



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Writing a Darwin Report" guidance: (http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms). It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2019

IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWT041
Project title	Strengthening Community Anti-poaching and Ecotourism in the Western Terai Complex
Country/ies	Nepal
Lead organisation	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	April 2018 – 31 March 2019
2018-Mar 2019) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1,2,3)	Annual Report 2
Project leader name	Dr Hem Baral
Project website/blog/social	https://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/asia/strengthening-
media	community-anti-poaching-and-ecotourism-in-the-western- terai
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1. Project rationale

Wildlife all over the globe is threatened by the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) which has emerged as a substantial challenge in recent decades. The increase in IWT is draining wildlife from their natural habitats to supply the black market globally, particularly in South Asia. The populations of many iconic species such as tigers and rhinoceros have shrunk to critical levels, due to IWT exacerbated by habitat loss and fragmentation. Therefore, stopping IWT is a major challenge for the global conservation community.

The high-level crime syndicates earning huge benefits from IWT are resourceful and increasingly use sophisticated tools and techniques. Outmanoeuvring them is essential, requiring adoption of state-of-the-art conservation methods, to aid the efforts of law enforcement agencies.

In contrast to the increasing trend in IWT globally, Nepal has set an example by successfully combatting IWT. Identified as both a source and transit country, Nepal's success in reducing poaching, mainly of rhinos and tigers, is taken as an example all over the world. This major achievement has been made possible through dedicated efforts and collaboration among government agencies, local communities and conservation organisations. Nepal has been leading the world in formulating and implementing wildlife conservation friendly policies and laws. Adoption of cutting-edge conservation technologies and approaches to counter poaching have been vital to this success. Yet, the threats to the survival of these species remain. The conservation authorities face challenges of limited resources and capacity to tackle poaching and trafficking.

Records from recent years show that most of the seizures of tiger skin and body parts in Nepal originate in the Western Terai Complex (WTC). This includes three protected areas (PAs), and critical corridors connecting these PAs within Nepal and to PAs in India. The WTC also 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 the WTC. The members of criminal syndicates often use locals from poor communities living on forest fringes to poach wild animals, increasing the vulnerability of these poor communities to criminalisation.

This project responds by working with vulnerable communities and supporting them to enhance their livelihoods through promoting ecotourism and other alternative livelihood strategies. The project has been working with communities in Gavar-Chyama and Bhariaya in Banke, Gobrella and Belauli in Bardia and Chandani Dodhra and Simalphanta in Shuklaphanta to support the communities in adopting alternative livelihood programmes. Training has been provided to the members of these communities to establish and operate ecotourism ventures (homestays) as well as to conduct improved agriculture. Endowment funds have been provided to three vulnerable communities to start ecotourism enterprises. This has helped people to benefit from the conservation of wildlife which in term has reduced their vulnerability to criminalisation. In addition, the project has been working with Community-Based Anti-Poaching Units and PA authorities to enhance law enforcement, with a focus on the members of criminal syndicates. The project has been working towards strengthened law enforcement inside the PAs as well as in buffer zones forests with the community members proactively supporting the conservation while benefiting through new ecotourism ventures. The project also applies new technology, in terms of remote cameras and Rapid Response Units (RRUs), to ensure a fast response to poaching risks. By the second year of the project, the project is moving towards achieving its target of responding to nearly 90% identified threats within 30 minutes; Currently 89 % of threats were responded to within 1.2 hours. This has largely supported the achievement of zero recorded incidents of tiger and rhino poaching in WTC during this reporting period. Furthermore, the yearly reports of tiger monitoring in WTC show a 33 % increase in tiger numbers in 2018/19 from 2017/18. This will ultimately help foster viable populations of target species such as tigers and rhinos.



Figure 1: Project sites, Banke Bardia and Shuklaphanata National Parks

2. Project partnerships

ZSL has been leading the implementation of this project in close partnership with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), and Himalayan Nature (HN). The Project Coordination Committee (PCC) at the central level is chaired by the Deputy Director General of DNPWC and provides overall guidance for the project implementation as well as conducting regular monitoring. Project Management Units (PMUs) at site-level in each project site have responsibility for the implementation of project activity. The PMUs ensure representation of community members and community institutions (Buffer Zone Management Committees). PCC and PMU meetings are periodic with set agendas to discuss on the project implementation and evaluate the success achieved. (Supplementary Document 5). These partnerships are based on demand from Nepal, and ZSL's strong national and local relationships are based on long-term collaboration and shared objectives. The PCC, PMUs, and day-to-day collaboration ensure that all partners are involved in planning, monitoring and evaluation, and decision-making, at the relevant level.

The project has been coordinating well among its partners as well as with the relevant stakeholders. The project partners have a good relationship with the local communities in the buffer zone; this has helped the project to work with targeted communities very smoothly. Proactive support from buffer zone communities towards the project has resulted in the effective implementation of the project activities achieving the desired targets. This has also helped the project to lay the groundwork for the sustainability of the project's impact.

