								
1.3	Conduct a cost analysis for the supply chain and create site map for collection / processing / consolidation centres by end of Y1Q4.	12								
1.4	Identify transportation routes and finalise agreements. Recruit local coordinator(s) and finalise supply chain model reporting mechanism by end of Y1Q4.	9								
1.5	Create equipment lists for supply chain and place orders as required by end of Y1Q4.	9								
1.6	1.6 Co-design and implement equitable and inclusive feedback mechanisms by end of Y2Q1.	6								
2	**A sustainable net recycling business model is established and underpins a solution that rediverts ADLFGs from entering the VGDS and prevent key Gangetic species entanglement**									
2.1	Identify existing national/regional plastic recyclers. Establish criteria for assessing ethics / environmental impacts of their practices by end of Y1Q2.	6								
2.2	Calculate a profit and loss model with consultant and test business model feasibility by end of Y1Q3.	6								
2.3	Agree a partnership model with chosen recycler and draft / sign contract by end of Y1Q4.	6								
3	**Pro-wildlife conservation behaviours and actions are fostered in 24 villages across three blocks to strengthen the effectiveness of the VGDS.**									
3.1	Co-design and deliver community engagement campaign with Ganga Prahari by end of Y2Q1.	9								
3.2	Support Ganga Prahari to deliver training on safe release of entangled species by end of Y2Q2.	9								
3.3	Support Ganga Prahari to deliver riverbank clean-up events and train volunteers in robust monitoring of ALDFG abundance by end of Y2Q4.	24								
3.4	Co-design and implement species entanglement monitoring strategy with the Fisheries and Forestry Departments by end of Y2Q4.	24								
4	**Scaling/replication opportunities for net recycling are identified with national/regional partners**									
4.1	Produce toolkit and deliver online webinars and in-person event to share approach and drive replication/scaling along the Ganga by end of Y2Q4	12								
4.2	Identify key criteria for future implementation sites, and collaborate to conduct a mapping exercise for future replication zones by end of Y2Q4.	12								
4.3	Produce government briefing of pilot case study, create engagement opportunities by end of Y2Q4	12								

Project Title: Addressing wildlife entanglement in discarded fishing nets through community-based approaches

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Plastic net entanglements of key Ganga species are substantially reduced, improving the effectiveness of the Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS) and providing a scalable, innovative model for national adoption.			
Outcome: An inclusive, innovative, community-led, net recycling pilot for India is established, reducing negative impacts of ALDFGs on biodiversity in the VGDS and benefiting people through better waste management.	0.1 A sustainable business model is established by end of Y1Q4, with a minimum of 50% women engaged in leading the supply chain model **(baseline = 0) [ZSL[1]].** 0.2 7440 fishers from 3 existing fisher cooperatives across blocks Bihpur, Kahalgaon and Gopalpur sell 100,514kg of end-of-life nets into the model removing the risk of them entering the VGDS by end of Y2Q4 **(baseline = 0) [DI-B09]** 0.3 A minimum of 169 Ganga Prahari members plus an additional 100 community volunteers participate in three riverbank clean-ups per year across Bihpur, Kahalgaon and Gopalpur to collect all existing discarded nets along the river-bank removing the risk of them entering VGDS by end of Y2Q4 **(baseline = 169 existing Ganga Prahari members conducting 3 clean ups per year in each village) [DI-B09]** 0.4 Abundance of ALDFGs on riverbanks across Bihpur, Kahalgaon and Gopalpur is reduced 100% by end of Y2Q4 **(baseline = nets make up 99.7% of ALDFG riverbank surveys)**	0.1 Contract in place with national/regional net recycler. 24 community banking schemes are active across 24 villages, with net collection point(s), transport arrangements, and district level processing centre(s) established. Data collected to inform gender distribution statistics; disaggregated by gender, age group, type of livelihood practice. 0.2 Net transaction records maintained by the collection points (e.g. community banks) including attendance register and net weight in kg; disaggregated by gender; age group; typology of unsustainable practice (discarding ALDFGs). 0.3 Data recorded for river-bank clean up events, including volume of discarded fishing nets collected by community attendance and number of participants disaggregated by gender, age group, typology of unsustainable practice (discarding ALDFGs). 0.4 Data recorded during riverbank monitoring on the abundance of ALDFGs in Bihpur, Kahalgaon and Gopalpur; disaggregated by plastic pollution type. 0.5 Data made available through partnership with Fisheries & Forestry Departments who will conduct on-going monitoring of	Focal communities, organisations and government are supportive of interventions throughout the project delivery and beyond. Supply chain and business model is robust and meets environmental and socio-economic standards. Communities adopt behaviours to ensure end of life nets are recycled and not discarded. 50% reduction was included as a provisional target % reduction for net entanglement rate, on the assumption this supply chain would have a substantial positive effect on target species but will be revised in Y1Q1 if appropriate once baseline data from FD/WII are available. Quantities of waste net generation are comparable

