Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Annual Report

Important note: *To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders: it is expected that this report will be about 10 pages in length, excluding annexes*

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2018

IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

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Project reference	IWT041
Project title	Strengthening Community Anti-poaching and Ecotourism in the Western Terai Complex
Country/ies	Nepal
Contract holder Institution	Zoological Society of London
Partner institution(s)	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Himalayan Nature (HN)
IWT grant value	£ 414,301
Start/end dates of project	15 June 2017 – 31 March 2021
Reporting period (e.g. April 2016-Mar 2017) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1,2,3)	June 2017-Mar 2018
Project leader name	Dr Hem Baral
Project website	https://www.zsl.org/strengthening-community-anti-poaching-and-ecotourism-in-the-western-terai-complex-nepal
Report author(s) and date	30 April 2018

1.   Project rationale

Illegal trade in wild animals has been emerged as a significant challenge in wildlife conservation across the globe. The continued decline in the populations of tigers, rhinoceros and many other wild animals is primarily due to habitat loss and fragmentation, and poaching throughout their range. Studies show that tigers and rhinos are facing high level of poaching throughout their range posing critical threats to their survival. Moreover, as poachers and illegal traders use increasingly sophisticated techniques, it has become important to adopt cutting-edge conservation technologies to fight against illegal wildlife trade.

Nepal has made significant efforts to curb wildlife poaching, including of tigers and rhinoceros, through collaboration with government authorities, conservation partners and local communities. Wildlife conservation friendly policies and acts are in place. High-tech equipment such as camera traps, poacher cameras, and mobile technologies have begun to be adopted to counter-poaching. However, major threats to the survival of these species remain due to the limited resources and capacity available to tackle poaching and the illegal wildlife trade.

In recent years, most of the seizures in Nepal containing tiger body parts have been confirmed as coming from Western Terai Complex (WTC). In many cases, poaching of tigers and other wildlife such as pangolins goes undetected. The poor economic status of people living on the edge of forests in western Terai may tempt community members into poaching or other illegal activities. Since this landscape sits on the border of Nepal and India, wildlife parts and derivatives can be easily transported from the forest to the market. On the other hand, this

landscape supports mosaics of habitats providing transboundary ecological connectivity. It is therefore important to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agents and community based anti-poaching units to fight against wildlife crime.

This project aims to strengthen the capacity of frontline staff to gather reliable intelligence and respond to poaching threats. For this, the project will: support the increased capacity of protected area authorities and Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) to identify and rapidly respond to threats; support law enforcement agencies to effectively gather and use intelligence to enable an improvement in the prosecution of poaching; and engage communities in conservation through piloting ecotourism-related economic opportunities.
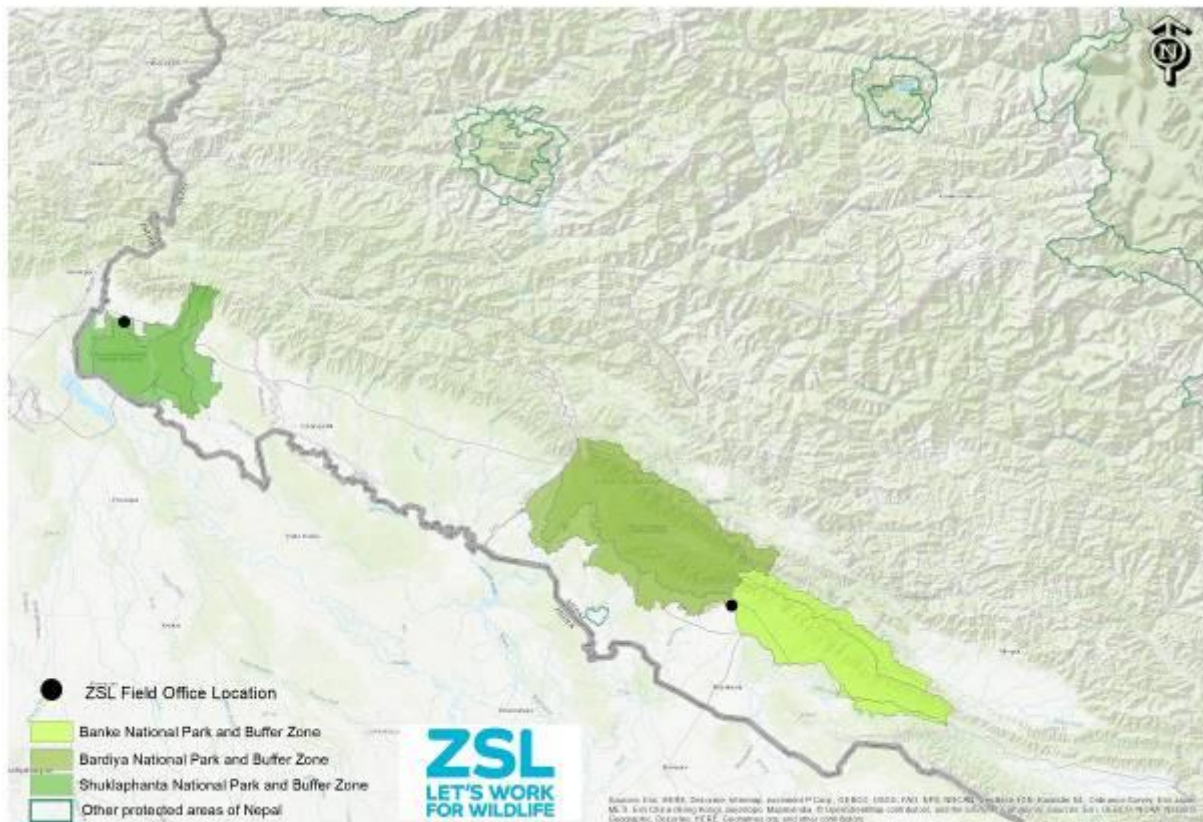
Figure 1 : Project sites, Banke Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Parks

2. Project partnerships

The project is being implemented in partnership with the DNPWC, National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), and Himalayan Nature (HN). A Project Coordination Committee (PCC) under the chairmanship of the Deputy Director General of DNPWC has been formed at the central level. At the site level, there are three Project Management Units (PMUs) chaired by the protected area's Chief Conservation Officer with field officers from ZSL and NTNC as members. PMUs also ensure the representation of other stakeholders such as community leaders, and members of Buffer Zone Management Committees (BZMCs) and protection units. The PMU is responsible for coordination among partners and community groups and facilitate project implementation.

The project partners have established good relations with the buffer zone communities in all three project sites. Active participation of buffer zone communities has been ensured in each site for the effective implementation of the project. The participation of communities in resource management and benefit sharing ensures the long-term involvement of direct project beneficiaries, which ultimately ensures the sustainability of project activities.

In order to maintain coordination among the implementing partners, meetings have been held on a regular basis. In total, 6 PMU meetings at each site have been conducted this year with

participation of all the project partners and stakeholders. Coordination has also taken place on a regular basis with local-level government representatives, local NGOs and community based organizations.

3.   Project progress

3.1   Progress in carrying out project Activities

The project has successfully completed all the activities scheduled for last year. The rapid response protocol has been reviewed, updated and endorsed by the National Park authorities at each site. A rapid response team in each site has been formed. GSM enabled camera traps were deployed across the vulnerable locations in all three project sites. Altogether, 12 additional CBAPUs have been formed across the buffer zones of Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Parks. Site level meetings of relevant enforcement agencies have been conducted in all three sites to provide inputs to develop a wildlife crime database. The wildlife crime database has been produced and intelligence networking mapping has been completed in all three project sites. Ecotourism related livelihood opportunities in key vulnerable communities have been identified through community workshops in the buffer zones of all three project sites. Training has been provided to members of vulnerable communities as identified by the community workshops.