Further, to enhance the cooperation among wider stakeholders and ensure the project's sustainability, project staffs and partners have been coordinating regularly with local-level government representatives, local NGOs and community organisations.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

The project has been progressing well with completing most activities as planned, with some minor delays in activities 1.13 and 2.3. The progress of activities under the outputs are presented below:

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

During this reporting year, refresher training-of-trainers has been conducted in Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Parks providing knowledge on rapid response techniques to a total of 100 frontline staff (comprising both national park and protection unit staff) (Activity 1.4 – Complete; Annex 4.1 a,b,c). All the project sites have been implementing the site-level rapid response protocol previously endorsed in year 1.

The project has been supporting regular coordination meetings at site level (Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Parks) as well as at the central level with park offices and other project partners (NTNC, HN) and stakeholders including Nepal Army to support RRUs and ensure their effectiveness. (Activity 1.5 – Complete; Annex 4.2).

A total of 30 GSM-enabled cameras and an additional 11 infrared alarms have been deployed in all project sites, and CCTV cameras are operational along the highway in Banke National Park, monitoring potential illegal activities (Activity 1.8 and 1.9-completed for this year). These cameras have provided a total of 345 alarms across all project sites during this reporting period. Of these, the RRUs launched a response to 14%, while in cases where it was easier and faster for a nearby guard post to respond to the identified threat, effective communication ensured that a team from the guard post was deployed; 75% of the identified potential threats were responded to in this way. In total this means that 89% of threats received a response resulting in arrests being made in 13 % of cases and warnings being given in 45 % of cases, while in 42 % of cases no action was taken. The average time of response to the automated alarms was 1.2 hours.

To further enhance the effectiveness of the rapid response, control centre equipment such as display screens, mobile phones, rain boots and tents have been provided to Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Parks as per the need of each PA (Activity 1.10 – Completed; Annex 4.3).

Intelligence gathering, analysis and archiving procedures have been drafted and are currently under review by park and DNPWC authorities. A lengthy review process has caused a minor delay in the completion of this activity, which had been planned to be completed by Q2 in year 3. (Activity 1.13 – Minor Delay).

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.

The project supported the establishment of 12 additional CBAPUs in project sites in the last reporting period. A total of 82 CBAPU members were trained in SMART patrolling (40 CBAPU members trained in Banke, 12 in Bardia, and 30 in Shuklaphanta) (Activity 2.6 -Completed – Annex 4.4 a, b, c). These 12 additional CBAPUs are conducting regular patrols, in collaboration with the PA authorities, applying their completed training. They conducted a total of 56 patrols: 24 in Shuklaphanta and 16 each in Bardia and Banke. The uniform data logbook is being prepared for all CBAPUs, who will be supported to record their data in this logbook uniformly across all project sites. As added value, the project has conducted an annual review of the additional CBAPUs in Banke and Bardia. During the same event, CBAPU members were reminded of the concept of the CBAPU and their role. A total of 177 youths voluntarily joined the CBAPU which helped in spreading positive attitudes towards wildlife conservation in the buffer zone community.

In terms of watch tower construction in each of the three project sites, construction is in its final stage in Shuklaphanta National Park; construction in Banke National Park started in Q4 of this reporting period (Year 2). Construction in Bardia National Park faced a minor delay due to ongoing coordination with local government, which is willing to contribute to construction, now scheduled to begin in Q1 of year 3. Construction of all three-watch

tower will be completed by the next half-yearly reporting period. (Activity 2.3 – Minor delay; Annex 4.5).

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.

The trial of the new wildlife crime intelligence database is underway. This began with a workshop in Bardia, to share the database with the Chief Conservation Officers of Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Parks, and collect their feedback to make improvements (Activity 3.3 – Completed – Annex – 4.6). Following the workshop, each of the three PAs designated focal staff to handle the information and input in the database (3.4 – Completed). Also, an intelligence mapping exercise has been conducted in Banke and Bardia, successfully revising the map prepared in year 1 (Activity 3.6 – Completed).

A biannual meeting has been held for the Chief Conservation Officers from Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Parks, during which they agreed on regular information exchange among PAs to outwit poachers and other wildlife criminals. The project will continue to facilitate these meetings in year 3 (3.7- ongoing). During this reporting period, the project has supported DNPWC and the PAs to recruit informants in all three PAs, two per site. The details are kept confidential due to sensitivity (Activity 3.9- Completed).

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

Women-led committees have been formed in the buffer zone of Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Parks to lead equitable ecotourism development (Activity 4.6 – Completed; Annex 4.7). An endowment fund has been provided to each of these committees to facilitate soft loans for the committee members. These members have also received training to start ecotourism enterprise. (Activity 4.4 – Completed Annex-4.8). Similarly, a workshop was organised to design effective advertising approaches for the community ecotourism venture. The workshop was held in Banke and attended by representatives of the Buffer Zone Management Committees from all three PAs, representatives of the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB), local governments, Homestay Association Nepal, NTNC and ZSL. Roadside hoarding boards, brochures, food festivals were agreed on as a first phase of ecotourism advertising for the WTC (Activity 4.6 – Completed; Annex 4.9). The annual social economic survey for the second year is completed, a report is being prepared and will be shared in the next reporting period (Activity 4.7 – Completed for this year). The report of socio-economic survey from first year as been provided with this report as supplementary document.

