

## Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Project Reporting Information Note”: (<https://iwt.challengefund.org.uk/resources/information-notes/> ).

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

**Submission Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

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### IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWT081
Project title	Enabling and promoting communities to tackle IWT in Southern Myanmar
Country/ies	Myanmar
Lead Partner	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
Project partner(s)	Freeland, KFD, Myeik University
IWTCF grant value	£380,725
Start/end dates of the project	01/07/2020 to 31/03/2023
Reporting period (e.g., April 2022-Mar 2023) and number (e.g., Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2022 to March 2023  Annual Report 3
Project Leader name	Saw Soe Aung, Ngwe Lwin
Project website/blog/social media	<a href="http://www.fauna-flora.org">www.fauna-flora.org</a>
Report author(s) and date	Saw Soe Aung Pyae Sone Aung 30.04.2023

### 1. Project summary

Southern Tanintharyi, on the Myanmar-Thailand border, is one of Myanmar’s last strongholds for globally threatened species including the tiger, Asian elephant, and Sunda pangolin. All are threatened by poaching and illegal trade, primarily across the border into Thailand. In response, FFI is supporting six local communities along key trade routes to help address these threats, in exchange for support in developing sustainable livelihoods and improved resource management. This will be complemented by improved law enforcement.

The expected outcome is for effective law enforcement and community-led stewardship that successfully deters poaching of target species for IWT in Tanintharyi, supported by stronger transboundary law enforcement.

Approximately 360 households in six villages (No’s 3, 5 and 8, Ywahilu, 14 Mile and Pyigyimandai) will benefit from, gaining legally recognised rights and responsibilities to manage wildlife resources, reduced impacts of Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC), self-selected community

and household-level benefits that enable livelihood diversification, and improved relations with authorities that help them to uphold those rights and responsibilities over wildlife resources.



Fig (1) Project location: The project site lies within two townships in Myeik and Kawthoung Districts in Tanintharyi Division and is using a community and civil society-driven approach to address local wildlife trade and consumption, and to reduce hunting pressure.

## 2. Project stakeholders/ partners

**Village Development Committees (VDCs)** act as umbrella bodies for village governance and have been used by FFI, since their establishment in 2017, to institutionalise community conservation and livelihood development activities and link them more directly to the actions of Village Conservation Groups (VCGs), which we hope the VDCs will manage in the medium-term. During the reporting period, we consulted with all of those on the project 'long list' and based on

those discussions and the limitations imposed by Covid-19 we identified six project focal villages: No's 3, 5, and 8, Ywahilu, 14 Mile and Pyigyimandai. During the project, we undertook further institutional development for the VDCs, on improved/sustainable livelihoods, small grants management and empowerment.

**The Forest Department (FD)** is very hierarchical, and local FD staff, with whom we interact most often, are often not given much autonomy from the regional and central levels. However, due initially to Covid-19 restrictions and then to security issues created by the military coup, in February 2021, we have had little contact with senior levels of FD, and so have necessarily focused efforts at the local level. We held discussions with local FD representatives during the project inception period in July 2020 and were able to gain their support for the legal registration of VDCs (see above) as community-based organizations. We were also able to discuss with them the nature of the hunting control measures to be implemented by the committees, and the sustainable livelihood activities that the project would support. Lastly, the FD is also represented in the nascent wildlife enforcement network, which is centrally mandated to bring together all the government agencies that have a role in curbing the illegal wildlife-trade; this includes FD, the general administration department (i.e., local government), customs, and police. We joined one of the Tanintharyi group's first meetings, in 2020, and introduced the project, sharing results of previous market monitoring surveys, and began to formulate plans to close wildlife markets, especially those on the main road to Thailand.

**The Karen Forest Department (KFD)** has run several wildlife protection units throughout its area of jurisdiction, mostly in Karen State, but, working with FFI, was able to establish a new group based out of a village near Pyigyimandaion, on the main Myeik-Kawthaung road in 2019. During the project period, we prepared a sub-grant for this group to operate patrols in the project area, and KFD undertook staff training and provided them with equipment. They also participated in human rights training in 2019, organised by WWF as part of a wider collaboration to improve safeguards and standards within the KFD. The training was provided by the highly respected Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG), with WWF funding the course preparation and trainers, and the project supporting the participation of the Wildlife Protection Units (WPU) from the project area. During the reporting period, KFD completed the sub-grant for patrolling operations with FFI. Although the sub-grant support has ended, FFI maintains regular contact with KFD for future collaborations in conservation efforts.

**Freeland** is a frontline counter-trafficking organisation established in Southeast Asia in 2000. Their team of law enforcement, development and communications specialists work alongside partners in Asia, Africa, and the Americas to protect the environment and vulnerable people from organised crime and corruption. They have three main areas of expertise; training for law enforcement officials, communications aimed to reduce consumer demand for wildlife products, and protected area support projects. Within this project, FFI has been collaborating with Freeland to improve transboundary monitoring, communication and information sharing for law enforcement between Myanmar and Thailand in the project area. In particular, Freeland is the main point of communication with Thai forest protection authorities in Chumphon Province, directly opposite Lenya Reserved Forest. Freeland also completed a sub-grant with FFI for patrolling operations during the reporting period. Although the sub-grant support has ended, FFI maintains regular contact with Freeland for future collaborations in conservation efforts.

**Myeik University** was strongly affected by the pandemic, which led to restrictions on class sizes and our ability to meet with this partner. After the coup, the university was temporarily closed and has remained that way. Therefore, no wildlife market monitoring was undertaken in this reporting period. Nevertheless, we remain in-touch with individuals from the University and may be able to undertake monitoring activities, such as online and physical wildlife trade market surveys of tiger-prey species availability and consumption, with specific individual researchers that we have established working relationships with.

After the two-party agreement with the university ended, the process of working with Myeik University has stopped due to the contract not being extended.

### 3. Project progress

#### 3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

##### **Activities 1.1 Support six community VDCs to gain legal recognition and agree on VDC-level commitments including zero-tolerance to poaching and IWT, linked to livelihoods support.**

The unstable political situation in the country has led to delays in several planned activities, including the support for obtaining six community VDC-level commitments. During the reporting period, this support was suspended due to concerns expressed by some villagers over the potential repercussions of registering with government and associations. Additionally, given the worsening political situation, some villagers were unwilling to engage with government departments altogether.

##### **Activities 1.2 Establish, train and support VDC-level Village Conservation Groups (VCG; self-titled rotation of community steward teams, approximately 10/village) to undertake strategic SMART patrolling in village forests to monitor, deter and report IWT and HEC, and remove snares.**

The activities detailed below were completed during the reporting period in cooperation with VCG groups, despite the bad political situation.

During the reporting period, our staff and members of VCGs carried out patrols in two areas, namely the Yuzana and Ywahilu areas. The objective of patrolling to those area was to monitor any illegal activities involving elephants. Those areas are particularly prone to human-elephant conflict (HEC), and monitoring for such activity is essential in mitigating this conflict. **During the April and May** period, we encountered two species of mammal (White-handed Gibbon and 7 or 8 individuals of Dusky Langur). Fortunately, we did not encounter any signs of elephant threats, except for some small-scale lead mining and one old pangolin net. We removed and destroyed the net to prevent any potential harm to wildlife.

In Ywahilu, a tiger breeding area, **during the July-December period**, FFI staff and five Village Conservation Group (VCG) teams conducted patrols in this area, covering a total distance of 108 kilometres in 25 days (136 working hours). Threats to wildlife and illegal activities were recorded, including 73 wildlife observations (monkeys, birds, mammals and reptiles), two cases of encroachment and one snare (immediately destroyed by the patrol team). During the patrolling period, we found no sign of tiger, pangolin or elephant trade, or other illegal activities. All data collected by the FFI teams are entered into the SMART software database and analysed.

Furthermore, we regularly send monthly reports to the Forestry Department located near our project area to keep them informed about the ground situation and the threats faced by the wildlife. These reports also highlight ways to deal with the threats in the future.

In the Ywahil area, a tiger and tiger-prey camera-trap survey has been ongoing to detect the tiger population and illegal activities. With the support of VCG, a total of 10 permanent camera traps have been deployed in four-grid cells, with each cell measuring 4km x 4km. During patrolling in July and September 2022, the FFI team worked alongside the Chaung Nyauk Pyan VCG to inspect camera traps, change batteries, and SD cards.

Based on the camera-trap results, a total of 36 species, including mammals, birds, and reptiles, were recorded, with all target species (tiger, elephant, and pangolin) being among them. Additionally, seven prey species of interest were recorded, including gaur, sambar, Chinese serow, muntjac species, wild pig, Malayan tapir, and mouse deer species. Of these species, one is listed as Critically Endangered, six are Endangered, nine are Vulnerable, and three are Near Threatened, according to the IUCN Red List.

To increase the long-term capacity of VCG groups, reduce human-elephant conflict (HEC), and understand the elephant population, FFI signed a three-month contract with an elephant technician from January to March. During this time, the technician surveyed the HEC conflict area and provided practical training to the VCG team in January 2023. The training focused on how

to conduct interviews with people affected by HEC, with the aim of enabling the VCG team to work independently on HEC activities in the future.

In February 2023, our team collaborated with the Village Conservation Group (VCG) from Chaung Nyauk Pyan to install five camera traps in the Yuzana area. This was done to assess the current threat of elephants and determine their population in the area.

In March 2023, our elephant technician provided training to two VCG members on how to compile human-elephant conflict (HEC) data and supported them in the systematic distribution of an HEC awareness program to local communities facing HEC.