Output 1: Effective and efficient rapid response network utilising the latest technology and tools to combat wildlife crime

Three workshops each in Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Parks were conducted to review and discuss the implementation of Rapid Response (RR) protocol (Annex 4.1). With inputs from law enforcement workshops, RR protocol was finalised and endorsed by each national park authority (*Supplementary Document 1 a, b, c*). Further, discussion was held among National Park officials including Chief Conservation Officer, Conservation Officers, Head of Protection Unit (Battalion Commander- Nepal Army) and law enforcement experts to operationalize the protocol endorsed by each national park. A review of the RR units and command centres was completed in all three sites, along with the deployment of new equipment and training in its use. Support has been provided to deploy the GSM enabled surveillance camera traps in Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Parks. Currently, 12 cameras in Banke, 6 in Bardia and 12 in Shuklaphanta are deployed in identified vulnerable areas. Training was provided to twelve frontline staff across project sites for deployment of surveillance cameras as well as analysis of images captured by GSM enable cameras (Annex 4.2).

Output 2: 12 (4 per site) 10-member Community-based Anti-poaching Units (CBAPUs) effectively collecting and disseminating anti-poaching intelligence, using the SMART approach.

Communities in Banke (Agaiya, Kusum, and Bharaiya), Bardia (Bathanpur, and Karmala) and Shuklaphanta (Sagarmatha, and Bageshwari/Trishakti) were identified as vulnerable to poaching (Annex 4.3). Matrix ranking and pairwise ranking procedures were used to rank the vulnerable communities. Community members, representatives of buffer zone users committee and management committee, Chief Conservation Officer, Conservation Officers, representative of ZSL and other conservation organizations participated in the ranking and identification process. An assessment of CBAPUs in the buffer zones of all three protected areas was completed (*Supplementary Documents 2 a, b c*). The assessment was carried out by an independent consultant following a standardised method of questionnaire surveys, focal group discussions and key informant interviews. Chief Conservation Officers, members from buffer zone committees, CBAPU members and local level government officials were consulted while preparing CBAPU assessment reports in all three project sites. Community workshops were organised in all project sites to reinforce the CBAPU concept and benefits (Annex 4.9). Workshops were focused on strengthening the effectiveness of CBAPUs in controlling wildlife crime and the performance of anti-poaching operations, CBAPUs working modality, and coordination among community groups for effective implementation of community-based anti-poaching activities. 12 additional CBAPUs have been formed across the buffer zone of the three sites (Annex 4.4).

Output 3: Improved intelligence gathering and sharing and collaboration between relevant Nepal agencies (e.g. DNPWC, BZMC, Nepal Army, Nepal Police, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)) and enhanced transboundary intelligence collaboration.

Two meetings among relevant enforcement agencies were held in the Western Terai Complex to review and update the wildlife crime data base (Annex 4.5). Participants were: National park authority members, members from buffer zone management committees and protection units (Nepal Army), district level forest department authority members, border security force members, Nepal Police officers, officials from district administration office, and officials from National Trust for Nature Conservation. The discussions were focused on the status and trends in illegal activities in and around national parks. The meetings also agreed to formulate a standard format for record keeping of illegal activities at both site and central level. As recommended by the meeting, the project has supported the development of a wildlife crime database. Also, the meeting agreed to create a central database for easy access and analysis of trends in illegal activities, assisting the formulation of effective control measures. Intelligence network mapping was conducted in all three project sites, following a consultative approach with park authorities and protection units. The intelligence network map for each site has been produced (Annex 4.6), and will assist national park authorities to identify intelligence gaps and reinforce the intelligence network.

Output 4: Cooperative community ecotourism venture successfully operating in the WTC supported by an endowment fund established to make soft loans to ecotourism enterprise.

Community workshops were organised to identify necessary skills training to facilitate ecotourism. An interaction meeting was organised in Bardia with the participation of 62 community members including the chairman of the buffer zone management committee, representatives of local government, representatives of conservation organizations, representatives of ecotourism related local organizations and members of CBAPUs (Annex 4.7 c) to discuss eco-tourism based livelihood opportunities. The meeting identified homestays, organic farming, goat farming within the home stay village, and management trainings for home stay operation as promising options.

The community meeting organised in the buffer zone of Shuklaphanta agreed that the project would provide homestay management training, nature guide training and commercial farming of vegetables, poultry and goats, to meet the demands of homestays and hotels and lodges in the area (Annex 4.7 d).

In Banke, a community workshop was organised at Bharaiya to identify the best ecotourism related livelihood opportunities (Annex 4.7 a). Off-season vegetable farming was identified as a promising option. Community members indicated that they can sell vegetables at a good price to home stays, and eateries around Banke serving visiting tourists. Similarly, another vulnerable community in the eastern sector of Banke (Kusum) identified goat farming as a suitable option as it demands a higher price at the homestays and eateries in this area (Annex 4.7 b).

A two day vegetable farming training was organised at Bharaiya in Kohalpur Buffer Zone Users Committee, Banke. The training was provided to 25 community members which includes 16 females and 9 males (Annex 4.8 a). The training covered: techniques for farming cash crops, vegetables, and medicinal plants; and control measures for insects and pests. A practical session on tunnel development and vegetable plantation were also conducted during the training. Likewise, two separate workshops were conducted in the buffer zone of Shuklaphanta to provide training on identified alternative livelihoods as per the request of the local communities. 29 Community members from Sagarmatha Users Committee were provided training in commercial goat farming, commercial lemon cultivation and non-timber forest product production (Annex 4.8 b). Similarly, 16 members from Trishakti Users Committee were trained on commercial vegetable farming, improved livestock rearing and commercial tree farming (Annex 4.8 c). The first annual socioeconomic survey was conducted to assess initial uptake of improved livelihoods, and the results will be available in the next reporting period.

3.2   Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Effective and efficient rapid response network utilising the latest technology and tools to combat wildlife crime	Output will be achieved by the end of the project. The proposed indicators are sufficient to measure the project output.		
	Baseline	Change recorded by 2017	Source of evidence
Indicator 1 Rapid Response (RR) Protocol implemented by RR teams and DNPWC, in consultation with all stakeholders from each site, by year 1	No RR protocol	Site level Rapid Response Protocol in Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Parks endorsed	Rapid Response Protocols Meeting Minutes of Project Management Units in all three project sites (Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Parks) which endorsed the site level Rapid response protocol. (Supplementary Document 1 a, b, c)
Indicator 2 3 permanent RR teams (1 per site) of 12 staff responding to 90% of identified threats per year by year 2	No RR teams	3 permanent RR teams (1 per site) formed comprising the staff from DNPWC and Protection Units (Nepal Army). Data on response to threats not yet available.	Names of the 12 members of RR teams kept confidential by protected area authority.
Indicator 3 Automated real-time alerts from remote sensing devices network (e.g. SMS from GSM enabled camera traps) deployed across vulnerable locations received by PA managers, and RR unit coordinators in by year 2.	No remote sensing devices network in place	GSM enabled cameras deployed across all three project sites. Number of Camera deployed during year 1 is BaNP= 12 BNP= 6 ShNP= 12 Training on operation of GSM camera traps and image analysis and processing provided to 12 rangers working at protected areas in Western Terai Complex.	Photographs of camera deployment List of rangers trained in operation of GSM Camera (Annex 4.2) Training photographs
Indicator 4 RR units taking appropriate action in response to all automated updates within 45 minutes of receiving them by year 3 and within 30 minutes by year 4	No RR teams	Existing setup of RR units and RR control centres reviewed, new RR protocols endorsed, RR teams and control centres institutionalised	Annex 4.1and Supplementary document 1 a, b, c)

Output 2: 12 (4 per site) 10-man Community-	Output will be achieved by the end of the project. The proposed indicators are sufficient to measure the project output.