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 2018	Source of evidence		
Indicator 1	No RR	Site level Rapid	Endorsed Site level		
Rapid Response (RR)	protocol Response Protocol in Rapid Response				
Protocol implemented	Banke, Bardia and Protocols.				
by RR teams and	Shuklaphanta National				
DNPWC, in consultation		Parks endorsed and	Provided in Year 1.		
with all stakeholders		implemented.	Annex 4.1 and 4.2		

	T		
from each site, by year 1			
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). Out of 345 potential threats 14% were identified as true threats and responded to by rapid response teams. A further 75% of these potential threats were responded by the nearest guard post, bringing the total response rate to 89%.	Park Records Annex 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3
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	A total of 30 GSM enabled cameras deployed across all three project sites.	Supplementary Document 1 (Map Showing the Deployment of Cameras, 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	RR Units taking appropriate action in response to automated updated with 1.2 hours of receiving them – on average.	Records from Park Annex 4.1 and 4.2

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.	•	eachieved by the end of the particient to measure the pro			
	Baseline Change recorded by 2018 Source of evidence				
Indicator 1 12 additional CBAPUs 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.	List of CBAPU members shared in First Annual report.		

Indicator 2 12 additional CBAPUs trained and implementing the SMART patrolling approach in collaboration with the PAs by year 2	Zero project trained CBAPU members	12 additional CBAPUs are conducting regular patrols in collaboration with the PAs after the completion of their training. A total of 56 patrols were conducted by CBAPUs, 24 in Shukla, 16 in each in Bardia and Banke.	Partner report Annex 4.4
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	Construction work of three additional watch towers, one each per site has been started. This minor delay was due to additional coordination taking place with local government and community members to follow tender processes and seeking matchfunding. Construction work will be completed in Q2 year 3.	Partner Report Annex 4.5
Indicator 4 24 community patrols undertaken by each CBAPU per year by year 3	Zero community patrols undertaken by project supported CBAPUs	A total of 56 patrols were conducted by 12 CBAPUs this year, 24 in Shukla, 16 in each of Bardia and Banke by year 2.	Partner Report
Indicator 5 36 community patrols undertaken by each CBAPU per year by year 4	Zero community patrols undertaken by project supported CBAPUs	See Indicator 4 above	

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.	Output will be achieved by the end of the project. The proposed indicators are sufficient to measure the project output.			
Collaboration.	Baseline	Change recorded by 2018	Source of evidence	
Indicator 1 Secure DNPWC database of wildlife crime intelligence	Secure wildlife trade database	Wildlife crime database under trial use.	N/A at this stage.	

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gathered by all relevant agencies under trial use in year 1	exists, but it only includes DNPWC data		
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	Regular intelligence is being collected from local communities and informants, including in adjacent forests. A total of 38 pieces of information have been gathered (11 in Banke, 21 in Bardia and 15 in Shuklaphanta).	Park Records
Indicator 3 All relevant Nepal agencies holding annual meetings and biannual site level meetings by year 3	Ad hoc meetings occasionally held	Project is coordinating with all relevant agencies in central and site level to hold national annual meetings and biannual site level meetings on a regular basis.	Annex 4.6
Indicator 4 NTCA and DNPWC holding annual meetings and biannual site level meetings by year 3	Ad hoc meetings occasionally held	N/A	
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	N/A	

Output 4:	Output will be	achieved by the end of the project. The proposed				
Cooperative	indicators are	sufficient to measure the project output.				
community ecotourism						
venture successfully						
operating in the WTC						
supported by an						
endowment fund						
established to make						
soft loans to						
ecotourism enterprise.						
	Baseline	Change recorded by 2018 Source of evidence				
Indicator 1	Zero	List of participants,				
60 households (20 per	members of	A total of 70 households in minutes and				
site, each from	households	the buffer zones of Banke photographs listed in				
vulnerable	trained by and Shuklaphanta national Year 1 annual report.					
communities identified	the project parks trained in alternative					
in Output 2) trained in	livelihoods in year 1.					
alternative livelihood						
skills related to		Male Female Dalit Janajati Brahmin				
ecotourism or		Chhetri				

supporting services (including homestay management, cooking, guiding and driving) with marginalised groups prioritised for administrative and home-based skills by year 1. 120		Further training planned in Year 3.						
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	A workshop attended by 38 participants including the parliamentary member Province no 5, representatives of communities and tourism experts (e.g. the Nepal Tourism Board) agreed on roadside hoarding boards, brochures, food festivals, etc for an advertising campaign for tourism. Male Female 33 5			Annex 4.9			
Indicator 3 3 Endowment funds 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	Three endowments funds have been established one each in the buffer zone of Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Park. Using a total endowment of 2.5 million rupees (£17k), two of these funds have started providing soft-loans and the one at Shuklaphanta will be providing this by Q1 of year 3.		Annex 4.8				

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Outcome:	Outcome will be achieved by the end of the project. The proposed
Rhino and tiger	indicators are sufficient to measure the project outcome.
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.			
	Baseline	Change by 2018	Source of evidence
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	3 Rapid Response teams responding to identified threats in an average of 1.2 hours. A response is launched to 89% of threats.	Park records
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.	Zero records of rhino and tiger killings in WTC 1 case of tiger skin seizure in the adjoining area of Banke National Park, origin of which has not been confirmed. No records of rhino killed, or body parts seized.	Park records
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	Out of 59 cases registered, 20% of wildlife criminals prosecuted in WTC during this reporting period.	Park records
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	ecotourism enterprises exist in the WTC providing employment to 100 people in total	Support provided to 3 ecotourism promotion committees in WTC, one each in buffer zone of Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Parks.	Annex 4.8, Grant Agreement Document provided as supplementary document 4.