	[DI-D18] 0.5 Key species entanglements with ALDFGs is reduced by 50% by end of Y2Q4 **(baseline data to be provided by Fisheries & Forestry Department in Yr1Q1).[DI-D04]**	species entanglement; disaggregated by fauna % change.	to those documented in a pilot survey in 2021.
Outputs 1.Community-led savings scheme is established and underpins creation of a net collection gender inclusive supply chain within 24 villages in Bihar living alongside the VGDS.	1.1 A community engagement strategy is co-developed and implemented by end of Y1Q3, promoting participation by women in model via VSLAs and net collection activities **(baseline = 23 women engaged). [DI-D02 Core]** 1.2 A minimum of 480 community members engaged in community banking schemes with at least 50% female participants, and necessary training provided by end of Y1Q3. **(baseline = 10% women) [DI-A01 Core]** 1.3 A cost analysis is conducted for at least one collection point in each of the 24 target villages, and 3 block-level processing centres in Bihpur, Kahalgaon and Gopalpur, with final quantities and locations determined by end of Y1Q4 **(baseline = 0). [ZSL[2]]** 1.4 Net transportation agreements, local coordinator(s) and supply chain reporting mechanisms are in place by end of Y1Q4 **(Baseline = 0) [DI-B07]**	1.1 Focus group facilitation guides and comms outputs produced, participation recorded; data disaggregated by Income, disaster/climate resilience, water and food security, health, gender, biome / ecosystem / habitat. 1.2 Training modules are designed and provided to all community members engaged in VSLAs, with attendance / participation recorded and feedback data gathered. Gender data is recorded within VSLAs; disaggregated by gender; age group; stakeholder group; training typology; proportion of trained people employed by their host organisation at the end of the project. 1.3 A completed cost analysis is available for all collection centres and processing centres, and a map produced with final quantities and locations marked out across the 24 villages. 1.4 Agreements in place with transportation partners. Employment contracts in place with coordinator(s). All operational and sales data are readily available through transparent reporting at local net collection points and	Pre-identified community members/organisations are still supportive and continue to be interested in the scheme and participate in the long-term. Newly engaged female community members remain interested and available to support this work in the long-term. Old and new barriers to female participation can be overcome through this project. Collection points and processing centre can fulfil the storage / baling / transportation requirements of business model, and also meet accessibility requirements of community members collecting ALDFGs.

	1.5 Procurement of equipment for collection point(s) and district-level processing centre(s), e.g. weighing scales and net balers, is completed by end of Y1Q4 **(baseline = 0) [ZSL[3]]** 1.6 Co-design and implement equitable and inclusive feedback mechanisms by end of Y2Q1 **(Baseline = 0) [ZSL[4]].**	district-level; disaggregated by gender; age group; scheme type. 1.5 Multiple and diverse feedback mechanisms in place to meet needs of different user groups. Disaggregated by gender, age group, a mechanism type.	Robust reporting mechanism is effectively upheld overtime and transparency maintained beyond timeline of this project.
2. A sustainable net recycling business model is established and underpins a solution that rediverts ADLFGs from entering the VGDS and prevent key Gangetic species entanglement	2.1 National/regional plastic net recyclers are identified and practises are assessed by end of Y1Q2 **(baseline = 0). [ZSL[5]]** 2.2 Profit and loss model calculated, informed by supply chain, and business model feasibility determined by end of Y1Q3 **(baseline = 0) [ZSL[6]]** 2.3 A partnership model is determined and contract signed by end of Y1Q4 **(baseline = 0) [ZSL[7]]**	2.1 Desk-based research to identify potential recycling partner and gather data on environmental and ethical recycling practises. Excel spreadsheet with all potential recyclers identified. 2.2 Short assessment summary document. Net sales are sufficient to cover costs of community-led supply chain. Net volumes required by recycler are aligned with known quantities of end-of-life nets produced by fishing community in Bihpur, Kahalgaon and Gopalpur. 2.3 Signed contract in place.	Environmentally friendly national/regional recyclers exist and are available and willing to partner on this scheme. Net collection and recycling meet an identified and on-going need/market, and business model is resilient to relevant market changes over time. Recycler rates are sufficient to account for costs of running local supply chain model, as well as providing a financial incentive for community members to