	Baseline	Change recorded by 2017	Source of evidence
based Anti-poaching Units (CBAPUs) effectively collecting and disseminating anti-poaching intelligence, using the SMART approach.			
Indicator 1 12 additional CBAPU's appointed and integrated into the PA enforcement process by year 1	37 CBAPUs operational in WTC	12 additional CBAPUs appointed and integrated into PA enforcement. Project supported the formation of 12 CBAPUs	List of members of 12 CBAPUs (Annex 4.4)
Indicator 2 12 additional CBAPU's trained and implementing the SMART patrolling approach in collaboration with the PA's by year 2	Zero project trained CBAPU members	None	NA
Indicator 3 1 additional community watchtower built per site (each in an identified vulnerable community) and in use by CBAPUs by year 2	28 watchtowers in WTC	None	NA
Indicator 4 24 community patrols undertaken by each CBAPU per year by year 3	Zero community patrols undertaken by project supported CBAPUs	The newly formed CBAPUs have started conducting patrols. Orientation has been provided to these newly formed CBAPUs. A detailed training has been planned (Activity 2.6) in year 2.	NA
Indicator 5 36 community patrols undertaken by each CBAPU per year by year 4	Zero community patrols undertaken by project supported CBAPUs	The newly formed CBAPUs have started conducting patrols. Orientation has been provided to these newly formed CBAPUs. A detailed training has been planned (Activity 2.6) in year 2.	NA

Output 3: Improved intelligence gathering and sharing and collaboration between relevant Nepal agencies (e.g. DNPWC, BZMC, Nepal Army,	Output will be achieved by the end of the project. The proposed indicators are sufficient to measure the project output.

Nepal Police, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)) and enhanced transboundary intelligence collaboration.			
	Baseline	Change recorded by 2017	Source of evidence
Indicator 1 Secure DNPWC database of wildlife crime intelligence gathered by all relevant agencies under trial use in year 1	Secure wildlife trade database exists, but it only includes DNPWC data	2 meetings, one each in Banke -Bardia Complex and Shuklaphanta National Park conducted with the relevant enforcement agencies (WCCB members) to discuss the development of wildlife crime database	Meeting minutes (Annex 4.5)
Indicator 2 Intelligence gathering from local communities and informants, including in adjacent forest divisions, carried out on monthly basis by year 2	Mechanism not in place for regular information gathering	Intelligence Network Map for each project site prepared.	Intelligence Network Maps of all three-project site (Annex 4.6)
Indicator 3 All relevant Nepal agencies holding annual meetings and biannual site level meetings by year 3	Ad hoc meetings occasionally held	None	NA
Indicator 4 NTCA and DNPWC holding annual meetings and biannual site level meetings by year 3	Ad hoc meetings occasionally held	None	NA
Indicator 5 DNPWC has a secure database updated monthly with relevant intelligence information shared by all agencies nationally by year 4	Secure wildlife trade database exists, but it only includes DNPWC data	None	NA

Output 4: Cooperative community ecotourism venture successfully operating in the WTC supported by an endowment fund established to make soft loans to ecotourism enterprise.	Output will be achieved by the end of the project. The proposed indicators are sufficient to measure the project output.		
	Baseline	Change recorded by 2017	Source of evidence
Indicator 1 60 households (20 per	Zero members of	Trainings in alternative	Name list of Training participants

	households trained by the project	livelihood skills related to ecotourism were provided to 70 households in the buffer zones of Banke and Shuklaphanta national parks. Training has been provided to 25 household in Bharaiya on off-seasonal vegetable farming and non-timber forest product and goat farming in Sagarmatha (29 households) and Trishakti (16 households) villages.	(Annex 4.8) Training Photographs
site, each from vulnerable communities identified in Output 2) trained in alternative livelihood skills related to ecotourism or supporting services (including homestay management, cooking, guiding and driving) with marginalised groups prioritised for administrative and home-based skills by year 1. 120 households by year 3			
Indicator 2 Western Terai Complex tourism advertising campaign designed and agreed in close collaboration between the Nepal Tourism Board local communities and the ecotourism cooperative, by year 2. Conducted internationally by year 4.	No advertising campaign or WTC ecotourism cooperative exists, and no targeted collaboration with the Nepal Tourism Board is occurring	None	NA
Indicator 3 3 Endowment fund piloted and soft-loans available to build lodges and other vital ecotourism infrastructure in each of the 12 (4 per site) communities where training will take place by year 2, fund fully established by year 4	No endowment fund exists and soft loans are unavailable through other mechanisms	None	NA

3.3   Progress towards the project Outcome

Outcome: Rhino and tiger poaching stops in the three sites, resulting from an increased capacity of Protected Area (PA) authorities and DNPWC to identify and rapidly respond to threats, and an	Outcome will be achieved by the end of the project. The proposed indicators are sufficient to measure the project outcome.

		Baseline	Change by 2017	Source of evidence
	improvement in the prosecution of poaching resulting from improved intelligence; communities are engaged in conservation through piloting ecotourism-related economic opportunities.			
	3 Rapid Response (RR) teams responding to poaching threats within 30 minutes of identifying them 90% of the time by year 4	Zero cases of RR teams responding to threats within 30 minutes of receiving information	Permanent rapid response team established, RR protocol endorsed in all three sites.	Annex 4.1 and Supplementary document 1 (a, b, c).
	Zero records of illegal rhino or tiger killings, and zero rhino or tiger products of Nepal origin seized in the WTC per year by year 4	2 recorded tiger killings in WTC; no data available on rhino and tiger products of Nepal origin seized.	NA	NA
	Successful prosecutions of wildlife criminals in the WTC increased by 75%, from baseline set in year 1, per year by year 4	41 cases registered in the WTC, 0 cases prosecuted	Intelligence network being strengthened, existing network mapped and gaps identified.	Annex 4.6
	Ecotourism enterprises at each site established and at least 50 additional people employed in ecotourism and related sectors in each of the three sites (150 additional people in total) by year 4	6 ecotourism enterprises exist in the WTC providing employment to 100 people in total	Project provided training to individuals of 70 households by year 1 in buffer zone communities of Banke and Bardia.	Annex 4.8

3.4   Monitoring of assumptions

	Outcome Assumptions	Comments
Assumption 1	RR teams and associated technical equipment will improve anti-poaching outcomes	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 2	Poaching is a limiting factor for tiger populations, and wildlife populations more generally, in the WTC	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 3	Terai Arc Landscape ecosystems remain relatively stable and no large	Flooding during the monsoon (June-September) of 2017 caused some

		natural calamities such as earthquakes or flooding take place in the country	damage to wildlife in the Karnali flood plain within Bardia National Park. This is not anticipated to impact the achievement of the project objectives.
Assumption 4	Records of poaching and wildlife product seizures accurately reflect the extent of poaching and wildlife trade	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 5	Nepal's governance environment remains conducive to effective anti-poaching and conservation work	The Government of Nepal continues to prioritize effective anti-poaching and conservation work.
Assumption 6	Intelligence is a limiting factor in successful prosecutions.	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 7	Political commitment remains at the same level for anti-poaching and conservation as it was during project development	Nepal has adopted a Federal System with three levels of government (Federal, State and Local) No change in political commitment for anti-poaching and conservation.
Assumption 8	Ecotourism potential exists at adequate scale in the region, as it does in the east of the landscape around Chitwan National Park and further west in India, the promotional campaign will ensure potential is fully utilised	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 9	Community involvement, and ensuring that they benefit, positively influences the anti-poaching outcomes. This is assumed due to community support and wellbeing being critical both for accurate information gathering through CBAPUs and informants, and for making poaching a less attractive activity to local communities and so reducing the direct threat.	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 10	Local people will associate wellbeing gains from ecotourism with the project and conservation/anti-poaching due to the activities of the CBAPUs and the ecotourism opportunities targeting the same communities and being explicitly co-dependent.	Communities are actively participating in implementation of the project activities and appreciating project's contribution in supporting for wellbeing of local communities.