**Activities 1.3 Support VDCs to consult their community to democratically identify and implement priority livelihood diversification at community and household-levels, e.g., animal husbandry, home vegetable gardens, cash crops, and/or vocational training.**

During the 3rd reporting period of the project's 3rd year (April 2022 to March 2023), the livelihood development and small grants programme provided small grants to eleven local village communities residing within the boundaries of Lenya Reserved Forest. The purpose of the programme was to monitor and protect wildlife and reduce wildlife crime by promoting community-based networks through improving livelihood opportunities of local villagers.

The eleven village groups that participated in the programme were Chaung Nauk Pyan 1, Chaung Nauk Pyan 2, Nan Taung 1, Nan Taung 2, 4 Mile 1, 4 Mile 2, 4 Mile 3, Pyigyimandai 1, Chaung La Mu 1, Chaung La Mu 2, and Chaung La Mu 3. A total of 189 households benefited from the programme, including 147 female business leaders. See in report 9 (Annex 3)

All the households invested their awarded grants in various income-generating activities, including animal husbandry, home vegetable gardens, small grocery shops, and cash crops. These activities aimed to reduce their dependency on the forest and wildlife products. The programme helped to promote sustainable livelihoods for the local villagers while also contributing to wildlife conservation efforts in the Lenya Reserved Forest.

After receiving the grants, the benefiting households began their businesses in the following month. However, due to the unstable political situation, the grant award dates coincided with the end of the project year, and progress monitoring was impacted. Therefore, the project team is currently conducting ongoing monitoring to track the progress of the businesses.

In coordination with the village development committees (VDC), the project team plans to submit complete monitoring results by conducting socioeconomic endline survey in the next reporting period. The monitoring process will evaluate the impact of the grants on the livelihoods of the beneficiaries, their level of participation in the program, and the sustainability of their businesses. Detail project information is shown in table (1).

Table (1). Summary of livelihood support by the project

<b>Project Year</b>	<b>Year 3 (April 2022 to March 2023)</b>
<b>Number of villages/ village groups</b>	11
<b>Total Benefited households</b>	189
<b>Direct beneficiaries (Male)</b>	260
<b>Direct beneficiaries (Female)</b>	254
<b>Direct beneficiaries (Total)</b>	514
<b>Male business leader</b>	42
<b>Female business leader</b>	147
<b>Total grant up to</b>	38,500,000 MMK (Est 15,015 GBP)
<b>Maximum grant size per household</b>	200,000 MMK (Est 78 GBP)
<b>VDC general expenditures and other documental costs</b>	700,000 MMK (Est 273 GBP)

<b>Invested amount for businesses</b>	37,800,000 MMK (Est 14,742 GBP)
<b>Gross Income from the businesses</b>	453,000 MMK (Est 176.67 GBP)
<b>Monitoring period (Month)- Maximum</b>	4 months (On-going)
<b>Business situation</b>	100% Active and continue
<b>Grant types (Focal Area Distribution)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Animal husbandry</li> <li>- Home Vegetable Garden</li> <li>- Cash crops</li> <li>- Small Grocery Shop</li> </ul>
<b>Technical support and Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Livestock Training</li> <li>- Agriculture Training</li> <li>- Financial management training</li> <li>- Grant Management Training</li> <li>- Gender Equality Training</li> </ul>
<b>Monitoring method</b>	Participatory assessments

#### **Activities 1.4 Support VDC-level oversight and management to implement small grant schemes to enable livelihood diversification**

During the reporting period from April 2022 to March 2023, financial management and accounting training, as well as organizational procedures and progress monitoring training, were provided to each of the eleven village development committees. This training aimed to ensure the smooth implementation of project activities and empower the local communities.

In addition, agriculture training, livestock training, and gender equality training were also provided based on the needs of the local communities. A total of 330 participants took part in these trainings, with 138 male participants and 192 female participants.

The training sessions aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of the participants in the areas of financial management, accounting, organizational procedures, progress monitoring, agriculture, livestock rearing, and gender equality. By equipping the participants with these essential skills, they were better able to manage their businesses, identify and address challenges, and promote gender equality in their communities. Detail training information is shown in table (2).

Table (2) List of trainings

No.	Categories	Participants		
		Male	Female	Total
1.	Livestock Training	8	10	18
2.	Gender Equality Training	10	16	26
3.	Agriculture Training	9	13	22
4.	Organizational Procedures	37	51	88
5.	Progress Monitoring	37	51	88
6.	Financial Management and Accounting	37	51	88
	Total	138	192	330

### Activities 1.5 Train VCGs in Human Elephant Conflict (HEC) mitigation and establish an early warning system for HEC avoidance.

To address HEC in the long-term, our three target communities and volunteer focal points in each village are in regular contact with project staff and FFI's village facilitator, or the nearest FD post, via telephone, providing up-to-date information on elephant observations and/or HEC events.

In terms of patrolling, our FFI team collaborated with the Village Conservation Group (VCG) from Chaung Nyauk Pyan to patrol two areas outside of the Lenya Reserved Forest, with a particular focus on HEC hotspots. We were able to conduct patrols during the reporting period from April to May 2022, but due to the political situation, we were unable to continue patrolling beyond this period.

During our patrols, we did not observe any signs of elephant threats, aside from some small-scale lead mining and an old pangolin net, which we removed and destroyed.

Unfortunately, on 30 September 2022, an elderly man from Chaung Mon village was killed by elephants that were thought to be in "musth," a state of heightened hormone levels associated with the breeding season. Similarly, on 13 November 2022, two elephants in the Yuzana Oil Palm plantation were killed by electric shock.

To estimate the elephant population in the HEC area, the elephant technician starts to survey using two methods (Interview survey and camera trap survey method) in January, February and March 2023. Based on our estimates from both methods, we guesstimated the elephant population to be around 70-80 individuals, including juveniles and cubs, during the reporting period. To mitigate the HEC, our elephant technician provided HEC awareness training in two villages (War Chaung and Bodar Village) that are suffering from HEC accidents in February and March 2023. In HEC awareness training, 80 people from two villages attended and we distributed over 90 HEC booklets (see Annex 3 in the report 3 and 4). Additionally, on 23 March 2023, we replaced two HEC-mitigation signboards that had become faded and damaged.

In addition, FFI maintains a network of volunteers comprising 8 individuals who provide updated information on HEC cases through various means such as phone calls and Viber. This ensures that FFI is always informed of the latest HEC incidents in the area. (Table 2).

Table (3); human-elephant conflicts during the reporting period.

No	Date (DD/MM/YY)	Condition	No. of elephant	No. of people	Location	Conflicts	Remark
1	13-Mar-22	Crop-raiding			Wartin village	None	
2	12-Mar-22	Crop-raiding	1		Lenya village	None	
3	25-May-22	Crop-raiding	1		Chaung Mom village	None	
4	25-May-22	Crop-raiding	3		Chaung Mom village	Crop damage	Betel Nut tree
5	25-May-22	Crop-raiding	2		War Chaung village	Crop damage	Betel Nut tree
6	20-Aug-22	Crop-raiding	1		Pan Mone Chaung village	Crop damage	Betel Nut tree
7	1-Aug-22	Crop-raiding	1		Wartin village	Crop damage	

8	7-Aug-22	Crop-raiding	15-20		Chaung Mom village	Crop damage	
9	28-Aug-22	Crop-raiding	2		Chaung Mom village	Crop damage	Male and Female
10	15-Aug-22	Crop-raiding	5		Chaung Mom village	Crop damage	
11	10-Sep-22	Crop-raiding	5-10		Pan Mone Chaung village	Crop damage	Betel
	20-Sep-22	Crop-raiding	5-10		Chaung Mom village	Crop damage	8 individuals of elephants arrived (Arca 300 Areas)
12	21-Sep-22	Crop-raiding	1		War Chaung village	Crop damage	Male Elephant with Colar crop raiding main Road
13	19-Oct-22	Attacking		1	Chaung Mom village	Human died	Elephant killed by Human (Male)
14	22-Nov-22	Attacking		1	Lay Ywar village	Human died	Elephant killed by Human (Male)
15	13-Nov-22	Accident	2		Yuzana plantation	2 Elephant killed	By electricity shock (Yuzana Company)
16	7-Dec-22	Crop-raiding	10-15		Wartin village	Crop damage	12 individuals Elephant (Thet Nay Myo)
17	21-Jan-23	Crop-raiding	4		Bodar village	Crop damage	Betel Nut tree
18	23-Jan-23	Crop-raiding	1		War Chaung village	Crop damage	Betel Nut tree
19	4-Feb-23	Crop-raiding	2		War Chaung village	Crop damage	Betel Nut tree
20	8-Feb-23	Crop-raiding	5-10		Pan Mone Chaung village	Crop damage	Betel Nut tree t/ Cycle Motorbike
21	15-Feb-23	Crop-raiding	4		War Chaung village	Crop damage	Elephant Destroy Water Pipe (Ko Aung Bo)
22	15-Feb-23	Crop-raiding	1		Wartin village	Crop damage	Betel Nut tree
23	12-Mar-23	Crop-raiding	1		Ye Ngan Gyi village	Crop damage	Betel Nut tree

**Activities 2.1 Support newly established KFD ten-person WPU to undertake strategic, intelligence-led patrolling using SMART and CyberTracker software**



In 2022, FFI supported KFD for 6 months with wildlife monitoring in the Lenya area, starting from July to December. However, due to fighting between government and rebel forces and funding delays, FFI granted KFD a two-month extension to implement the patrol activities. (in report 2 (Annex 3). The following table is based on reports provided by KFD on the activities of the Lenya Wildlife Protection Unit (WPU) as part of their sub-grant. The reports recorded several species and signs of human activity.