			collect/drop off nets at collection points. Volume of end-of-life nets will remain sufficient to fulfil business model needs.
3. Pro-wildlife conservation behaviours and actions are fostered in 24 villages across three blocks to strengthen the effectiveness of the VGDS.	3.1 Social marketing campaign for River Ganga conservation is co-developed and delivered with the Ganga Prahari by end of Y2Q1 **(baseline = 0). [DIA03 Core]** 3.2 20 community volunteers are trained on safe release of entangled Ganga species with the Ganga Prahari by end of Y2Q2 **(baseline = 30 Ganga Prahari members trained, 0 community volunteers are currently trained) [DIA01 Core]** 3.3 A minimum of 269 volunteers participate in riverbank clean-ups with the Ganga Prahari across Bihpur, Kahalgaon and Gopalpur by end of Y2Q4 and receive training on conducting transect surveys using Marine Debris Tracker **(baseline = 169 existing Ganga Prahari volunteers). [DIA04 Core]** 3.4 A monitoring strategy is co-designed, endorsed, and on-going implementation conducted with the Fisheries & Forestry Departments for monitoring Ganga species entanglement by end of Y2Q4 **(baseline = 0 monitoring system in use) [DI-C01 Core]**	3.1 Campaign and comms materials produced, community reach and engagement recorded; type is local wildlife conversation organisation. 3.2 Data on of released species documented by Ganga Prahari. Data on attendance / participation in training are recorded, and feedback data gathered, gender data are also recorded. disaggregated by gender; age group; stakeholder group; training typology; proportion of trained people employed by their host organisation at the end of the project. 3.3 Data on attendance / participation in river bank clean-up events are recorded, and feedback data gathered. Weight of nets collected is recorded, as well as gender data for participants. Open access data from project sites recorded on Marine Debris Tracker using existing WII Ganga litter list in Hindi. Data disaggregated by gender; age group; stakeholder group. 3.4 Data on key species entanglement in ALDFGs are accessed via the Fisheries & Forestry Department; disaggregated by knowledge/practice area, product typology.	Data relating to key species entanglement in ALDFGs are accessible. Fisheries & Forestry Department is willing to sustain on-going monitoring of species entanglement in the River Ganga. Project activities motivate communities to adopt pro-wildlife conservation behaviours

4. Scaling/replication opportunities for net recycling are identified with national/regional partners	4.1 Produce an online toolkit with a minimum of 2 supporting webinars and 1 in person events held with national stakeholders by end of Y2Q4 to share recommendations and drive replication/scaling across India, **(baseline = 0 toolkits and 0 webinars) [DIC01 Core]** 4.2 A mapping exercise is conducted by end of Y2Q4 to identify key criteria (community population, existing fisheries etc) and determine sites suitable for future replication and scaling of the approach in India **(baseline = 0 sites) [ZSL[8]]** 4.3 Produce a government briefing/case study by end of Y2Q4, spotlighting this pilot as a solution for fulfilling national targets developed in line with the UN Global Plastics Treaty **(baseline = 0 briefings/case studies) [DI-C05 Core]**	4.1 PDF toolkit is available for sharing. Webinar attendance records maintained, recordings available where appropriate, written summary on record, and follow up conversations conducted. All materials hosted on ZSL and WII websites. Disaggregated by knowledge/practice area, product typology. 4.2 Future sites have been assessed and a summary report is available with implementation site recommendations. 4.3 Case study / briefing doc has been created, aligning UN Global Plastics Treaty commitments, responses recorded and follow up conversations conducted, indicator disaggregated by MEA, information typology (data, insights, case studies).	National partners have the capacity and/or resources to engage in scaling this program Additional sites identified during scoping work remain suitable for future implementation Government of India remain committed to reduction of plastic waste