	Output 1 Assumptions	Comments
Assumption 1	Protocol is adhered to, this will be ensured through the consultative process and close working relationship between the PA authorities, DNPWC and ZSL	RR protocol reviewed and with agreement of all stakeholders, Park authority endorsed the protocol. During the process consultation was done among the PA authorities, DNPWC and ZSL.
Assumption 2	Technical tools correctly deployed by staff, the training delivered will prioritise this	Training has been provided to frontline staff for the deployment and use of technical tools. ZSL field staff, supported by law enforcement and technology experts, provide ongoing technical support.
Assumption	One RR unit per protected area is	This assumption remains reasonable.

3	sufficient to monitor and respond to incidents	
Assumption 4	Devices at vulnerable locations catch a sufficient amount of activity to be effective, the targeting of vulnerable locations, careful selection of optimal vantage points, and adaptive management of their positions ensures this	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 5	Delayed responses to poaching threats increase the harm done by poaching	This assumption remains reasonable.

	Output 2 Assumptions	Comments
Assumption 1	There will be an adequate number of suitable CBAPU applicants	There has been an adequate number of CBAPU applicants.
Assumption 2	Sufficient number and diversity of community members are willing to participate in CBAPUs, the community workshops explaining and demonstrating the benefits of the CBAPU concept will support this.	There has been an adequate diversity of CBAPU applicants.
Assumption 3	That CBAPUs will use the towers and that they will be effective in increasing chances of spotting poacher activity	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 4	SMART data is collected correctly and is of a high quality, this will be supported by the SMART training prioritising this	This assumption remains reasonable.

	Output 3 Assumptions	Comments
Assumption 1	Cooperation of associated governmental agencies, ensured by MoU with DPWC which will take a coordinating role	All Project partners are cooperating. DNPWC is facilitating project implementation and organising regular coordination meetings. A Project Coordination Committee at Central level and Project Management Units at site level are in place for effective coordination of among project partners.
Assumption 2	Intelligence is usable, accurate, verified and up-to-date, this will be ensured by informant training	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 3	Lack of collaboration and intelligence sharing is currently a limiting factor in the effectiveness of anti-poacher and anti-IWT efforts	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 4	There is an appetite for international collaboration from both sides	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 5	Database is kept up to date reliably and the desire to share data is maintained. Designating focal	This assumption remains reasonable.

		government staff with responsibility for the database will help to ensure this	

	Output 4 Assumptions	Comments
Assumption 1	Ecotourism will thrive if local communities are able to bring a good hospitality service to market, and have healthy wildlife populations to showcase.	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 2	Ecotourism will increase community income and wellbeing, the establishment of a local ecotourism cooperative to coordinate and facilitate the growth of the ecotourism sector as well as guarantee fair benefits sharing will help ensure this.	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 3	Productive ecotourism enterprise schemes are devised by local community members once they have been appropriately trained.	This assumption remains reasonable.

4. Impact: achievement of positive impact on illegal wildlife trade and poverty alleviation

Target Impact: Populations of species threatened by poaching, including Greater one-horned rhinos and Bengal tigers, are secured in the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) with community stewards engaged and benefiting from conservation efforts.

The project is contributing to securing tigers and rhinos for the long term in the Terai Arc Landscape through increasing the capacity for intelligence gathering, rapid response to poachers, community patrolling, and strengthening broader community engagement with conservation and anti-poaching through eco-tourism related livelihood interventions. (please refer to sections 3.2 and 3.3 for full details).

The focus on the WTC makes a major contribution to this high-level impact as resource limitations and accessibility make it impractical to eliminate poaching over large landscapes. Instead, protection must prioritise well-connected areas with suitable carrying capacity to effectively encompass demographically viable sub-populations, this includes the three sites this project focuses on in the WTC. The WTC is a vital landscape for conservation providing connectivity between healthy wildlife populations in India and Nepal, but its distance from Kathmandu means it is often overlooked. This area contains three of the most important IWT routes in Nepal (Darchula; Bajhang; Humla), with the majority of recent IWT seizures containing tiger body parts coming from WTC.

The project is also making major contributions to human development and wellbeing within the Terai Arc Landscape. Currently the well-being of local communities is being adversely impacted by poaching and IWT as these activities draw major levels of criminality to utilise these routes, including human and arms trafficking. This in turn undermines legitimate economic development, perpetuating relative poverty and marginalisation. Supporting improved alternative livelihoods for local communities is vital to enhance their wellbeing directly. But it also enhances them indirectly through effectively tackling the IWT, which otherwise undermines development and the conditions for development (e.g. ecosystem services, social capital), by engaging communities closely in this struggle.

5. Project support to the IWT Challenge Fund Objectives and commitments under the London Declaration and Kasane Statement

The project is in initial stage of implementation so contribution towards the goal cannot be substantiated quantitatively but desired progress has been made towards fulling the project's target to support the IWT Challenge Fund Objectives. The project support to two of the three IWT Challenge Fund Objectives.

Objective 1: Developing sustainable livelihoods for communities affected by illegal wildlife trade

Communities most vulnerable to poaching have been identified in all three project sites. Best alternative livelihood options related to ecotourism have been identified through consultation with the identified communities. Trainings on alternative livelihood options have been provided to communities in Banke-Bardia Complex and Shuklaphanta National Park.

Objective 2: Strengthening law enforcement and the role of the criminal justice system.

The rapid response mechanism in each of three project sites is being institutionalised. To ensure the effectiveness of the rapid response mechanism a rapid response protocol has been endorsed by each site. A wildlife crime database has been produced and the process of strengthening the intelligence network has been started with mapping the existing intelligence network. The project has formed 12 new CBAPUs in the project sites.

6. Impact on species in focus

The project has completed its Year 1 planned activities, so expected project impact on the targeted species has yet to be achieved. However, the project has successfully completed all activities planned for Year 1 which has substantially contributed towards controlling illegal activities against rhinoceros, tigers and other wildlife species, and laid the groundwork to achieve the key outcome indicator relevant to the focus species, 0.2: *'Zero records of illegal rhino or tiger killings, and zero rhino or tiger products of Nepal origin seized in the WTC'*.

7. Project support to poverty alleviation

All evidence is listed against the indicators in sections 3.2 and 3.3.

The project has contributed to reducing poverty this year through:
- Tackling IWT and related criminality through setting up new rapid response teams, associated protocols and GSM-enabled cameras (indicators 1.1, 1.2, 1.3); establishing CBAPUs (indicator 2.1); establishing a IWT database and producing an intelligence network map (indicator 3.1, 3.2). This has both a direct and indirect effect on poverty alleviation.
  - Increasing personal security by reducing the criminality of poaching and associated criminal activities drawn in to utilise trafficking routes, such as human and arms trafficking.

  - Putting the enabling conditions for legitimate economic development in place, by addressing high levels of criminality and unsustainable use of natural resources associated with poaching, which would otherwise perpetuate relative poverty and marginalisation, e.g. through undermining ecosystem services.

- Supporting improved alternative livelihoods for local communities to enhance their wellbeing, and engage them in combatting the IWT by both making poaching relatively less appealing as an activity and ensuring community support for the anti-poaching efforts. During the first year of project, 70 households of marginalised communities across western Terai landscape have received trainings on alternative livelihoods (indicator 4.1).

8.   Consideration of gender equality issues

All evidence is listed against the indicators in sections 3.2 and 3.3.

Socio-economic studies carried out in the project sites have indicated that women are poorly represented in decision-making process on the utilization of natural resources. Also, women's role in income generating activities is largely neglected.