Table (4): Summary of patrol data (Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec 2022 & January, February 2023)

Patrol Period	No. of people	No. of Patrol	Observation	
			Direct observation	Indirect observation
12-24/09/2022	9	13	33 wildlife observations (monkeys, birds, mammals and reptiles), 32 rare and endangered tree species	Elephant Track, porcupine track, Pangolin track, Gaur Track, Tapir, Muntjac species track, Wild pig track and Claw mark of Bear, four cases of human activity (hunter camp, old and new hut, gun shots)
10-22/10/2022	9	12		
11-22/11/2022	9	11	Gibbon song and calling of dusky langur	wild pig, poacher's hut, bear scratches, muntjac, guar, banteng, the elephant with juvenile, tapir and pangolin track
10-22/12/2022	9	12	20 wildlife observations (monkeys, birds, mammals and reptiles), 25 rare and endangered tree species	wild pig, poacher's hut, bear scratches, guar, banteng,
17-28/01/2023	9	12	20 wildlife observations (monkeys, birds, mammals and reptiles), 20 rare and endangered tree species	wild pig, poacher's hut, bear scratches, muntjac, guar, banteng, and
14-25/02/2023	7	13	15 wildlife observations (monkeys, birds, mammals and reptiles), 4 rare and endangered tree species	Pangolin track, Gaur Track, Tapir, Muntjac species track, Wild pig track and Claw mark of Bear



Fig (2) KFD SMART patrolling photos

**Activities 2.2 with all stakeholders, co-establish a mechanism for community members to document and report illegal activity to VCGs, FD and KFD, including building trust, shared identity and ownership, and overcoming barriers to reporting**

On 3 April 2022, the FFI project team, including Bokeyyin Township Forestry Department (BFD), erected three noticeboards, to warn people of the dangers associated with elephants crossing the road, at main points of entry to focal townships, and notices of the wildlife law, and the species it protects, to help reduce illegal wildlife trade (IWT).

To ensure the safety of government and departmental staff, on June 14, 2022, an online IWT workshop, was held with the Forestry Department of Tanintharyi Township. In the workshop, attended by 11 departments, including VCGs, we discussed township-level wildlife law enforcement plans to combat IWT. In the workshop, Myeik University, BFD and the VCGs presented how they have worked together with FFI to reduce IWT and support environmental protection.

The departments and village groups who attended the workshop formed groups (3) and discussed the next steps. After gathering all the presentations from the three (3) groups, the next steps are described in the table below.

Table (5); IWT workshop decision for the next step activities (Tanintharyi District)

No	Activities	Places	Period	Departments or Organization	Remark
1	Conducting Awareness raising	Chaung La Mu Village	July, September, October and November	Village administration group and related departments; INGOs/NGOs	At least once a month

2	Installation of warning signs	Crowded areas and project areas; (market/restaurant/intersection/city entrance)	Faster action will be more effective.	Forest/municipality/relevant governmental staffs, NGOs, INGOs	
3	Issuing hunting licenses and restricting hunting areas	All Reserved Forest	Faster action will be more effective.	Forest Department, GAD and relevant Village leader	According to the current tradition, the government department has not yet announced the issue of hunting licenses and hunting areas.
4	Identify and take action against shops/persons who trade in wildlife products	Maw Taung border / related villages where the project is implemented	Faster action will be more effective.	Police, FD, and relevant Village Leader	
5	Providing alternative activities to eliminate hunting	villages where the project is implemented	Faster action will be more effective.	FFI / FD and relevant village leader	

On the 13th of November 2022, out of the 5 points above, point 2 was implemented in cooperation with the Tanintharyi Division Forestry Department, and the following implementation processes were carried out in Chaung La Mu, Chaung Nyauk Pyan Village and Tanintharyi Townships.



Fig ( 3) online IWT workshop, was held with the Forestry Department of Tanintharyi Township

During the project period, FFI conducted several workshops in collaboration with the Forestry Department to raise awareness about its processes and activities and reduce illegal wildlife trade (IWT) in the project area. Three townships were selected to hold workshops on IWT prevention, and the last one, Kawthaung City, held its workshop on February 28, 2022. The workshop was attended by 11 departments, including the Village Conservation Group (VCG).

At the workshop, Myeik University, BFD, and VCGs presented how they have worked with FFI to reduce IWT and support environmental protection. BFD and Myeik University also presented their activities online. However, due to the unstable political situation, the Forestry Department requested that the results of the workshop be suspended but will report the workshop results to the General Administration immediately and will implement once the situation has stabilized.

The results obtained from the workshop held in Kawthaung Township are as follows.

Table (6); IWT workshop decision for the next step activities ( Kawthaung District)

No	Activities	Places	Period	Departments or Organization
1	Poster, Signboard, Wildlife Law (2018)	Junction, Road, restaurant, (Ka Mouk Gyi and villages were close to the Parchan and Lenya Reserved Forest	Due to the current political situation, we will proceed with the consultation process with the township general manager.	Forest/municipality/relevant governmental staffs, NGOs, INGOs
2	Awareness raising,	Junction, Road, restaurant, (Ka Mouk Gyi and villages were close to the Parchan and Lenya Reserved Forest	Due to the current political situation, we will proceed with the consultation process with the township general manager.	Forest/municipality/relevant governmental staffs, NGOs, INGOs
3	Warning signs; Handouts	Junction, Road, restaurant, (Ka Mouk Gyi and villages were close to the Parchan and Lenya Reserved Forest	Due to the current political situation, we will proceed with the consultation process with the township general manager.	Forest/municipality/relevant governmental staffs, NGOs, INGOs
4	Warning signs; Handouts	Ban Ka Chaung and Maliwon area (The priority)	Due to the current political situation, we will proceed with the consultation process with the township general manager.	Forest/municipality/relevant governmental staffs, NGOs, INGOs
5	Warning signs; Handouts	85 Mile area of bus junction (The priority)	Due to the current political situation, we will proceed with the consultation process with the township general manager.	Forest/municipality/relevant governmental staffs, NGOs, INGOs
6	Warning signs; Handouts	Ka Mouk Gyi (The priority)	Due to the current political situation, we will proceed with the consultation process with the township general manager.	Forest/municipality/relevant governmental staffs, NGOs, INGOs

7	Warning signs; Handouts	Kaw Thaug Township and Pa Lone Tone Tone and main centres	Due to the current political situation, we will proceed with the consultation process with the township general manager.	Forest/municipality/relevant governmental staffs, NGOs, INGOs
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Fig (4 ) IWT workshop, was held with the Forestry Department of Kawthaung Township

**Activities 2.3 Work with FD and KFD to develop and pilot standardized systems for joint monitoring and analysis of all project data on IWT occurrences and trends, for planning and sharing with police.**

In Myanmar, the military coup that took place in early 2021 has resulted in continued conflict, with attacks and military activities increasing compared to the previous year. As a result, there is no possibility of cooperation with FD and KFD for joint monitoring and analysis of all project data during the reporting period and sharing project data to the police as well. In other words, due to the political situation, the security of both sides' employees is also taken into serious consideration.

**Activities 2.4 Establish VCG representation in the Tanintharyi Region Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force (WLET), e.g., on planning and enforcement actions**

Before COVID-19 and the military takeover, there were 2 VCG groups in the project area, but now, due to the political situation, only one group is currently able to actively participate in environmental protection activities with the FFI team.

The first meeting of the Tanintharyi Region Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force (WLET) on planning and implementation activities was held on August 25th in Bokeyyin Township, but the VCG team could not attend at that time. However, the VCG team was able to participate in the second IWT workshop held in Tanintharyi Township and the third workshop held in Kawthaung Township. In the workshop, VCG presented the cooperation process with FFI and the process to be done in the future. Based on these processes and future work, mutual trust between the Wildlife Law Enforcement Working Group (WLET) and the VCG has now been further strengthened in environmental conservation.

**Activities 2.5 Work with Freeland to build relationships and systematic cooperation and sharing of actionable information between FD, KFD, Tanintharyi Regional WLET, and Thai Authorities.**

Based on reports provided by Freeland on their activities as part of the sub-grant, they undertook the following work to deliver on Activity 2.5, as appropriate in the current political circumstances (see Annex 3 in full report (1))

Activities during this phase of the project are slightly different from last year's, which is mostly about creating a better awareness of the challenges facing the three SDNK-protected areas. This time, work is aimed to resolve the previously identified challenges by fostering better connections with responsible law enforcement agencies and closer relationships with local communities.

Activities included the following;

- Engaging LE stakeholders through regular meetings
- Community outreach to schools and communities in and adjacent to Sadej Naikrom
- Purchase new wildlife survey cameras
- Servicing wildlife survey cameras to monitor key wildlife species and threats
- Servicing Spartan GSM poacher-monitoring cameras (Cell data and uploading to on-line database) including daily monitoring of on-line images and mentoring of rapid response rangers to interdict poachers as images are received.

They were able to secure additional matching funding which supported enforcement training for 25 rangers from all three Sadej Naikrom Wildlife Sanctuaries. Several additional training activities in the use of GSM cameras were also conducted.

**Activities 3.1 Develop recommendations based on field experience, evaluation and learning for community engagement in enforcing Myanmar's biodiversity and forest laws in concert with authorities**

Due to the current political situation, there is tension between the authorities and the community in some areas of activity, and it was not possible to continue these activities together during the reporting period.

### **Activities 3.2 Share recommendations from practical field experience of community-level responses to IWT with key stakeholders in Myanmar and at relevant national, regional and international forums.**

Even though no activities were planned during the reporting period, we are planning these activities to share with community-level, at relevant national and regional forums at the end of the project.

## **3.2 Progress towards project Outputs**

### **Output 1: Six target communities take actions to address IWT due to the creation and retention of livelihood benefits and human-elephant conflict (HEC) management.**

Between March and December 2022, our team was able to conduct regular checks and patrols in the Ywarhilu area, where tiger breeding has been recorded. However, due to the deteriorating political situation, our camera and patrol activities have been suspended since the beginning of 2023. Despite this, we were still able to carry out livelihood activities between 2022 and 2023.