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 natural calamities such as	This assumption remains reasonable.

	earthquakes or flooding take place in the country	
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 antipoaching 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	This assumption remains reasonable.
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.	This assumption remains reasonable

	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	This assumption remains reasonable
Assumption 2	Technical tools correctly deployed by staff, the training delivered will prioritise this	This assumption remains reasonable
Assumption 3	One RR unit per protected area is sufficient to monitor and respond to incidents	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 4	Devices at vulnerable locations catch a sufficient amount of activity to be effective, the targeting of vulnerable locations, careful selection of optimal	This assumption remains reasonable.

	vantage points, and adaptive management of their positions ensures this	
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 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 government staff with responsibility for the database will help to ensure this	This assumption remains reasonable.	

Output 4 Assumptions	Comments
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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 contributes to cutting off the supply of key wildlife product into the IWT by better protecting species in the key WTC (Indicator 0.2). This is achieved through a greater capacity of park authorities in intelligence gathering and mechanisms for intelligence sharing (Indicators 3.1, 3.2, 3.3); increased speed of response through the RRUs (Indicators 1,.2,1.3,1.4); greater coverage of patrols through CBAPUs (Indicators 0.1, 2.3, 2.4); and increased proactive community support to park authorities to maintain law enforcement; all contributing to effective prosecutions of wildlife criminals (Indicator 0.3).

The project is also making major contributions to human development and wellbeing within the WTC. The establishment of soft-loan funds and livelihoods training provide a basis to enhance the economic status of vulnerable communities through alternative income from ecotourism. So far this has reached 70 households (Indicator 0.4, 0.1) The local enthusiasm to engage in conservation is clear, from the 177 young people who have volunteered for CBAPUs. Reductions in IWT also benefits communities in terms of increased security and reduced exposure to criminal groups, which could undermine social capital.

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

The project has been progressing well with meeting the targets as planned by the end of year 2. The project directly supports two of the four IWT Challenge fund objectives:

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

Building upon the activities completed in year 1 (which include the identification of vulnerable communities, best options for ecotourism-based livelihoods and trainings), the project this year has supported establishment of three women-led ecotourism promotion committees, one per site. These committees have been provided with seed money to enable their members to use soft loans to initiate eco-tourism enterprises. (Further details in 3.2 and 3.3)

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

RRUs have responded to 14% of the 345 identified potential threats. The nearby guard posts responded to a further 75% of threats through effective communication between RRUs and guard post, bringing the total response rate to 89%. The intelligence networks supported by the project have collected a total of 38 pieces of information packages, which support the PA authorities in

reducing the risk to target species. Furthermore, of 59 registered criminal cases 20% have reached court with the required evidential case files to ensure prosecution. Likewise, CBAPUs conducted a total of 56 patrols during this reporting period, supporting park authorities to strengthen the law enforcement.

6. Impact on species in focus

The RRUs, automated alarm systems, and 89% response rate have all contributed to safeguarding the target species of tigers and rhinos. The 12 additional CBAPUs and their 56 patrols all extend the protection beyond the camera network to the buffer zones and fringe areas. All the project activities have contributed to minimize the risk to wildlife from poaching and illegal wildlife trade.

As shown in the logframe, there have been zero records of tiger and rhino poaching, 1 case of tiger skin seizure in the adjoining area of Banke National Park, origin of which has not been confirmed to be in Nepal, no records of rhino body parts seized. The latest rhino and tiger population estimates for the WTC are 124 tigers (National Tiger Census 18/19) and 52 rhinos (regular monitoring results 2019)¹, an increase since the best available figures for the start of the project 93 tigers (Annual Tiger Census 16/17) and 35 rhinos (result from regular monitoring of rhinos in 2016/17). Although it is not possible to directly attribute these to this project, our work has made a significant contribution to conservation success 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:

- 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 WTC have received trainings on alternative livelihoods focused on ecotourism. This year three ecotourism promotion committees established, and 2.5 million rupees (£17k) of seed money provided to facilitate soft loans. This has helped community members of vulnerable communities to start homestays (indicator 4.1, 4.3).
- Tackling IWT and related criminality through RRUs (indicators 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4), CBAPUs patrols (indicator 2.1, 2.2 and 2.4), and establishing an IWT database and map (indicator 3.1, 3.2) have both direct and indirect effects 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.

8. Consideration of gender equality issues

All evidence is listed against the indicators in responses to questions 3.2 and 3.3.