The project has therefore ensured the representation of women in the project implementation process. The project has ensured a minimum of 40% women's representation in the newly formed CBAPUs (Indicator 2.1) and over 50% representation of women in the livelihoods training (Indicator 4.1). Overall the project activities have supported the gender equity and social inclusion by empowering women.

9.   Monitoring and evaluation

The Programme Coordination Committee and Project Management Units are the key monitoring units established by the project for monitoring and evaluation purposes. Similarly, Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Parks in coordination with project partners, buffer zone representatives and local communities are conducting regular monitoring of the project progress at the site. Regular visits have been conducted by the project manager to monitor and evaluate project implementation. Altogether 18 monitoring visits have been made by PMUs, six visits in each site while four monitoring visits were made by members of PCC in the Year 1. This overall approach is proving effective.

The project uses a performance appraisal framework (PAF), tied to the logframe, for ZSL staff to conduct M&E. The PAF uses ZSL's web-based systems to track progress and promote interaction between project partners. Monthly highlights reports are generated from the PAF with input from all the relevant project components. These feed into the regular project reports both for the IWT challenge fund and ZSL's internal M&E procedures.

The PAF are supplemented with rapid appraisals anonymously completed at the end of training sessions, forums, workshops and seminars, with data disaggregated by gender. In order to promote adaptiveness project reporting also feed into an internal review process. Where amendments are deemed necessary these will be put forward to IWT in a formalised approval process

Monitoring and evaluation is the responsibility of the implementing partners supported by the ZSL monitoring and evaluation officer. In the final year of the project the CBAPUs and RR network will be monitored, evaluated and any necessary modifications made to ensure they operate effectively. This will establish a model for future adaptive management of these teams.

10.   Lessons learnt

- Regular meetings among partners and project beneficiaries are vital for successful implementation of the project activities.

- CBAPUs should be periodically reformed to involve more youths to enhance community support for conservation.

- Coordination among various enforcement agencies, government and non-governmental organizations and local communities, timely sharing of intelligence and prompt decision-making processes in wildlife crime control is fundamental to effectively dealing with Illegal Wildlife Trade.

- Supporting CBAPU members for various alternative income generating activities provides a powerful incentive for local youths to effectively work for conservation.

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

NA

12.   Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

NA

13.   Sustainability and legacy

The key achievements toward sustainability of the project impacts are:

- Active involvement of Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Park offices, respective Buffer Zone Management Committees, CBAPUs, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) of Banke, Bardia and Kanchanpur districts in controlling poaching of rhino, tiger and other wildlife.
- Project support to local communities vulnerable to poaching by providing training on alternative livelihood skills related to ecotourism, which promotes sustainable income streams and enhances the wellbeing of local communities.

The exit strategy is still valid and the project's sustained legacy is ensured by the continuation of active ownership of the project by local institutions and communities.

14.   IWT Challenge Fund Identity

IWT Challenge Fund and UK Government have been mentioned in each agreement signed with the partners. Similarly, IWT Challenge fund and UK government have been mentioned during project inception, and on all events banner. ZSL Nepal's Quarterly Newsletter has included the UKAID logo and highlighted this IWT Challenge Fund funded project. The ZSL website also includes a dedicated webpage for this project, which recognises IWT Challenge fund as the funder.

15.   Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2017-March 2018)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2017/18 Grant (£)	2017/18 Total actual IWT 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				

16. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

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

In its first year, the IWT project in the Western Terai Complex (WTC) in Nepal has made significant achievements towards strengthening the capacity of enforcement agents and buffer zone communities in combatting the threat of poaching and other illegal activities on key populations of tigers, rhinos and other threatened species. It has also provided incentives to secure community engagement to support conservation efforts in the WTC. For example, the rapid response protocol has been revised and endorsed by each protected area. Rapid response command centres are in operation in each protected area and the capacity of rapid response teams have been increased through equipping and training. Training has been provided to National Park staff in the use and deployment of GSM-enabled camera traps. A total of 30 cameras have been deployed across project sites which has increased the detection of illegal activities inside protected areas. Images captured by GSM-enabled cameras have already proved key for the detection of illegal activities. For instance, illegal intruders were detained, and traps and weapons were confiscated, by the rapid response team based on images captured from GSM-enabled cameras in Shuklaphanta and Banke National Park. Use of such technology has greatly enhanced the capacity of frontline staffs in curbing wildlife crime.

Additionally, the capacity of CBAPU members to control poaching, illegal wildlife trade and wildlife crime has been strengthened. 12 CBAPUs (of 11-17 members each) have been oriented for whistleblowing against poaching and any suspicious activity deemed to threaten wildlife or their habitat. They play a crucial role in feeding information to National Park authorities and generating community support in wildlife conservation. Recognizing the contribution of CBAPU members in leading effective anti-poaching patrols and intelligence gathering that support biodiversity conservation, the project has supported skills development training for CBAPU members, to enhance their livelihoods. 70 households from vulnerable communities have been provided with training in alternative livelihoods in exchange for their commitment for conservation efforts and contributions to anti-poaching initiatives in the WTC.

Annex 1:   Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2016-2017

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2016 - March 2017	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact Populations of species threatened by poaching, including greater one-horned rhinos and bengal tigers, are secured in the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) with community stewards engaged and benefiting from conservation efforts.		The project has completed the activities planned for year 1 despite minor difficulties caused by three levels of elections under the federal system. With support from the project, a site level rapid response protocol has been endorsed. 12 new CBAPUs have been formed and livelihoods training has been provided to 70 households from communities vulnerable to poaching.	
Outcome Rhino and tiger poaching stops in the three sites, resulting from an increased capacity of Protected Area (PA) authorities and DNPWC to identify and rapidly respond to threats, and an improvement in the prosecution of poaching resulting from improved intelligence; communities are engaged in conservation through piloting ecotourism-related economic opportunities.	**Indicator 0.1.** 3 Rapid Response (RR) teams responding to poaching threats within 30 minutes of identifying them 90% of the time by year 4 **Indicator** 0.2 Zero records of illegal rhino or tiger killings, and zero rhino or tiger products of Nepal origin seized in the WTC per year by year 4 **Indicator** 0.3 Successful prosecutions of wildlife criminals in the WTC increased by 75%, from baseline set in year 1, per year by year 4 **Indicator** 0.4 Ecotourism enterprises at each site established and at least 50 additional people employed in ecotourism and related sectors in each of the three sites (150 additional people in total) by year 4	Site level rapid response protocols have been endorsed by PA offices (Supplementary Document 1 a, b, c), RR teams have been formed. 12 additional CBAPUs have been formed across three sites (Annex 4.4). The process of establishing a secure DNPWC database of wildlife crime intelligence has started (Annex 4.5). An intelligence network map (Annex 4.6) has been prepared for all project sites. Trainings have been provided to members of 70 households from the communities vulnerable to poaching to involve communities in wildlife conservation (Annex 4.8).	Refresher training of trainers in rapid response techniques for staff of DNPWC, Nepal Army, BZMC and NTNC. Deployment of GSM-enabled camera traps, infra-red alarms and wireless CCTV cameras in locations vulnerable to poaching. Construct 3 community watch towers Train CBAPUs' members in anti-poaching and illegal wildlife trade, intelligence gathering and sharing Support DNPWC for informant recruitment in all 3 PAs Establish an endowment fund to facilitate soft loans for ecotourism enterprises to households which have been provided training.