Due to the security situation, our team was unable to monitor and access some areas, specifically Yatanpone and Ywahilu. However, despite these limitations, we were still able to provide livelihood support to 11 village groups, including Chaung Nyauk Pyan 2, Nan Taung 1, Nan Tuang 2, 4 miles 1, 4 miles 2, 4 miles 3, Pyigyimandi 1, Chaung La Mu 1, Chaung La Mu 2, and Chaung La Mu 3, in the 4 miles, Nantaung, Chaung Nyauk Pyan, and Chaung Lamu areas. This support was provided during the third reporting period, and it is part of our efforts to address the root causes of illegal wildlife trade by promoting sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

To combat illegal wildlife trade, we conducted an IWT workshop on July 13, 2022, in Tanintharyi township. The workshop was attended by 11 departments and the VCG team from Chaung Nyauk Pyan Village. As a result of the workshop, four wildlife law signboards were erected in the Tanintharyi Area.

Similarly, on February 27, 2023, we conducted an IWT workshop in Kawthaung township, which was attended by seven departments, including the VCG.

To mitigate human-elephant conflict (HEC), we erected two warning signboards in Kyauk Gyi and War Chaung Village on March 24, 2023.

Additionally, on February 24 and March 27, 2023, our organization and elephant technicians provided HEC awareness training in two villages - War Chaung and Bodar Village - where there is a higher frequency of HEC conflicts. A total of 45 participants attended the training in War Chaung, while 50 participants attended the training in Bodar Village. We believe that this kind of training is crucial for reducing HEC and promoting peaceful coexistence between humans and elephants.

### **Output 2: Improved law enforcement capacity and effectiveness resulting from improved collaboration and communication between communities and enforcement authorities.**

During the third reporting period, the political situation in the project area continued to deteriorate, surpassing the challenges faced during the previous annual report. As a result, Government Department's staff have to comply with a township order that restricted Government Department's staff movements to within their township. This limitation made it impossible to engage in activities that involved direct cooperation between communities and authorities. Despite these challenges, our team remained committed to promoting sustainable livelihoods and addressing illegal wildlife trade through alternative means, such as livelihood support to local communities and workshops on the prevention of wildlife crime.

### **Output 3: Approach and learn from community-level responses to IWT documented and shared nationally (and globally) to promote replication in Myanmar.**

No activities were planned during the reporting period.

### **3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome**

The project outcome is: “Effective law enforcement and community-led stewardship deter poaching of target species for IWT in Tanintharyi, supported by stronger transboundary law enforcement.”

#### **0.1 Tiger and elephant populations in the project location are recorded as stable throughout the project period.**

According to our records, there are 22 tigers in Myanmar, out of which 8 were present in our project area. In the second year report, we described 8 tigers that were recorded on camera traps in the 2018-2019 period. However, after the military coup in 2021, restricted areas were set up by the authorities and ethnic armed groups, and the camera traps we had set up were located in these restricted areas, leading to their withdrawal. We only set up camera traps in areas authorized by the authorities. In the 2021 record, only 2 tigers were recorded, and the same number was recorded in 2022. By the end of 2022, only 3 out of the 8 tigers recorded in the past had been re-recorded. Throughout the project, there were no records of illegal activities or hunters on the camera traps. Based on the camera trap data in Year 3, the tiger population in the project area does not seem to have decreased.

Once the political situation stabilizes, we plan to consult with KFD and FD to re-install camera traps in areas where tigers have been recorded in the past or where it was previously restricted due to the political situation. This will be done in accordance with the project's objectives to stabilize the tiger population.

Since the beginning of the project, we have been recording elephants on camera traps. However, due to the absence of an elephant population survey in the project area, we are unable to provide an accurate estimate of the elephant population. At the start of the project, there were reports of illegal poaching and some elephant deaths were recorded. In Year 3, the death rate of elephants was higher than in Year 2. Nevertheless, according to our current camera trap records, the number of elephants has increased.

In an effort to estimate the number of elephants in the HEC (human-elephant conflict) area, FFI contracted with an elephant technician to conduct a survey. Based on the technician's report, it is estimated that there are between 60-80 elephants in the HEC area. In both Year 2 and Year 3, there were no records of illegal poaching of elephants, but accidental deaths of elephants were recorded.

Given this situation, we plan to conduct a systematic field survey next year to estimate the population of elephants in the project area accurately.

#### **0.2 The number of incidents of poaching (e.g., individuals or equipment seen) per unit patrol effort was reduced by 50% by project end from the Y1 baseline.**

At the start of the project in 2019, we collaborated with the Forestry Department (FD) to conduct a snare removal campaign in the Ywahilu area. The campaign involved an agreement with local people and the assistance of hunters to remove traps from the forest. In Ywahilu village, we provided livelihood support to hunters, which resulted in a decrease in the number of traps in the area.

Similarly, restrictions imposed by authorities and local ethnic revolutionary forces due to the impact of COVID-19 and the political situation in Myanmar led to a significant reduction in traps during Year 3.

In fact, only two traps were recovered from the forest in Y3 compared to 40 in Y2 and 61 in Y1. This could be attributed to a decrease in local residents' involvement in hunting as a result of our project activities. It may also be due to the current government restrictions, which could be discouraging hunters from entering the forest.

#### **0.3 At least a 50% increase in the number of both men and women in target communities who are engaged in wildlife stewardship or active support of law enforcement from the Y1 baseline.**



According to the project's Year 1 base line, a total of 23 people (15 people from Chaung Nyauk Pyan VCG and 8 people from Ywahilu area) are involved in patrolling in the project area. However, due to Covid-19 and the military coup in Year 2, some patrol areas were restricted. As a result, the Ywahilu patrol team no longer participated, but only patrolled with Chaung Nyauk Pyan team. Therefore, Year 2 was not as successful as expected. Compared to Year 1, Year 2 is a 50% drop-in active support of law enforcement participation, less than expected because of political instability. In any case, to achieve the goal according to the Year 1 baseline and to actively support law enforcement, during the reporting period of Year3, we provided animal husbandry (Chicken and Pig), home vegetable gardens, small grocery shops and cash crops to target communities' that are directly dependent on the forest, including hunters in 11 villages. In addition, we provided technical support training (Livestock training, Agriculture training, Gender Equality training, financial management and accounting training, organizational procedures and progress monitoring training). During the reporting period, FFI provided effective training to women, enabling them to actively participate in wildlife management by providing information. Additionally, project staff and departments conducted law enforcement and wildlife conservation education programs that resulted in the rescue of 5 endangered pangolins in the targeted project area.

As a result of these efforts, we anticipate a 50% increase in the number of men and women actively involved in wildlife management and law enforcement next year, compared to the Year 1 baseline.

### 3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

**Overall assumption made are still hold true and some are few changes. We assumed as below:**

**Effective law enforcement and community-led stewardship deters poaching of target species for IWT in Tanintharyi, supported by stronger transboundary law enforcement**

- Sufficient people are encouraged to participate in recording IWT events and Null records are also recorded.; **Comments:** this statement still holds true for Year 3. To tell the truth, if the authorities in the project area are actively involved in recording IWT events, the illegal wildlife trade will be handled within a short period.
- SMART data can be sufficiently well recorded and maintained by VDCs: **Comments:** this still hold true for Year 3 of project. The obtained information from SMART data was also shared with the Forestry Department to work together for the long term for environmental protection
- Elections, government changes and natural events during the project period do not cause major changes in access to project sites, the ability of civil society to operate or dramatic fluctuations in currency exchange rates. **Comment:** During the project period, due to the military coup, field work and providing small grant support activities were suspended in some area of project area. In addition, changes in government and natural events may affect access to project site; the ability of civil society organization or currency exchange rates to fluctuate significantly. In the midst of this bad political situation, in cooperation with the department, we were able to hold workshops on illegal trade Workshop in three townships successfully. In addition, the VCGs working with FFI were also able to attend workshops and effective trainings, and we were able to communicate in some limited areas where is the targeted Village of project area by using phone so as to improve the project activities.
- No major changes in national or international policy relating to target species. This still hold true for Year 3 of project.

### **Output 1: Six target communities voluntarily taking actions to address IWT due to the creation and retention of livelihoods benefits and human-elephant conflict (HEC) management**

- All VDCs will desire to register as Associations. **Comment:** 2 out of Six VDC received the legal recognition before the military coup. After military coup, some villagers expressed concern over the possible repercussions of the government and associations in the registration process, and their unwillingness to engage with government departments at all as the current political situation worsened. So we did not pursue the formal procedure to register more VDC " But we continued to work and provide livelihood support and HEC training with the communities not registered through other ways
- The current community preference for avoiding conflict with authorities and attracting development assistance continues through the project period; this still hold true for Year 3.
- We assumed that the small grants (up to 2000 GBP) are sufficient for the selected livelihoods activities. The selected interventions will produce perceptible livelihood returns within the project lifetime: **Comments:** 11 villages group of project area received small grants of around GBP1,400 per group during the report period. As a result, we still expect that selected interventions will have significant livelihood outcomes during the project lifetime. The upcoming end-of-project socio-economic survey will enable us to confirm this.