¹ These figures include 13 rhinos translocated from Chitwan National Park to Bardia National Park (8) and Shuklaphanta National Park (5).

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. We have ensured a minimum of 40% women's representation in the newly formed CBAPUs (Indicator 2.1). This helps break down gender stereotypes by demonstrating that women can take on roles in forest and natural resource management – in Nepal traditionally seen more as male roles. The project also ensured over 50% representation of women in the livelihoods training (Indicator 4.1) and established three women-led ecotourism promotion committees. The seed funds for these were endowed. This gives women new access to incomegenerating skills and financial resources, increasing their financial independence, and creates leadership roles for them. 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 units for project 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 2. 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 is 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 to project activities or indicators are deemed necessary these will be put forward to the IWT Challenge Fund 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 the RR network will be monitored, evaluated and any necessary modifications made to ensure they continue to 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.
- Regular orientation and a motivational programme are needed to make the CBAPUs proactive in conservation and anti-poaching.
- Coordination among various enforcement agencies, government and non-governmental organizations and local communities, timely sharing of intelligence and prompt decisionmaking processes in wildlife crime control are fundamental to effectively dealing with IWT.
- Supporting CBAPU members for various alternative income generating activities provides a powerful incentive for local youths to effectively work for conservation.

• A key lesson of the project has been the importance of building robust community institutions which ensure full representation of all community members. Such institutions have been seen, through this project, to develop effective and culturally appropriate benefit-sharing mechanisms through the process of discussion and consultation among all members of the community. A related lesson has been on the role of nested community institutions in enabling community interventions to reach the necessary scales to impact large protected areas, or extremely wide-ranging species such as tigers and rhinos. Though necessarily starting at smaller scales demonstrable benefits can be quickly demonstrated through the multiple layers of community institution and so support wide-scale attitude change and (in the case of CBAPUs for instance) replication.

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

 It would be good to have a copy of the template of the agreed standard format for record keeping with national park/buffer zone management committees for recording illegal activities as an Annex (mentioned on p.4 of Annual Report)

Response

The project has prepared database software for recording illegal activities and individual details of those involved in the IWT. The template of the software has been shared in Supplementary document 2.

What sort of challenges do you anticipate communities face in transitioning to more ecotourism and other livelihood related activities (e.g. organic farming, goat farming)? It would be interesting/useful to know how to address these and, if successful, how these would feed into the exit strategy.

Response

We anticipate that market management is the main challenge communities face in transitioning to more ecotourism and other livelihood related activities. When people set up ecotourism businesses such as homestays, then the communities must be able to attract more people visiting their communities and buying the services and commodities the homestay can sell. This needs a proper advertising campaign. To ensure this the project has linked communities with the Nepal Tourism Board, the main tourism authority working to promote tourism in Nepal.

Also, community members starting organic farming or goat farming need to understand the market demand and be able to explore the market linkages to sell their products. Mostly, these agriculture products have high demand in local markets, and this is not currently a major issue. However, disease and other technical problems can be big issues that can threaten the sustainability of these alternative livelihood activities. For this the project has linked these community members with the different existing government agencies working for agriculture and livestock farming development.

Number of staff required per site – is the budgeted time for staffing/resourcing sufficient
or necessary (i.e. 4, 10-man units per site)? Not clear on the magnitude of the issue in
these three sites, and if the resources are sufficient and/or justified for the amount of
illegal activities occurring prior to the start of this project.

Response

The CBAPUs are not regular staff but rather they are a voluntary community-based organisation conducting policing in their communities to stop poaching and IWT as well as raise awareness on conservation of wildlife and biodiversity. They work in close coordination with the park office and buffer zone management committees. The 4-10-man units per site is the additional CBAPUs established by the project, there were 37 existing CBAPUs reported as baseline. Since, these CBAPUs work voluntarily and do not engage full time, the budgeted time is enough. However, these CBAPUs need support for their operating costs and the project has provisioned some amount of resources to

initially support these costs. However, after these CBAPUs are institutionalised under the relevant buffer zone user committee and the PA management system, they are supported by the budget from buffer zone user committee which ensures their sustainability.

• Good to know that there seems to be a large consideration for organising regular meetings between local governance, communities (including women and youth) and/or ecotourism enterprises to integrate them into planning for ecotourism/economic opportunities. Is there an agenda for these meetings or are these more of an 'ad hoc' type meeting/discussion? (i.e. do you have a particular way of incorporating stakeholder views into decision-making)?

Response

ZSL implements this project through the PCC and PMU which comprised representation of project partners. The PMU invites relevant stakeholders to these PMU meetings as necessary to ensure that each stakeholder is involved in decision making and their view well incorporated. These meetings usually do have an agenda such as the selection of communities to promote ecotourism or the identification of members of vulnerable communities for inclusion in alternative livelihood schemes. However, some of these coordination meetings are intentionally more 'ad hoc' to allow project partners and stakeholders to discuss various aspect of project implementation and processes without restricting this unduly.