Output 1. Effective and efficient rapid response network utilising the latest technology and tools to combat wildlife crime	1.1 *Rapid Response (RR) Protocol implemented by RR teams and DNPWC, in consultation with all stakeholders from each site, by year 1* 1.2 *3 permanent RR teams (1 per site) of 12 staff responding to 90% of identified threats per year by year 2* 1.3 *Automated real-time alerts from remote sensing devices network (e.g. SMS from GSM enabled camera traps) deployed across vulnerable locations received by PA managers, and RR unit coordinators in by year 2.* 1.4 *RR units taking appropriate action in response to all automated updates within 45 minutes of receiving them by year 3 and within 30 minutes by year 4*	Site level rapid response protocol endorsed by Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Parks (evidence provided in section 3.2). Three permanent rapid response teams (1 per each site) have been formed. Training provided to 12 rangers from protected areas in the Western Terai Complex on the operation and deployment of GSM-enabled Camera Traps. Meetings conducted to review the existing setup of rapid response units and control centres.
Activity 1.1 Conduct a workshop to discuss the implementation of the existing RR protocol for park administration and protection unit		Three workshops conducted in each site to discuss the implementation of the existing RR protocol. See details in Annex 4.1.
Activity 1.2 Collate information received to operationalise the protocol and tailor it to each site		Three different workshops conducted in each PA to collate information received to operationalise the protocol and tailor it to each site.
Activity 1.3 Review the status of existing RR units and RR control centres		Three meetings held among park authorities, protection units and ZSL staff in all three PAs to discuss the status of rapid response units and rapid response control centres. See details in Annex 4.1.
Activity 1.4 Provide refresher training of trainers in RR techniques to staff from RR units, DNPWC, Nepal Army, BZC and NTNC		Proposed in Year 2.
Activity 1.5 Conduct a meeting of relevant partners to seek agreement to support RR units, ensure effective		Proposed in Year 2.
Activity 1.6 Insure staff of RR units		Proposed in Year 3 and 4.
Activity 1.7 Support deployment of equipment to RR units and provide training in its use		Training provided to 12 rangers from protected areas in the Western Terai Complex. Annex 4.2
Activity 1.8 Deploy GSM Camera Traps in previously identified vulnerable locations		Proposed in Years 2, 3 and 4.

Activity 1.9 Deploy infra-red alarms and wireless CCTV cameras in known poaching hotspots		Proposed in Years 2, 3 and 4.
Activity 1.10 Provide equipment to RR control centres		Proposed in Year 2.
Activity 1.11 Provide equipment to existing anti-poaching camps		Proposed in Years 2 and 3.
Activity 1.12 Support for annual intensive anti-poaching sweeping operation, including long range patrols		Proposed in Years 3 and 4.
Activity 1.13 Establish information gathering, analysis and archiving procedures		Proposed in Years 2 and 4.
Activity 1.14 Monitor and evaluate the RR network once established to ensure it is operating effectively, and adaptively		Proposed in Year 4.
Output 2. 12 (4 per site) 10-man Community-based Anti-poaching Units (CBAPUs) effectively collecting and disseminating anti-poaching intelligence, using the SMART approach.	*2.1 12 additional CBAPU's appointed and integrated into the PA enforcement process by year 1* *2.2 12 additional CBAPU's trained and implementing the SMART patrolling approach in collaboration with the PA's by year 2* *2.3 1 additional community watchtower built per site (each in an identified vulnerable community) and in use by CBAPUs by year 2* *2.4 24 community patrols undertaken by each CBAPU per year by year 3* *2.5 36 community patrols undertaken by each CBAPU per year by year 4*	12 additional CBAPUs formed and integrated into PA enforcement. See details in Annex 4.4. Orientation training has been provided to the members of newly formed CBAPUs during the formation process. Some CBAPU units have started conducting patrols.
Activity 2.1 Identify 6 (2 per site) communities which are both economically marginalised and vulnerable to poaching		One workshop conducted in each of the three PAs to identify the 6 (2 per site) communities which are both economically marginalised and vulnerable to poaching. During the workshop protected area staff, protection unit staff, representatives of conservation organizations and BZMCs and local community members were present. Agaiya and Bharaiya in Banke, Bathanpur, Karmala and Bargada in Bardia, and Sagarmath and Bageswori in Shuklaphanta were identified as most vulnerable communities to poaching. See details in Annex 4.3.

Activity 2.2 Carry out an assessment of CBAPUs in the buffer zones of the 3 protected areas through a stakeholder workshop with Protected Area Authorities and Buffer Zone Councils (BZCs).	A CBAPU assessment has been completed for each project site. Workshops were held in each project site attended by buffer zone members, park authorities, officials from protection units, and officials from conservation partners including NTNC and Himalayan Nature. (Supplementary Documents 2 a, b, c).
Activity 2.3 Construct 3 community watchtowers (1 per site)	Proposed in Year 2.
Activity 2.4 Conduct 3 community workshops (1 per site) to reinforce the CBAPU concept and the benefits it offers.	Three workshops (1 per site) conducted to reinforce the CBAPU concept and benefits it offers. See details in Annex 4.9.
Activity 2.5 Conduct 12 stakeholder workshops to establish 12 additional CBAPUs (4 per site) in key locations	Twelve stakeholders' workshops, four in each site, have been conducted to establish 12 additional CBAPUs in key locations. The newly formed 12 additional CBAPUs were supported for their registration process, administration and institutional capacity building training. (See details in Annex 4.4).
Activity 2.6 Conduct training to CBAPU members targeting anti-poaching and illegal wildlife trade, intelligence gathering and sharing (including SMART training)	Proposed in Year 2.
Activity 2.7 Establish an agreed mechanism to share information with relevant agencies	Proposed in Year 3.
Activity 2.8 Initiate quarterly meetings to share information among the protected area authorities and relevant enforcement agencies	Proposed in Year 3.
Activity 2.9 Strengthen support to all existing CBAPUs for their yearly programmes	Proposed in Year 3.
Activity 2.10 Monitor and evaluate the CBAPUs once established to ensure they are operating effectively, and adaptively manage them to improve their effectiveness	Proposed in Year 4.
Output 3. Improved intelligence gathering and sharing and collaboration between relevant Nepal agencies (e.g. DNPWC, BZMC, Nepal Army, Nepal Police, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)) and enhanced transboundary intelligence collaboration.	*3.1 Secure DNPWC database of wildlife crime intelligence gathered by all relevant agencies under trial use in year 1* *3.2 Intelligence gathering from local communities and informants, including in adjacent forest divisions, carried out on monthly basis by year 2*	Meetings were conducted among relevant enforcement agencies (WCCB members) in all sites to discuss wildlife crime database development (Annex 4.5). With inputs from relevant stakeholders, the wildlife crime database has been produced. Intelligence network maps have been prepared for all three PAs.

	3.3 All relevant Nepal agencies holding annual meetings and biannual site level meetings by year 3	
	3.4 NTCA and DNPWC holding annual meetings and biannual site level meetings by year 3	
	3.5 DNPWC has a secure database updated monthly with relevant intelligence information shared by all agencies nationally by year 4	
Activity 3.1 Conduct 3 meetings with the relevant enforcement agencies to develop a wildlife crime database		Meeting conducted in Banke-Bardia Complex and Shuklaphanta with relevant enforcement agencies (WCCB) to develop wildlife crime database (Annex 4.5).
Activity 3.2 Produce database		As planned, database has been produced and submitted to park authority.
Activity 3.3 Hold workshop to share the database with relevant enforcement agencies and collect feedback for further improvement		Proposed in Year 2.
Activity 3.4 Designate focal government staff to handle the information and to take responsibility for inputting information into the database		Proposed in Year 2.
Activity 3.5 Conduct Intelligence network mapping exercise		Intelligence Network Mapping exercise completed in all three PAs. Chief Conservation Officers in each site involved during the exercise (Annex 4.6).
Activity 3.6 Agree procedures to share intelligence collection and information among all relevant enforcement agencies		Proposed in Years 2 and 3.
Activity 3.7 Initiate bi-annual meetings between all relevant enforcement agencies		Proposed in Year 2.
Activity 3.8 Facilitate greater transboundary intelligence cooperation between the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), India, and DNPWC		Proposed in Year 3.
Activity 3.9 Support DNPWC informant recruitment in all 3 protected areas		Proposed in Year 2.
Activity 3.10 Support 6 training workshops (2 per site) for informant networks from local communities in the systematic collection and reporting of information for use by RR units		Proposed in Year 3 and 4.
Activity 3.11 Familiarisation visit to Kruger National Park in South Africa to see a site where information gathering and intelligence is operating highly effectively		Proposed in Year 3.