### **Output 2: Improved law enforcement capacity and effectiveness resulting from improved collaboration and communication between communities and enforcement authorities.**

- Law enforcement agencies will respond to the information provided by the community guardians and other informants. This however seems reasonable based on experience in other examples of this approach in Myanmar, but the chances can be improved by raising the profile of this community approach and engaging with political leaders and the media. **Comments:** Although the information provided by community guardians and other informants is sent in a timely manner, there is still a lack of response or feedback and action from each law enforcement agencies (Local authorities). As a result, in the rule of law in Myanmar, political leaders and the media will be required to openly disclose information and promote active law enforcement activities.
- Corruption is managed effectively. This statement still holds true for Year 3. **Comment:** the project team has not come across instances or evidence of corruption since the beginning of project until Year 3.
- Low-level territorial disputes do not dissuade the two national governments from continuing and expanding their cooperation on IWT. **Comment:** From Year 1 to Year 3, the low level of territorial disputes delayed the two national governments from continuing to expand cooperation in combating illegal trade. As a result, authorities in both countries should work together with Myanmar and Thailand's Tiger Group and NGOs to increase awareness of environmental law enforcement principles and reduce illegal border trade in order to effectively improve law enforcement capabilities.

### **Output 3: Approach and learning from community-level responses to IWT documented and shared nationally and globally to promote replication in Myanmar**

- Community-led guardianship results in the desired decline in illegal killing and trafficking of wildlife, making it a source of learning for others: **Comments:** . in Year 1 and Year 2 in project area, community-led stewardship appears to have resulted in significant reductions in illegal wildlife killing and trafficking activities to some extent. However, in Year 3, the illegal killing and trade of wild animals was not controlled by the community due to the increased

political influence and lack of participation of authorities. The results will be monitored again in the final month of the project.

#### **Impact: achievement of positive impact on illegal wildlife trade and poverty reduction**

The project aim is to contribute to stable, or increasing populations of tiger, Asian elephant, and Sunda pangolin in Myanmar. In addition, local communities play a key role in achieving a higher impact on biodiversity conservation. At the same time, if the authorities, together with the local people, systematically guide the conservation of biological diversity in good ways, our goal will become more effective.

FFI has always considered that human wellbeing, livelihood development and poverty alleviation are necessary to consider while protecting wildlife species and their ecosystems. Therefore, As mentioned in Year 2, in Year 3, FFI provided livelihood development assistance to the communities they work with through our small grants program. For this project in Year 3; We were able to provide more support than in Year 2 to reduce dependency on wildlife and forest products as alternative livelihood initiatives, providing animal husbandries, home vegetable gardens, small grocery shops and cash crops for the hunter and local communities who depend on the forest. Yearly income is described in detail in activities 1:3.

For this reason, during the reporting period, in project year 3, a total of eleven village groups were provided in the livelihood development and small grant programme with a total of 189 households benefited including 147 female business leaders.

#### **4. Thematic focus**

The illegal wildlife trade in Myanmar is a serious problem, and the existing laws are not strong enough to combat it effectively. Therefore, it is crucial to work with government departments and other stakeholders to strengthen law enforcement and tackle the issue.

In our project area, which spans three townships, we took the initiative to introduce our organization and the project's objectives to the Department of Forestry. After providing a detailed explanation of our work, we organized anti-illegal trade workshops in each township. Based on the results of these workshops, we sought advice from departments and environmental protection groups on the best strategies to preserve important species and support people's livelihoods. Thanks to this collaboration, we have been able to provide livelihood support to 11 villages, including hunters who rely on forest products. By working together with government departments and local communities, we can take effective action to combat illegal wildlife trade and protect the biodiversity of our project area.

The most notable achievements this year are:

- Five pangolins, which are a critically endangered species, were released by the communities in the project villages of Maw Taung, Nang Taung, and Ywahilu area.
- We have achieved significant success in supporting livelihoods, and as a result, we have observed a reduction in the number of poachers captured in our camera traps. Furthermore, we have recorded a significant reduction in the number of traps set up by poachers.
- Three of the eight tigers were recorded by camera traps, and a total of between 70/80 individuals of the population of elephants in the HEC area was estimated.

#### **5. Impact on species in focus**

Our goal is to achieve stable or growing populations of tiger, Asian elephant, and Sunda pangolin, protected by community-led wildlife guardianship and effective law enforcement.

**Tiger:** In the reporting period, we did not receive any reports of tiger poaching in the project area. However, we have observed an increase in online sales of tigers and tiger species. While we do not have any direct information about tigers in the project site, this trend is concerning and highlights the continued need for effective law enforcement and community-led wildlife guardianship to protect tigers and their habitats. To stay updated on the status of tigers in our project area, we regularly participate in meetings with the MM-Tiger Working Group (WCS, WWF, FFI). During our most recent meeting, WWF advised us to take proactive measures to warn and educate people in our project area, as they have observed a conflict between tigers and people in the Thaget reserved forest (upper Mawtaug) project area. This highlights the importance of community-led wildlife guardianship to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and protect tigers and their habitats.

Additionally, in 2022, a tiger was found alive in Myanmar and Thailand, and this information was shared during a data sharing report by the Freeland Foundation and Thailand 2022. This is positive news for tiger conservation efforts and highlights the importance of continued collaboration between countries to protect tigers and their habitats.

Attending the tiger meeting of Dawna Tanintharyi Landscape (DTL) can provide updated information about tigers on the border of Myanmar and Thailand. This is important because the DTL landscape is home to one of the largest contiguous tiger populations in Southeast Asia, and it spans the border between Thailand and Myanmar. The DTL tiger meeting is usually attended by various organizations, including government agencies, NGOs, and international organizations, and provides a platform for sharing the latest information on tiger conservation efforts and challenges in the region.

As per the 2018-2019 camera trap survey, at least eight of Myanmar's 22 tigers were found in our IWT project area located in southern Myanmar, as reported in our annual report 2. However, in 2020 and 2021, only two out of the eight tigers were recorded by camera traps. But by the end of 2022, three tigers were re-recorded, indicating that the tiger population in our project area has remained stable.

However, at the beginning of 2023, the political situation in Myanmar worsened, leading to the temporary suspension of camera trap inspections and many other project activities. Whether the tiger population in our project area is increase or decrease, we plan to provide updates on the tiger population in our next and final reporting period. (Indicator 0.1)

**Elephants:** According to news network information during the reporting period, one person died and two elephants were killed by the electric fence. Because of this, if compared to the previous year, the number of human and elephant deaths is lower. (Indicator 0.1)

In addition, according to camera trap data, eight or nine elephants, including calves, have been recorded each year, and more than 30 elephants have been recorded according to Camera footage from the informant network. (Indicator 1.5)

**Pangolin:** As described in Annual Report 2, the IWT Working Group; There has been no evidence of pangolin trade coinciding with the implementation of VCGs and Myeik University. Similarly, border controls between the two countries have resulted in significant declines in both markets. (Indicator 2.2).

Moreover, the Wildlife Conservation Law as described by the Karen Forestry Department and the Government Forestry Department. The release of 5 pangolins during the reporting period, due to the active participation of VCGs in environmental protection activities along with FFI's education program and the compliance of the local people living in the project area, is a positive event for conservation success (Indicator 2.5).

## **6. Project support for poverty reduction**

The main target groups for poverty alleviation and livelihood development are the wildlife poachers and local communities who depend on them. FFI has provided animal husbandries, home vegetable gardens, small grocery shops and cash crops (please refer to section 3.5 for details) to the prioritized groups, through its small grants scheme. As usual, this support is aimed at providing sustainable livelihood options to hunters and local people that have agreed with FFI

to refrain from poaching wildlife. This support was provided during the report period, and the impacts are detailed above, in activities 1.3.

Notable achievements this year were:

- The local people in 11 villages in the project area have become more aware of FFI's purpose of environmental protection, and have become more interested in sharing information about environmental protection than the previous year. During the reporting period, FFI provided effective training to communities, enabling them to actively participate in wildlife management by providing information. Additionally, project staff and departments conducted law enforcement and wildlife conservation education programs that resulted in the rescue of 5 endangered pangolins and removal of snares by hunters in the targeted project area.
- As a result of the training conducted by the elephant technician, the local people who are facing conflicts with elephants have a positive outlook on elephants and learn how to live in harmony with elephants and humans in the future. Similarly, based on a report from the elephant technician, a total of 60 - 80 individual elephants including juveniles and cubs were estimated during the report period. (Please see detail report in the Annex 4)
- During the three years (2021-2023), no illegal poaching of elephants was observed in the project area, and no hunter and illegal activities were detected according to camera trap records.

## **7. Gender equality and social inclusion**

FFI is considering gender in community engagement, benefits, and capacity-building support at local and national levels. Gender inequality is prevalent in Myanmar and promoting the inclusion of men and women at all levels will help challenge this. Activities at the community level were considered gender differences in VDC development and participation, resource usage, roles in IWT, and impacts of HEC, IWT and project activities. FFI has drawn on institutional technical expertise and guidance on 'Gender in Conservation' to support this. And the project team encouraged the local communities to participate at least 50% of females in the technical support training.

During the reporting period, a total of 11 village development committees (VDCs) were formed including 58% female committee members and 78% of the total benefited households were female business leaders.

And 59% of female participants participated in technical support training (Livestock training, Agriculture training, Gender Equality training, financial management and accounting training, organizational procedures and progress monitoring training) during the reporting period.

## **8. Monitoring and evaluation**

During the 3rd reporting period of the project's 3rd year (April 2022 to March 2023), the livelihood development and small grants programme provided small grants to eleven local village communities residing within the boundaries of Lenyr Reserved Forest. The purpose of the programme was to monitor and protect wildlife and reduce wildlife crime by promoting community-based networks through improving livelihood opportunities of local villagers.

The eleven village groups that participated in the programme were Chaung Nauk Pyan 1, Chaung Nauk Pyan 2, Nan Taung 1, Nan Taung 2, 4 Mile 1, 4 Mile 2, 4 Mile 3, Pyigyimandai 1, Chaung La Mu 1, Chaung La Mu 2, and Chaung La Mu 3. A total of 189 households benefited from the programme, including 147 female business leaders.