For site-based meetings, for example the advertising strategy meeting held in Banke during this reporting period, an agenda and clear institutional structures are formalised in advance in order to ensure a representative process which allows all voices to be heard. Key to this is utilising a variety of community-based organisations, including buffer zone user groups, buffer zone user committees, buffer zone management committees, and a range of sub-committees registered to the two levels of buffer zone committee. These sub-committees include a wide range of livelihood communities (e.g. homestay committees) as well as CBAPUs.

The issue of IWT in Nepal seems well-researched and understood, but it is not clear if
these methods have been tested in other areas with similar socio-political and
environmental contexts. Is there evidence in other areas to suggest a certain level of
confidence that this will result in 0 poaching incidences following this intervention?

Response

In Nepal, community stewardship for wildlife conservation was developed in the Chitwan-Parsa Complex in the early 1990s. ZSL has been working here and supporting the development of this community-focussed counter-IWT methodology for more than two decades. Through this project ZSL is now promoting the same model in WTC. This demonstrates replicability in very similar contexts.

In a less similar context ZSL has also extended this model, with key adaptations, to apply it in Nandaur Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttarakand, India, Full implementation of patrol-based monitoring across this landscape is still being achieved, so it is not possible to make a confident statement based on the number of recorded poaching incidents. However, we have already seen a near 2.5x tiger population increase from 11 (2014) to 27 (2018) which strongly indicates the efficacy of the approach in this context.

ZSL is very interested in the wider promotion of the model, and the potential for knowledge exchange and for lessons to be learnt from Nepal's experience. Through our global conservation programmes, we conduct such exchanges among countries in Asia, including Thailand and Indonesia; and are looking to pilot the replication of such an approach in Kenya in the near future.

Further reflection on challenges/lessons learnt would bolster future reporting

Response

We have incorporated this into this report and will look to do so in future.

12. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

N/A.

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. Alongside establishing revolving loan funds which, through repayment, grow as they are used helping ensure financial services are available to support a long-term sustainable development trajectory.

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 event banners. ZSL's Quarterly Newsletter has included the UKAID logo and highlighted this IWT Challenge Fund funded project. The ZSL website also includes a webpage for this project, which recognises IWT Challenge Fund as the funder. Additionally, an article was submitted to the IWT Challenge Fund newsletter.

15. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2018-March 2019)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2018/19 Grant (£)	2018/19 Total actual IWT Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (Section 5 / Financial Report)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (Section 7/Financial Report)				
Others (Section 8/Financial Report)				
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)

The project has made a significant achievement in strengthening law enforcement in WTC as well as garnering the community's support for conservation, in ways that reduce the risk of vulnerable communities becoming criminalised.

Rapid Response Command Centres are functional, which by the end of this reporting period responded to a total of 89% of the identified potential threats. Also, 20% of the 59 wildlife crime cases have been prosecuted during this reporting period. CBAPUs completed their training and started regular patrols and have conducted a total of 56 patrols. Likewise, PAs received a total of 38 pieces of information from enhanced informant networks.

Three women-led committees are in place to promote ecotourism; the Nepal Tourism Board has engaged with a new ecotourism advertising campaign; and a total of 2.5 million rupees have been provided as seed funds to three vulnerable communities to support the ecotourism enterprises.

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2018-2019

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2018 - March 2019	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact Populations of species threatened by positions and bengal tigers, are secured in tocommunity stewards engaged and benefit	he Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) with	The project contributes to a secure long-term future for tigers and rhinos in WTC, through an increased capacity of park authorities in gathering and sharing intelligence; increased speed of response through the RRUs; and greater coverage of patrols through CBAPUs. Vulnerable communities are actively engaged in conservation, and benefit from soft-loan funds and livelihoods training to provide alternative income from ecotourism.	
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 3 RRUs responding to identified threats in an average of 1.2 hours. 0.2 Zero records of rhino and tiger killings in WTC. 1 case of tiger skin seizure in the adjoining area of Banke National Park, origin of which has not been confirmed. No records of rhino killed, or body parts seized. 0.3 Out of 59 cases registered 20% of wildlife criminals prosecuted in WTC during this reporting period. 0.4 Support provided to 3 ecotourism promotion committees in WTC, one each in buffer zone of Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Parks. 	Facilitate the completion of construction of all three-watch tower Finalise the information sharing and gathering, analysis and archiving procedures. Facilitate to ensure the biannual meeting with all relevant law enforcement agencies. Provide support to three women-led committees to make endowment fund fully functional in all, thus facilitating soft loans to promote ecotourism ventures. Coordinate with relevant authorities to conduct annual meeting with NTCA and DNPWC. Monitor the CBAPU activities and further strengthen their role in WTC to control poaching and IWT.