Output 4. Cooperative community ecotourism venture successfully operating in the WTC supported by an endowment fund established to make soft loans to ecotourism enterprise.	*4.1 60 households (20 per site, each from vulnerable communities identified in Output 2) trained in alternative livelihood skills related to ecotourism or supporting services (including homestay management, cooking, guiding and driving) with marginalised groups prioritised for administrative and home-based skills by year 1. 120 households by year 3*	Trainings in alternative livelihood skills related to ecotourism or supporting services provided to 70 households in the buffer zones of Banke and Bardia. See details in 3.2 and Annex 4.8.
	4.2 Western Terai Complex tourism advertising campaign designed and agreed in close collaboration between the Nepal Tourism Board local communities and the ecotourism cooperative, by year 2. Conducted internationally by year 4.	
	4.3 Endowment fund piloted and soft-loans available to build lodges and other vital ecotourism infrastructure in each of the 12 (4 per site) communities where training will take place by year 2, fund fully established by year 4	
Activity 4.1 Conduct community workshops to identify best ecotourism related livelihood opportunities in key vulnerable communities		Community workshops conducted in Banke identified off seasonal vegetable farming in Bharaiya and Goat farming in Aagaiya as the best ecotourism related livelihood opportunities. Likewise, in Shuklaphanta Nature Guide Training, tourism service delivery training, goat farming and improved agriculture techniques training were identified as the best ecotourism related livelihood options.
Activity 4.2 Conduct 6 workshops (2 per site) in vulnerable communities to provide skills training to 120 households in identified alternative livelihoods		As planned, all six workshops were conducted (2 in each site) across the project sites providing skills based training to members of communities identified as vulnerable to poaching. Two-day off-season vegetable farming training organised in Bharaiya for 25 members of which 16 were females. Similarly, training was provided to 29 community members as Sagarmatha UC in non-timber forest product production and goat farming whereas improved livestock farming training was provided to 16 community members at Trisakti UC.

Activity 4.3 Conduct cross-fertilisation trip to India (Corbett Tiger Reserve) for local community members to observe successful ecotourism operations	Proposed in Year 4.
Activity 4.4 Establish endowment fund of £15,000 per site to facilitate soft-loans, offered on the basis of conservation contracts, for ecotourism enterprise to the households which have had training.	Proposed in Years 2, 3 and 4.
Activity 4.5 Stakeholder meeting with BZC representatives and the Nepal Tourism Board to produce ecotourism advertising campaign for WTC	Proposed in Year 2.
Activity 4.6 Establish cooperative ecotourism venture across the WTC to coordinate and facilitate the growth of ecotourism, and ensure fair benefits sharing	Proposed in Year 2.
Activity 4.7 Carry out annual socioeconomic reports to assess uptake of ecotourism industry, associated economic activity, success of the cooperative and the activity of the endowment fund.	Annual socio-economic survey conducted across three PAs in Year 1. Planned for Years 2, 3 and 4.

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

N.B. if your application's logframe is presented in a different format in your application, please transpose into the below template. Please feel free to contact IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk if you have any questions regarding this.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Populations of species threatened by poaching, including greater one-horned rhinos and bengal tigers, are secured in the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) with community stewards engaged and benefiting from conservation efforts. .			

Outcome:			
Rhino and tiger poaching stops in the three sites, resulting from an increased capacity of Protected Area (PA) authorities and DNPWC to identify and rapidly respond to threats, and an improvement in the prosecution of poaching resulting from improved intelligence; communities are engaged in conservation through piloting ecotourism-related economic opportunities.	Indicator 0.1: 3 Rapid Response (RR) teams responding to poaching threats within 30 minutes of identifying them 90% of the time by year 4 Indicator 0.2: Zero records of illegal rhino or tiger killings, and zero rhino or tiger products of Nepal origin seized in the WTC per year by year 4 Indicator 0.3: Successful prosecutions of wildlife criminals in the WTC increased by 75%, from baseline set in year 1, per year by year 4 Indicator 0.4: Ecotourism enterprises at each site established and at least 50 additional people employed in ecotourism and related sectors in each of the three sites (150 additional people in total) by year 4	0.1. DNPWC and PA authority reports, RR team records, SMART reports 0.2. RR team reports, DNPWC reports and SMART reports 0.3. Legal reports and DNPWC reports 0.4. Socioeconomic survey, partner reports	Assumption 1: RR teams and associated technical equipment will improve anti-poaching outcomes Assumption 2: Poaching is a limiting factor for tiger populations, and wildlife populations more generally, in the WTC Assumption 3: Terai Arc Landscape ecosystems remain relatively stable and no large natural calamities such as earthquakes or flooding take place in the country Assumption 4: Nepal's governance environment remains conducive to effective anti-poaching and conservation work Assumption 5: Intelligence is a limiting factor in successful prosecutions. Assumption 6: Political commitment remains at the same level for anti-poaching and conservation as it was during project development Assumption 7: Ecotourism potential exists at adequate scale in the region, as it does in the east of the landscape around Chitwan National Park and further west in India, the promotional campaign will ensure potential is fully utilised Assumption 8: Community involvement, and ensuring that they benefit, positively influences the anti-poaching outcomes. This is assumed due to community support and wellbeing being critical both for accurate information gathering through CBAPUs and informants, and for making poaching a less attractive activity to local communities and so

			reducing the direct threat.
			Assumption 9: Local people will associate wellbeing gains from ecotourism with the project and conservation/anti-poaching due to the activities of the CBAPUs and the ecotourism opportunities targeting the same communities and being explicitly co-dependent.
Output 1 Effective and efficient rapid response network utilising the latest technology and tools to combat wildlife crime	1.1. Rapid Response (RR) Protocol implemented by RR teams and DNPWC, in consultation with all stakeholders from each site, by year 1 1.2. 3 permanent RR teams (1 per site) of 12 staff responding to 90% of identified threats per year by year 2 1.3. Automated real-time alerts from remote sensing devices network (e.g. SMS from GSM enabled camera traps) deployed across vulnerable locations received by PA managers, and RR unit coordinators in by year 2. 1.4. R units taking appropriate action in response to all automated updates within 45 minutes of receiving them by year 3 and within 30 minutes by year 4	1.1. Protocol document approved by all three PAs and integrated into workplans, DNPWC reports 1.2 Partner reports, training attendance records and post-training assessment reports, reports on outcomes of mock drills 1.3. RR control centre records and reports demonstrating appropriate action being taken on receiving automated alerts 1.4 RR unit reports, DNPWC reports, RR control centre reports	• Protocol is adhered to, this will be ensured through the consultative process and close working relationship between the PA authorities, DNPWC and ZSL • Technical tools correctly deployed by staff, the training delivered will prioritise this • One RR unit per protected area is sufficient to monitor and respond to incidents • Devices at vulnerable locations catch a sufficient amount of activity to be effective, the targeting of vulnerable locations, careful selection of optimal vantage points, and adaptive management of their positions ensures this • Delayed responses to poaching threats increase the harm done by poaching
Output 2 12 (4 per site) 10-man Community-based Anti-poaching Units (CBAPUs) effectively collecting and disseminating anti-poaching intelligence, using the SMART approach.	2.1. 12 additional CBAPU's appointed and integrated into the PA enforcement process by year 2 2.2. 12 additional CBAPU's trained and implementing the SMART patrolling approach in collaboration with the PA's by year 2 2.3. 1 additional community watchtower built per site (each in an identified	2.1 Community agreements, 120 CBAPU members recruited 2.2 120 CBAPU members passing SMART training, 2.3 CBAPU SMART reports showing an improvement in PA protection (threats identified and mitigated) since the construction of the watch towers	• There will be an adequate number of suitable CBAPU applicants • Sufficient number and diversity of community members are willing to participate in CBAPUs, the community workshops explaining and demonstrating the benefits of the CBAPU concept will support this. • That CBAPUs will use the towers and