All the households invested their awarded grants in various income-generating activities, including animal husbandry, home vegetable gardens, small grocery shops, and cash crops. These activities aimed to reduce their dependency on the forest and wildlife products. The programme helped to promote sustainable livelihoods for the local villagers while also contributing to wildlife conservation efforts in the Lenyr Reserved Forest.

After receiving the grants, the benefiting households began their businesses in the following month. However, due to the unstable political situation, the grant award dates coincided with the end of the project year, and progress monitoring was impacted.

In case of monitoring, the project team has implemented a community-led participatory monitoring system to ensure effective management and implementation of the project. The monitoring system consists of three levels: financial monitoring, implementation monitoring, and impact monitoring.

Financial monitoring is a crucial aspect of the project and is focused on ensuring that the funds are utilized for the intended purposes and that financial management is transparent and accountable. The management committee is responsible for monitoring and approving all project-related expenses. The project team conducts regular monitoring visits to verify that the expenditures are in line with the agreed purposes and that financial reports are submitted monthly.

Implementation monitoring is aimed at tracking the progress of the project and identifying any issues or challenges that may arise during the implementation phase. The project team provided training to the management committees to ensure their active participation in monitoring the project's progress. Members of Village Development Committees (VDCs) actively participated in progress monitoring and reported their findings (Mortality rate of animal husbandries, situation of business: active or stop, and gross income from the businesses) to the project team via online platforms such as Viber. The project team also conducted regular monitoring visits to each beneficiary, recording the situation of their business, mortality rate, income, and expenditures. Progress monitoring is conducted for each village group for at least one year, and the project team plans to continue monitoring progress beyond one year for certain locations.

Impact monitoring is focused on evaluating the project's impact on the beneficiaries' livelihoods and socio-economic status. The project team conducted a baseline survey at the start of the project to collect data on the initial status of the beneficiaries. An end-line socio-economic survey will conduct before the project's end to measure the impact of the project and the project team plans to submit complete monitoring results in the next reporting period. The data collected through impact monitoring is essential for evaluating the project's success and identifying areas for future intervention.

As mentioned in the annual Year 2 report, measuring the success of the patrol during 2021 and 2022, the eight members of the patrol team patrolled the tiger breeding areas of the Ywahilu and Payartan area, they patrolled that areas for 5 days a month. Base on patrol survey, a total of 40 snares (Pangolin net, steel wire and stings) were confiscated in the Year 2 report (Table 5).

Comparing annual reports 2 and 3, only 5 patrols were surveyed in the Year 3 report of 2022. Since 2023, patrols have been temporarily suspended due to political instability in the Ywahilu and Payartan areas. Although the patrol was temporarily stopped, a total of 2 traps were removed in 2022-2023. As mentioned in Table 6 below, we can see a significant decrease in the number of traps during the reporting period.

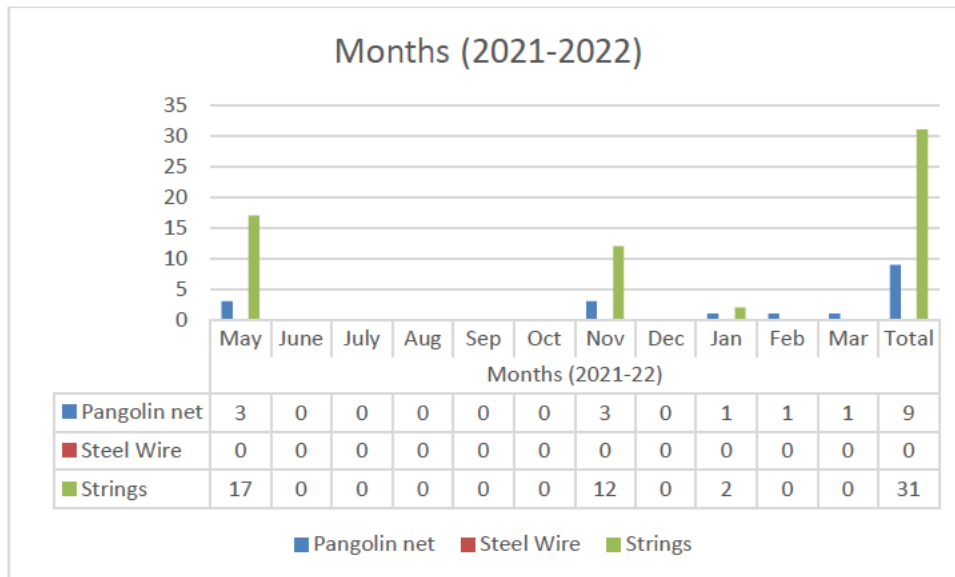


Fig (5) Patrol data showing snare removal efforts in the tiger breeding area for the reporting period (2021-2022)

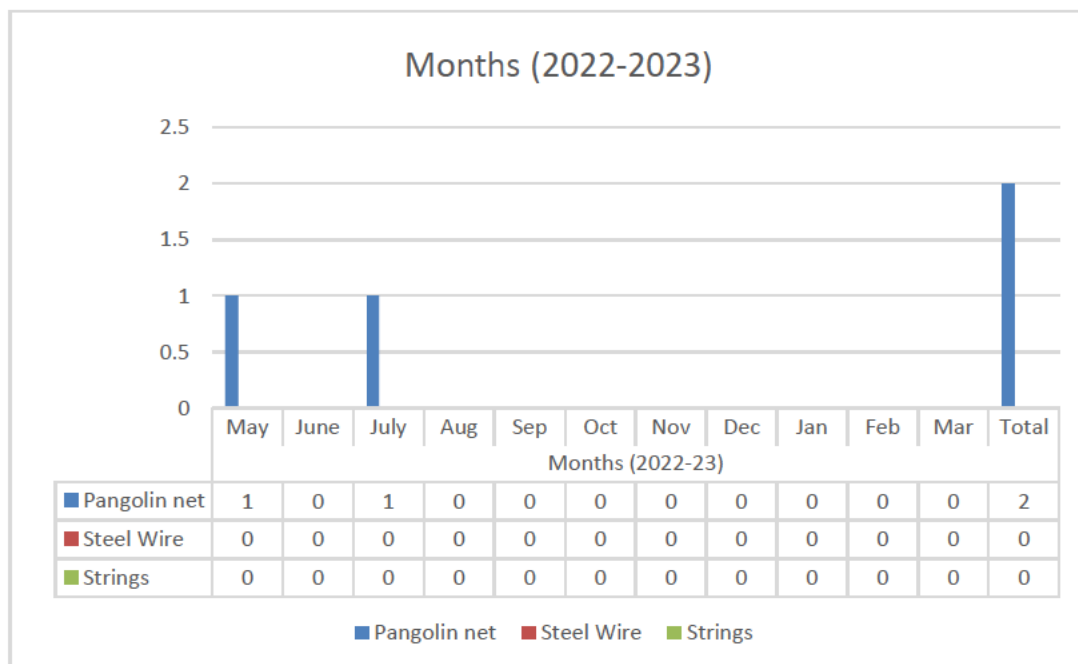


Fig (6): Patrol data showing snare removal efforts in the tiger breeding area for the reporting period (2022-2023)

In order to record any information and cases related to the elephant received, we have a Viber Group (Informant network, FFI, VCG and FD) and contact phone numbers to get information about elephants. Therefore, every case is recorded in the computer and note book by the Junior Biologist in the office every year. According to records, in 2022 (baseline), there were five HEC cases recorded; in 2023, three cases were recorded so far. 4 HEC awareness and illegal wildlife poaching signboards (baseline 0) were installed.

## 9. Lessons learnt

The following three points are notable problems/lessons learnt that the project has encountered during the reporting period.

- The current political situation is still unstable in some parts of the project area. For the safety of staff, we have worked some activities, with communities and respective departments, online or via mobile phones.
- Among our targeted villages, Yadanapon and 14 Mile village and the Ywahilu area are in a bad political situation, so some of the villagers are temporarily moving to Thailand and some to the Myanmar side. Due to the reasons mentioned above, we have temporarily stopped the process of small grant support and patrolling activities for Yadanapon and 14 Mile Village, Payartan and Ywahilu area.
- In addition, despite the political instability in Myanmar, 11 villages within the project area were supported with small grants of livelihood funds, and a total of five kinds of training were conducted during the reporting period with the help of local experts to enable VCG and direct beneficiaries to have high capacity building and implement sustainable livelihoods activities in the future.

The following two points are what we intend to do for the project in the future.

- The project situation is currently finding opportunities to contact and communicate with the targeted beneficiaries from Yadanapon and 14 Mile villages and the Ywahilu area and planning to continue the project activities once the political and security situation is stable. Should the situation remain unstable, a contingency plan will be put in place: the project's plan will consult to switch the targeted locations to other villages based on the accessibility which is located along with the boundaries of Lenya Reserved Forest and relied also on forest and forest products.
- Due to the political situation, although the results obtained from the IWT workshop in the three districts could not be implemented, once the political situation improves, plans have already been made to carry out important activities in each township.

## **10. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)**

**Q. 1** Freeland undertook its planned border crossing activities but reports that mapping of crossings was difficult, and IWT is treated as a low priority at many crossings; it indicates that it is not clear what action can be taken to improve the situation. Elsewhere in the Report, the project notes that border controls have led to significant declines in IWT, for example pangolin. This appears contradictory and should be clarified in the next annual report.

A. The above concerns two distinct questions;

### **Responses;**

1. When considering the situation concerning natural (illegal) border crossing over the last two years much has changed, especially regarding free passage. Previously, despite the numerous natural border crossings being illegal a very low priority placed on restricting free of local community members access in either direction by law enforcement agencies. This is what facilitated all types of illicit activity especially smuggling. However, with the onset of covid all-natural crossings were closed, or made impassable for vehicles, this certainly reduced the amount of trafficked goods crossing the border.