Footnotes:

ZSL 1: This indicator will reflect the percentage of women who are engaged in managing the local net collection supply chain.
ZSL 2: This will be a simple indicator for the completion of a cost analysis and supporting site map.
ZSL 3: This will be a simple indicator for the purchase of balers and weighing scales within the community supply chain.
ZSL 4: This indicator will detail the number of different inclusive feedback mechanisms in place and the number of times they are utilised by community members.
ZSL 5: This indicator will be determined by the assessment criteria design to understand ethical and environmental recycling processes.
ZSL 6: This indicator will be informed through discussions with a business model consultant, but is likely to be the number and type of outputs produced during the business model feasibility assessment.
ZSL 7: This will be a simple indicator for the having a signed partnership agreement in place with a recycler.
ZSL 8: This indicator will be the number of future sites identified as suitable for replication and scaling of the model across the wider Ganges basin in India.

Project Title: Addressing wildlife entanglement in discarded fishing nets through community-based approaches

Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1. Each activity should start on a new line and be no more than approximately 25 words.)

Output 1: Community-led savings scheme is established and underpins creation of a net collection gender inclusive supply chain within 24 villages in Bihar living alongside the VGDS.

1.1 Co-design a community engagement plan to reach as many women as possible across all 24 villages to encourage participation in the supply chain model by end of Y1Q3.
1.2 Establish community savings schemes in each of the 24 villages, ensuring a minimum of 50% women members. Identify training and support needs, and work with a consultant to build capacity by end of Y1Q3.
1.3 Conduct a cost analysis for the supply chain and create site map for collection / processing / consolidation centres by end of Y1Q4.
1.4 Identify transportation routes and finalise agreements. Recruit local coordinator(s) and finalise supply chain model reporting mechanism by end of Y1Q4.
1.5 Create equipment lists for supply chain and place orders as required by end of Y1Q4.
1.6 Co-design and implement equitable and inclusive feedback mechanisms by end of Y2Q1.

Output 2: A sustainable net recycling business model is established and underpins a solution that rediverts ADLFGs from entering the VGDS and prevent key Gangetic species entanglement

2.1 Identify existing national/regional plastic recyclers. Establish criteria for assessing ethics / environmental impacts of their practices by end of Y1Q2.
2.2 Calculate a profit and loss model with consultant and test business model feasibility by end of Y1Q3.
2.3 Agree a partnership model with chosen recycler and draft / sign contract by end of Y1Q4.

Output 3: Pro-wildlife conservation behaviours and actions are fostered in 24 villages across three blocks to strengthen the effectiveness of the VGDS

3.1 Co-design and deliver community engagement campaign with Ganga Prahari by end of Y2Q1.
3.2 Support Ganga Prahari to deliver training on safe release of entangled species by end of Y2Q2.
3.3 Support Ganga Prahari to deliver riverbank clean-up events and train volunteers in robust monitoring of ALDFG abundance by end of Y2Q4.
3.4 Co-design and implement species entanglement monitoring strategy with the Fisheries and Forestry Departments by end of Y2Q4.

Output 4: Scaling/replication opportunities for net recycling are identified with national/regional partners

4.1 Produce toolkit and deliver online webinars and in-person event to share approach and drive replication/scaling along the Ganga by end of Y2Q4.
4.2 Identify key criteria for future implementation sites, and collaborate to conduct a mapping exercise for future replication zones by end of Y2Q4.
4.3 Produce government briefing of pilot case study, create engagement opportunities by end of Y2Q4.

Guidance (please delete this before attaching your logframe to your application): Refer to the **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance** and the **Standard Indicators Guidance** when developing your logical framework. **You are required to use at least five 'Core Indicators' from the Standard Indicators menu.** Where using BCFs Standard Indicators, ensure you include the reference number in bold square brackets after your indicator wording e.g. **[DI-A01]**. If using a standardised indicator from another source, please provide a reference to its source in a footnote. In your Means of Verification, remember to state the data source, d ta collection method, and how you will disaggregate the data.