	vulnerable community) and in use by CBAPUs by year 2 2.4. 24 community patrols undertaken by each CBAPU per year by year 3 2.5. 36 community patrols undertaken by each CBAPU per year by year 4	2.4 Inclusion of CBAPU in PA protection plans, and number of kms patrolled each year 2.5 number of kms patrolled, CBAPU SMART reports showing number and details of patrols	that they will be effective in increasing chances of spotting poacher activity • SMART data is collected correctly and is of a high quality, this will be supported by the SMART training prioritising this
Output 3 Improved intelligence gathering and sharing and collaboration between relevant Nepal agencies (e.g. DNPWC, BZMC, Nepal Army, Nepal Police, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)) and enhanced transboundary intelligence collaboration.	3.1. Secure DNPWC database of wildlife crime intelligence gathered by all relevant agencies under trial use in year 1 3.2. Intelligence gathering from local communities and informants, including in adjacent forest divisions, carried out on monthly basis by year 2 3.3. All relevant Nepal agencies holding annual meetings and biannual site level meetings by year 3 3.4. NTCA and DNPWC holding annual meetings and biannual site level meetings by year 3 3.5. NTCA and DNPWC holding annual meetings and biannual site level meetings by year 3	3.1 DNPWC records detailing database trial successes and collaboration 3.2 Partner records showing data gathering from informants and data input procedures into the database under development 3.3 Joint procedures agreed to tackle wildlife trafficking and poaching, and meeting minutes 3.4 DNPWC annual report 3.5 DNPWC records of database, records of evidence being shared with criminal justice system	• Cooperation of associated governmental agencies, ensured by MoU with DPWC which will take a coordinating role • Intelligence is usable, accurate, verified and up-to-date, this will be ensured by informant training • Lack of collaboration and intelligence sharing is currently a limiting factor in the effectiveness of anti-poacher and anti-IWT efforts • Database is kept up to date reliably and the desire to share data is maintained. Designating focal government staff with responsibility for the database will help to ensure this
Output 4 Cooperative community ecotourism venture successfully operating in the WTC supported by an endowment fund established to make soft loans to ecotourism enterprise.	4.1. 60 households (20 per site, each from vulnerable communities identified in Output 2) trained in alternative livelihood skills related to ecotourism or supporting services (including homestay management, cooking, guiding and driving) with marginalised groups prioritised for administrative and home-based skills by year 1. 120 households by year 3 4.2. Western Terai Complex tourism advertising campaign designed and agreed in close collaboration between the Nepal Tourism Board local communities and the ecotourism	4.1 Training records, post-training surveys, socioeconomic surveys 4.2 Cooperative reports and records, partner reports, Nepal Tourism Board website, adverts, partner reports, media reports and articles 4.3 Loan records, conservation contracts, financial records, construction records	• Ecotourism will thrive if local communities are able to bring a good hospitality service to market, and have healthy wildlife populations to showcase • Ecotourism will increase community income and wellbeing, the establishment of a local ecotourism cooperative to coordinate and facilitate the growth of the ecotourism sector as well as guarantee fair benefits sharing will help ensure this. • Productive ecotourism enterprise schemes are devised by local community members once they have

	cooperative, by year 2. Conducted internationally by year 4.		been appropriately trained

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)

1.1 Conduct a workshop to discuss the implementation of the existing RR protocol for park administration and protection unit

1.2 Collate information received to operationalise the protocol and tailor it to each site

1.3 Review the status of existing RR units and RR control centres

1.4 Provide refresher training of trainers in RR techniques to staff from RR units, DNPWC, Nepal Army, BZC and NTNC

1.5 Conduct a meeting of relevant partners to seek agreement to support RR units, ensure effective implementation of the existing RR protocol, and conduct bi-annual reviews of RR units effectiveness and impact

1.6 Insure staff of RR units

1.7 Support deployment of equipment to RR units and provide training in its use

1.8 Deploy GSM Camera Traps in previously identified vulnerable locations

1.9 Deploy infra-red alarms and wireless CCTV cameras in known poaching hotspots

1.10. Provide equipment to RR control centres

1.11 Provide equipment to existing anti-poaching camps

1.12 Support for annual intensive anti-poaching sweeping operation, including long range patrols

1.13 Establish information gathering, analysis and archiving procedures

1.14 Monitor and evaluate the RR network once established to ensure it is operating effectively, and adaptively manage the entire network to improve its effectiveness

    2.1 Identify 6 (2 per site) communities which are both economically marginalised and vulnerable to poaching;

2.2 Carry out an assessment of CBAPUs in the buffer zones of the 3 protected areas through a stakeholder workshop with Protected Area Authorities and Buffer Zone Councils (BZCs)

2.3 Construct 3 community watchtowers (1 per site)

2.4 Conduct 3 community workshops (1 per site) to reinforce the CBAPU concept and the benefits it offers.

2.5 Conduct 12 stakeholder workshops to establish 12 additional CBAPUs (4 per site) in key locations

2.6 Conduct training to CBAPU members targeting anti-poaching and illegal wildlife trade, intelligence gathering and sharing (including SMART training)

2.7 Establish an agreed mechanism to share information with relevant agencies

2.8 Initiate quarterly meetings to share information among the protected area authorities and relevant enforcement agencies

2.9 Strengthen support to all existing CBAPUs for their yearly programmes

2.10. Monitor and evaluate the CBAPUs once established to ensure they are operating effectively, and adaptively manage them to improve their effectiveness

3.1 Conduct 3 meetings with the relevant enforcement agencies to develop a wildlife crime database

3.2 Produce database

3.3 Hold workshop to share the database with relevant enforcement agencies and collect feedback for further improvement

3.4 Designate focal government staff to handle the information and to take responsibility for inputting information into the database

3.5 Conduct Intelligence network mapping exercise

3.6 Agree procedures to share intelligence collection and information among all relevant enforcement agencies

3.7 Initiate bi-annual meetings between all relevant enforcement agencies

3.8	Facilitate greater transboundary intelligence cooperation between the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), India, and DNPWC
3.9	Support DNPWC informant recruitment in all 3 protected areas
3.10.	Support 6 training workshops (2 per site) for informant networks from local communities in the systematic collection and reporting of information for use by RR units
3.11	Familiarisation visit to Kruger National Park in South Africa to see a site where information gathering and intelligence is operating highly effectively
4.1	Conduct community workshops to identify best ecotourism related livelihood opportunities in key vulnerable communities
4.2	Conduct 6 workshops (2 per site) in vulnerable communities to provide skills training to 120 households in identified alternative livelihoods
4.3	Conduct cross-fertilisation trip to India (Corbett Tiger Reserve) for local community members to observe successful ecotourism operations
4.4	Establish endowment fund of £15,000 per site to facilitate soft-loans, offered on the basis of conservation contracts, for ecotourism enterprise to the households which have had training.
4.5	Stakeholder meeting with BZC representatives and the Nepal Tourism Board to produce ecotourism advertising campaign for WTC
4.6	Establish cooperative ecotourism venture across the WTC to coordinate and facilitate the growth of ecotourism, and ensure fair benefits sharing
4.7	Carry out annual socioeconomic reports to assess uptake of ecotourism industry, associated economic activity, success of the cooperative and the activity of the endowment fund.

Annex 3 Standard Measures

NA