Activity 1.4 Provide refresher training of trainers in RR techniques to staff from RR units, DNPWC, Nepal Army, BZC and NTNC Activity 1.5 Conduct a meeting of relevant partners to seek agreement to support RRU, ensure effective operation Refresher training conducted in Banke, E staff from national park and protection untechniques. Annex 4.1 The project has facilitated regular meeting stakeholders such as DNPWC, NTNC, Hensure effectiveness. Project staff have	vel. A high-level meeting was organised in by the battalion commanders from all ZSL and NTNC in which all the
Activity 1.4 Provide refresher training of trainers in RR techniques to staff from RR units, DNPWC, Nepal Army, BZC and NTNC Refresher training conducted in Banke, E staff from national park and protection unitechniques. Annex 4.1	
	Bardia and Shukla. A total of 100 frontline nit were provided refresher training in RR
Activity 1.3 Review the status of existing RR units and RR control centres Completed in Year 1.	
Activity 1.2 Collate information received to operationalise the protocol and tailor it to each site	
Activity 1.1 Conduct a workshop to discuss the implementation of the existing RR protocol for park administration and protection unit	
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	
1.3 Automated real-time alerts from remote sensing devices network (e.g. SMS from GSM enabled cameras decamera traps) deployed across	deployed across all three project sites. n response to automated updated with 1.2
	ed. ed comprising the staff from DNPWC and 15 potential threats 14% were identified as ponse teams. A further 75% of these

Activity 1.7 Support deployment of equipment to RRU and provide training in its use		Completed in Year 1.
Activity 1.8 Deploy GSM Camera Traps in previously identified vulnerable locations		GSM enable surveillance cameras to have been deployed in all project sites. Altogether 30 such cameras have been deployed in previously identified vulnerable locations. Banke-10, Bardia-10 and Shukla-10. These cameras are providing crucial information of the illegal activities in those locations. All together during this reporting period, total of 345 alarms have been generated by these in all sites. (Supplementary Document 1)
Activity 1.9 Deploy infra-red alarms and wireless CCTV cameras in known poaching hotspots		Infrared-alarms have been deployed in each site. In Shuklaphanta -5, in Barida-3 and in Banke 3 such devices have been deployed. Wireless CCTV cameras are only deployed in Banke. (Supplementary Document 1)
Activity 1.10 Provide equipment to RR control centres		Equipment such as display screen, mobile phones, rain boots, tents and other information collection equipment has been provided to RR control centres in Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Park. Annex 4.3
Activity 1.11 Provide equipment to existing	ng anti-poaching camps	Planned for Year 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		Information gathering, analysis and archiving procedures have been drafted and are currently under review. This will be endorsed by Q2 of year 3.
Activity 1.14 Monitor and evaluate the RI operating effectively, and adaptively	R network once established to ensure it is	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 CBAPUs appointed and integrated into the PA enforcement process by year 1 2.2 12 additional CBAPUs trained and implementing the SMART patrolling approach in collaboration with the PAs 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 	 2.1 12 additional CBAPUs appointed and integrated into PA enforcement. 2.2 12 additional CBAPUs are conducting regular patrols in collaboration with the PAs after the completion of their training. They conducted a total of 56 patrols, 24 in Shukla, 16 in each in Bardia and Banke. 2.3 Construction work of three 3 watch towers, one each per site has been started, and will be completed in Q2 year 3. 2.4 A total of 56 patrols were conducted by CBAPUs, 24 in Shukla, 16 in each in Bardia and Banke.

2.5 36 community patrols undertaken	
by each CBAPU per year by year 4	
Activity 2.1 Identify 6 (2 per site) communities which are both economically marginalised and vulnerable to poaching	Completed in Year 1.
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).	Completed in Year 2.
Activity 2.3 Construct 3 community watchtowers (1 per site)	Construction of watch tower in Shuklaphanta is near completion while in Banke the construction work has started. However in Bardia the local government (Barbardia Municipality) extended the additional support for watch tower construction. The construction has began and has completed all the prior official process and documentation including the tender process mandatory for the local government. Construction of all three watch towers will be completed by next half yearly report. Annex 4.5
Activity 2.4 Conduct 3 community workshops (1 per site) to reinforce the CBAPU concept and the benefits it offers.	Completed in Year 1.
Activity 2.5 Conduct 12 stakeholder workshops to establish 12 additional CBAPUs (4 per site) in key locations	Completed in Year 1. As a added-value for the project, annual reviews of the newly formed CBAPUs in Banke and Bardia were conducted. During the review workshop, concept of CBAPUs and their role as CBAPUs were highlighted. During the same workshop, a total of 177 youths joined the CBAPUs.
Activity 2.6 Conduct training to CBAPU members targeting anti-poaching and illegal wildlife trade, intelligence gathering and sharing (including SMART training)	A total of 82 CBAPU members were trained in patrolling following the SMART approach: 40 in Banke, 12 in Bardia and 30 in Shuklaphanta. Annex 4.4
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	a. Secure DNPWC database of	a. Wildlife crime database under trial use.	
gathering and sharing and collaboration between relevant Nepal	wildlife crime intelligence gathered by all relevant		
agencies (e.g. DNPWC, BZMC, Nepal Army, Nepal Police, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)) and enhanced transboundary intelligence	agencies under trial use in year	b. Regular intelligence is being collected from local communities and informants, including in adjacent forests. A total 38 pieces of information	
	b. Intelligence gathering from local communities and	(11 in Banke, 21 in Bardia and 15 in Shuklaphanta) have been gathered.	
collaboration.	informants, including in adjacent forest divisions, carried out on monthly basis by year 2	c. Project is coordinating with all relevant agencies in central and site level to hold national annual meetings and biannual site level meetings.	
	c. All relevant Nepal agencies holding annual meetings and biannual site level meetings by year 3		
	d. NTCA and DNPWC holding annual meetings and biannual site level meetings by year 3		
	e. 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 develop a wildlife crime database	relevant enforcement agencies to	Completed in Year 1.	
Activity 3.2 Produce database		Completed in Year 1.	
Activity 3.3 Hold workshop to share the database with relevant enforcement agencies and collect feedback for further improvement		A workshop has been organised in Bardia, attended by the Chief Conservation Officers of Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Parks. During the workshop, the prepared database was shared with Chief Conservation Officer of all three sites (Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Parks) and their feedback was collected for further improvement. Annex 4.6	
Activity 3.4 Designate focal government staff to handle the information and to take responsibility for inputting information into the database		Banke Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Parks have designated focal staff to handle the information with responsibility for inputting information into the database.	
		In Shuklaphanta National Park -Ranger Yam Raut	