Steps taken under this project to improve the situation include;

- Raising awareness among LE agencies (and the public) during outreach engagements about the health risks associated with trafficking wildlife, in this case using African Swine Fever (ASF) as one example of how the transboundary movement of animals of all types could spread diseases likely to impact both the local farmers and their related economy.
- Acknowledging and showing evidence (from the GSM cameras) that trafficking and smuggling was occurring at the illegal crossings to senior LE officials which placed complicit agencies in situations difficult to explain to their seniors.
- Briefing Park superintendents to increase their understanding concerning the quantity and location of such border crossings in their areas of responsibility. This led to an



increase in enforcement through the monitoring of all vehicles entering the wildlife sanctuaries (ostensibly to visit villages). Such vehicle checks turned into an effective deterrent and reduced such transport of all illicit items.

- Discussing smuggling issues (and the risks) at Protected Area Committee (PAC) meetings. This demonstrated to local government administrations that outside agencies are aware of the situation.
- Using the GSM cameras to monitor routes to the illegal border crossings. Unfortunately, none of the parks we donated GSM cameras have a budget to support camera on-going operational fees (data time and online database). This is a common issue in Thailand where protected areas are utilizing such GSM cameras.

Concerning access. It should be noted that the main local ethnic group – the Karen hold little regard for the international border and related migration formalities as part of a geopolitical world they are not part of. Consequently, post covid many Karen now wander between the two countries to buy produce or visit relatives at will. The Border Patrol Police which are the main agency monitoring the border also appear quite relaxed about the movement of local indigenous people around the border. This does not apply to the passage of economic migrants though, who if seen are apprehended and immediately repatriated via several border crossings, both legal and illegal crossings. The local Thai guides are arrested and sent for prosecution.

2a) The situation regarding pangolin trafficking has undoubtedly transformed because for two years few traffickers passed through, or around, the illegal border crossings. The local dynamics of the illicit trade now appears to have changed and for now considerably reduced. Prior to covid border closure all types of trade were occurring, both legal and illegal. Vehicles regularly passed through the parks to deliver various produce from Thailand to Myanmar and forest products from Myanmar to Thailand rarely being checked. These crossings are still closed to vehicles and all commerce considerably disrupted. Now any items in trade must be clandestinely carried through the forest by porters who run the risk of being interdicted by ranger or border police patrols.

2b) Anecdotally we have seen an increase in pangolin records collected during wildlife monitoring. Previously we collected one or two pangolin records per survey period whereas now we are recording 10 or more each time. However, it should be noted we have updated the wildlife survey cameras and it could be the new equipment is working more efficiently. Records are unfortunately not yet sufficient to evaluate anything statistically and larger scale surveys are required to fully confirm this.

Lastly, although forest ranger patrols are regularly finding snares, the previous pangolin-specific poaching methods are no longer being found in the three parks. Market demand has recently changed and the main focus of illegal wildlife trade in this area and other parts of Thailand is now the long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*). The currently high market value of this species has led poachers to switch their attention to these primates. This might only be a temporary transition and is something we are monitoring.

**Q (2)** Although Covid-19 restrictions are reported to be easing in Myanmar, significant challenges related to the political situation remain, and it might be timely to review the Logframe, to ensure that the remaining activities and outputs for the final year are achievable.

**Response:** - In Q3 of Y2, the project team met and assessed which activities and indicators in the logframe were still achievable within Y3 and submitted two change requests to LTS, one in October 2022 and one in December 2022.

**Q (3)** The project appears to have misunderstood the M&E section, and has not taken heed of comment made by the previous reviewer, concerning its response to questions relating to M&E in the report template

**Response:** We have focused our reporting this year on the systems and processes we have in place to gather and manage data rather than key achievements and figures.

**Q (4)** The partnership with Myeik University is unclear, as the project indicates that the University remains closed, but the later states that Myeik finance team were involved in group discussions with the FFI team each month to schedule the project workplan

**Response:**

According to the project logframe and the MoU with Myeik University, it is true that FFI usually shared the monthly workplan to Myeik University especially Zoology Department. However, due to the political situation, the Rector of Myeik University postponed the process of working with FFI in Year 2 to ensure the safety of their staff. In Year 3, the local political situation worsened, and the MoU between FFI and Myeik University expired. In order to renew the MoU, the FFI Myanmar Country Director consulted the project staff who are dealing directly on the ground about the activities to be carried out in the future. According to the consultation, the decision of each team depends on the political situation and the renewal will not be extended. It was decided that the MoU with Myeik University will only be renewed when the political situation improves.

**Q (5)** The project states that it provided a second grant to Mawtaung area VCD (No's 3, 5 and 8), and to 22 households in Yatanabone village. In Mawtaung, it selected households, some of which included hunters; and in Yantanbone it selected households that rely on forest products. It would be helpful to provide more information concerning how the households were actually selected, and the role that gender equality played in the selection process.

**Response:** During Y2 (April 2021 to March 2022), the livelihood development and small grants programme provided small grants to two local village communities residing within the boundaries of Lenya Reserved Forest. The purpose of the programme was to monitor and protect wildlife and reduce wildlife crime by promoting community-based networks through improving livelihood opportunities of local villagers. The two village groups that participated in the programme were Maw Taung and Yadanarpone. A total of 37 households benefited from the programme, including 25 female business leaders. Households were selected based on their interests of corporation with the project and commitments to participate in wildlife conservation. All the households invested their awarded grants in various income-generating activities, including animal husbandry, home vegetable gardens, small grocery shops, and cash crops. These activities aimed to reduce their dependency on the forest and wildlife products. The programme helped to promote sustainable livelihoods for the local villagers while also contributing to wildlife conservation efforts in the Lenya Reserved Forest. After receiving the grants, the benefiting households began their businesses in the following month. However, due to the unstable political situation and travel restrictions imposed by Military and Ethnic/Local Revolutionary Forces, the progress monitoring was impacted, and the project team can only monitor up to 7 months. Beneficiaries from Yadanarpone villages were displaced to Thailand and other areas and beneficiaries from Maw Taung were also unable to continue their business.

**Q (6)** More information on work with schools would be helpful.

**Response:**

It is good to advise that information about schools and work is more helpful. However, during the reporting period some schools in the project area were closed due to political instability. Before the start of the IWT project, FFI conducted a wildlife conservation awareness campaign in schools in the project area such as essay contests, Art competitions and sports competitions were held on International Tiger Day. As suggested by the IWT Challenge Fund Annual Report Review, in the coming years, if the political situation improves, we are considered that an awareness campaign related to environmental wildlife conservation will be conducted in schools in the project area.

## **11. Risk Management**

In terms of risk management, the FFI team (including the Biodiversity, Livelihoods, and Small Grants teams) conducted a group discussion and scheduled a work plan for IWT project implementation in the first week of each month. This work plan was also shared during FFI Myanmar's Senior Management Team's weekly meetings. The FFI patrol team shared information with the Forest Department in Bokeyyin Township and KFD and If illegal activities

are detected at the border of the two countries in camera trap, we share information each other by sending emergency e-mails to Freeland.

through phone and Viber upon returning from the field for data sharing. Additionally, every month, the core project team shared updates and discussed the monthly work plan with FFI's UK-Based Wildlife Trade team.

During the reporting period, safety regulations were made stricter than the previous year due to our project areas are in a military-controlled area. To ensure the safety of the patrol teams we work with, including our field team, we have adopted and implemented the following rules and regulations.

- To ensure staff safety, monthly fieldwork procedures, such as the number of employees going on fieldwork and their destination, are presented at every weekly meeting.
- The team leader provides detailed information about communication systems and other processes.
- In addition, before going to the field survey area, we provide prior notification to the military and authorities, and staff and patrol teams only survey areas authorized by the authorities.
- For the safety of the patrol team and staff, we report the objective of the patrol and the details of the patrol schedule, such as the patrol location, number of patrol persons, and number of patrol days, to the authorities before the patrol.
- Given the current political situation, for the safety of patrols, the team does not wear patrol uniforms and instead wears casual clothing.
- All staff carry a mobile phone and regularly share location information with their supervisors, making specific arrangements for occasional drops in signal coverage.
- Finally, we provide first aid training to all staff so that they can easily solve problems in an emergency.

## **12. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere**

In project area, the military has declared Tanintharyi Township a Martial Law-controlled area since December 2022, with travel restrictions, no gatherings of more than 15 people, and several checkpoints for travellers and their phones. The local/ethnic revolutionary organizations have also announced travel restrictions on the route from Myeik to Kaw Thaug, which is a battles and operations area.

We (FFI) are working with the Forest Department (Under Military Government) and Kayin Forest Department (Under Ethnic Revolutionary Organization) as local partners in the conflicted areas. However, this could lead to misunderstandings and potential risks for the project staff as the military or the local/ethnic revolutionary organizations may view them as collaborating with the other side.

The project team has planned to carry out certain activities for the coming year such as patrolling in the Ywahilu conducting surveys and awareness activities in HEC areas and implementing livelihood diversification. Additionally, the project team has planned to monitor completed project activities and conduct household socioeconomic surveys in project villages such as Chaung La Mu, Chaung Nauk Pyan, Nan Taung, Pyigyimandai, and 4 Mile. However, due to the unstable political situation, the project team is unable to travel to the project areas. This situation will make it difficult for them to implement the planned activities, the necessary monitoring and evaluation and the processes to be carried out in the coming years .

Due to the above reasons, the main risk faced by project staff and patrol teams is the possibility of misunderstanding or perceived collaboration by the military or local/ethnic resistance organizations. The restricted travel of project villages puts the safety and security of project staff at risk. Conflicts and fighting at several places along the route put the safety and security of project staff at risk.