		Bardia National Park – Ranger Saroj Khadka	
		Banke National Park – Ranger Khem Oli.	
		have been designated as the focal persons. Annex 4.6	
Activity 3.5 Conduct Intelligence network mapping exercise		Intelligence network mapping exercise was completed in year 1. However, the exercise was repeated in Banke and Bardia National Park to update the map.	
Activity 3.6 Agree procedures to share intelligence collection and information among all relevant enforcement agencies		Planned in Year 3.	
Activity 3.7 Initiate bi-annual meetings between all relevant enforcement agencies		A biannual meeting has been organised among the Chief Conservation Officers from Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Parks in which the attendees shared their operational mechanism and agreed for regular information exchange among Pas to outwit the potential threats of poaching and other wildlife crime. Annex 4.6	
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		Project has supported DNPWC and PAs to recruit informants in all three PAs. Due to sensitivity, the number of informants and their identify have been kept confidential.	
Activity 3.10 Support 6 training workshop local communities in the systematic collectory 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.	a. 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	 a. A total of 70 households in the buffer zones of Banke and Shuklaphanta national parks trained in alternative livelihood in year 1. Further training planned in Year 3. b. Representatives of communities and tourism experts (including the Nepal Tourism Board) attended a workshop and agreed on roadside hoarding boards, brochures, food festivals, etc for an advertising campaign for tourism. 	
	and driving) with marginalised groups prioritised for administrative and home-based skills by year 1. 120 households by year 3 b. Western Terai Complex tourism advertising campaign	c. Three endowments funds have been established one each in the buffer zone of Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Park to provide soft loans to the members of vulnerable communities to start ecotourism ventures. Two of these funds have started providing soft-loans and one at Shuklaphanta will be providing this by Q1 of year 3.	

Activity 4.1 Conduct community workshop		Completed in Year 1.
livelihood opportunities in key vulnerable communities		
Activity 4.2 Conduct 6 workshops (2 per sprovide skills training to 120 households i		Completed in Year 1.
provide skins training to 120 households in identified alternative livelinoods		Second phase of training planned in year 3 as planned in proposal.
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.		A women-led committee in the buffer zone of Banke has been established, and the project has provided Rs 920,000 to facilitate soft-loans to support members start ecotourism enterprise. Likewise, an endowment fund of Rs 1 million is in place for a women-led group in Gobrell Village (Buffer Zone of Bardia National Park) to facilitate soft loans for members to operate homestays. Likewise, a committee has been formed in Shuklaphanta to sustainably manage a endowment fund and have been provided with endowment fund of amount 0.5 million rupees. Annex 4.7
Activity 4.5 Stakeholder meeting with BZC representatives and the Nepal Tourism Board to produce ecotourism advertising campaign for WTC		A workshop was organised in Banke attended by the representative of Buffer Zone Committees from all three project sites, representatives from Nepal Tourism Board (NTB), local governments, Homestay Association Nepal, NTNC and ZSL. During the workshop, various ways of promoting ecotourism in WTC was discussed. Hoarding boards, contents of brochures, ecotourism expo promoting cuisines of different indigenous groups are decided to be produced or organised for promoting ecotourism. NTB have committed to produce ecotourism

	advertising campaign for WTC. They have already started supporting the ecotourism ventures established through project's support. Annex 4.9
Activity 4.6 Establish cooperative ecotourism venture across the WTC to coordinate and facilitate the growth of ecotourism, and ensure fair benefits sharing	Three cooperative ecotourism ventures one each in all three project sites has been established to facilitate the growth of ecotourism. Funds have been provided to these ecotourism ventures under activity 4.4. Annex 4.8
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 is being conducted. The report will be prepared and shared during next reporting period. The annual socioeconomic report from year 1 is attached as Supplementary document 3.

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 https://lww.nwigness.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	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	 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	

ecotourism-related economic opportunities.

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

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 antipoaching 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 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	2.1 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 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	 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 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 homebased 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 cooperative, by year 2. Conducted internationally by year 4.

- 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 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 biannual 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

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

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to iwt-Fund@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the subject line.	$\sqrt{}$
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