### **13. Sustainability and legacy**

The project aims to protect significantly threatened wildlife species inside the Southern Tanintharyi landscape and in proximity to the Myanmar-Thailand border, from poaching and illegal transboundary trade, by contributing to the development of sustainable livelihoods, improved resource management and improved law enforcement.

The project has already got two village-level VDCs to get registration certificates out of 6 villages since 2021 in the project area. Due to the political situation and the suggestion of the remaining (4) villages, we will no longer continue to try to obtain registration during the reporting period. Currently, for the 2 registered villages, FFI is providing community patrols; wildlife monitoring; Management of small grants for career development and support for the sustainability of capacity-building activities.

During the reporting period, as mentioned in Year 2, the Myanmar Tiger Working Group used to share tiger update information and this year, the Head of Wildlife Manager from WWF shared about the case of human-tiger conflict in their project area (Thagyat RF, TheinKun RF). And he also advised what kind of information should be given to the locals so that the conflict between man and tiger and the illegal Wildlife Trade can be reduced.

The FFI project area is located in a part of the Dawna Tanintharyi Landscape (DTL) which covers an area of 63,239 square kilometres in Thailand and Myanmar. Therefore, INGOs and NGOs working on tiger conservation activities, including FFI, and national stakeholders such as WWF, IUN, Smithsonian, Freeland and the Thai authority held DTL meetings and shared the latest information about tigers. During the reporting period (2022-2023), The DTL meeting was held 4 times online, and each representative of the organization presented updated information about tigers and illegal trade activities between the two countries in Meeting.

By 2022-2023, we achieved our goal of providing small grants and giving training (Agriculture training, livestock training and gender equality training) to eleven village groups (Chaung Nauk Pyan 1, Chaung Nauk Pyan 2, Nan Taung 1, Nan Taung 2, 4 Mile 1, 4 Mile 2, 4 Mile 3, Pyigyimandai 1, Chaung La Mu 1, Chaung La Mu 2 and Chaung La Mu 3) gender equality training. In addition, in 2022 and 2023, HEC awareness training was conducted for the villages of Warchaung and Bodar to reduce human-elephant conflict and enable humans and elephants to live in harmony. In the same way, to combat illegal wildlife trade in Tanintharyi District and Kawthaung District, it is also a successful goal of FFI to be able to hold IWT workshops in collaboration with various departments, including the Forestry Department.

Therefore, there are no plans during the reporting period to modify what was originally proposed, as the project is currently underway and the intended sustainable benefits are still applicable.

### **14. IWT Challenge Fund identity**

All project activities with communities, partners and government stakeholders convey that the activities are supported by the IWTCF, including publications, training materials and workshop resources featuring the IWTCF logo.

This project has not yet been creating international communications to publish about project successes and progress and therefore the support from IWT Challenge Fund has so far only been included during training and events, such as the IWT workshop, Technical Training, the HEC awareness raising training and Stakeholder meeting. During such meetings, we explain to participants and departments who signed the MoU with FFI the identity and goals of the Fund.

Since the annual report Year 1, the IWT Challenge Fund support has been acknowledged on the FFI website here: <https://www.fauna-flora.org/projects/ridge-reef-conservation-tanintharyi>. At current, no social media channels are active to link back to the IWTCF

## 15. Safeguarding

Biodiversity Challenge Funds are committed to supporting projects develop and strengthen their safeguarding capabilities and capacity to prevent, listen, respond and learn. Defra will not automatically penalise projects where safeguarding concerns are identified but will help projects respond and learn from the experience.

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes/ [REDACTED]
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months? No	Yes/No [If yes, please provide the date and details of training]
What proportion (and number) of project staff has received formal training on Safeguarding? <b>4 project staff</b>	Past: % [and number] Planned: % [and number]
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges in Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.	
Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so, please specify.	

## 16. Project expenditure

Please expand and complete Table 1. If all receipts have not yet been received, please provide indicative figures and clearly mark them as Draft. The Actual claim form will be taken as the final accounting for funds.

**Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2022-March 2023)**

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2022/23 Grant (£)	2022/23 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)				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>139,585.00</b>	<b>139,585.00</b>		

Highlight any agreed changes to the budget and **fully** explain any variation in expenditure where this is +/- 10% of the budget. Have these changes been discussed with and approved by IWT Challenge Fund?

**Table 2: Project mobilising of matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)**

	Matched funding secured to date	Total matched funding expected by end of project
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project.		
Total additional finance mobilised by new activities building on evidence, best practices and project (£)		

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

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds 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 this section you have the chance to let us know about outstanding achievements of your project or significant strides towards attaining a particular goal so far that you consider worth sharing with the wider Biodiversity Challenge Fund community. This could relate to achievements or considerable progress already mentioned in this report, on which you would like to expand further, or achievements that were in addition to the ones planned and deserve particular attention. It may also include advancements towards any IWT Challenge Fund Programme Objectives such as support to conventions, agreements or treaties, poverty reduction or gender equality. We may use material from this section for various promotion and dissemination purposes, including for example, publication in the Defra Annual Report, IWT Challenge Fund promotion material, or on the IWT Challenge Fund website. **Please limit text to 400 words.**

Please also include an engaging image, video or graphic\* that you consent to be publicised alongside the above text. Please ensure:

- that you have left the above agreement clause to indicate your consent. Text without this will not be used
- any images or videos are sent as separate files and not embedded in the body of the report

\*If you have no photos or videos for reasons of sensitivity, then please state that clearly and the Defra Comms team can work to create an alternative graphic.

Image, Video or Graphic Information:

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption, country and credit	Online accounts to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No

**Annexe 1:**

**Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2022-2023**

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Impact</b></p> <p>Populations of tiger, Asian elephant and Sunda pangolin are stable or growing, protected by community-led wildlife guardianship and effective law enforcement.</p>		<p>Due to the political instability in the region, certain activities had to be postponed, but in 2022 and 2023, the small grant program provided support to 11 village groups for livelihood development and environmental protection activities. In total, 189 beneficiary households, including 147 women-led businesses, were able to benefit from the program. Participatory monitoring results from December 2022 to March 2023 showed that the number of animal husbandries increased nearly twice as much as the starting business, with a 3% death rate. Additionally, the gross income from the business was 1.1% of the invested amount.</p> <p>We also worked with the FD to hold an illegal Wildlife Trade Task Force workshop in Tanintharyi Township and Kawthaung Township, and were able to estimate a population of 60-80 elephants in the HEC area in 2023. For the long-term protection of tigers and their prey, we carried out snare removal activities in Payartan and Ywahilu area in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress monitoring for livelihood diversification</li> <li>• Technical Trainings</li> <li>• Socioeconomic surveys</li> <li>• HEC awareness raising in school (HEC area)</li> <li>• Systematic Elephant population survey</li> <li>• Continue camera trap and SMART patrolling (Cybertracker)</li> <li>• Conduct Environmental Education programs at</li> </ul>



		<p>cooperation with the VCG from Chaung Nyauk Pyan Village. Our camera trap recorded the presence of three tigers in the project area. Another milestone for the project was the successful release of 5 pangolins by local communities, which helped raise awareness about the importance of environmental conservation in the project area.</p>	<p>School in targeted Village</p>
<p><b>Outcome</b></p> <p>Effective law enforcement and community-led stewardship deter poaching of target species for IWT in Tanintharyi, supported by stronger transboundary law enforcement.</p>	<p>0.1 Tiger and elephant populations in the project location are recorded as stable throughout the project period.</p> <p>0.2 The number of incidents of poaching (e.g., individuals or equipment seen) per unit patrol effort was reduced by 50% by project end from the Y1 baseline.</p> <p>0.3 At least a 50% increase in the number of both men and women in target communities who are engaged in wildlife stewardship or active support of law enforcement from the Y1 baseline.</p>	<p>0.1 3 of 8 tigers were recorded in the Ywahilu area during the reporting period</p> <p>0.2 The VCG team from the Chaung Nyauk Pyan areas, have removed 2 traps. Compared to Y1 and Y2, the snare is a dramatic reduction.</p> <p>0.3. As mentioned in the annual report, 5 people from Chang Nyauk Pyan Village Conservation Group were involved in patrolling during the reporting period. The release of 5 pangolins by communities from Maw Taung, Nan Taung and Ywahilu area.</p>	<p>0.1 continue to deploy total of 10 camera traps are set up in the Ywahilu area for the next period.</p> <p>As the tiger population increased in 2022, the tiger population in 2023 is expected to increase than 2022.</p> <p>0.2 will continue patrolling in targeted area and continue stronger protection and maintain coverage s. In the coming year, the number of men and women in target communities actively supporting law enforcement will increase by at least 50%, and community</p>

			development work will continue.
<p><b>Output 1.</b> Six target communities voluntarily take actions to address IWT due to the creation and retention of livelihood benefits and human-elephant conflict (HEC) management.</p>	<p>1.1 Six VDCs have gained legal recognition (baseline = zero) by the project end.</p> <p>1.2 Six communities agree on commitments and actions to achieve zero-tolerance of IWT for target species (linked to livelihood support) by the end of Y1.</p> <p>1.3 The number of person-days of community-led/ collaborative patrols increased by &gt;50% from the Y1 baseline by the project end.</p> <p>1.4 At least 70% (252) of households reported a new and/or higher primary source of income due to the project-by-project end.</p> <p>1.5 Female participation reaches 50% in small grant beneficiary groups by project end (from a current base of ≈ 30%).</p> <p>1.6 Snare detection rates by community patrol teams were reduced by 80% on the Y1 baseline</p> <p>1.7 By the project's end, there is a recorded decrease in the</p>	<p>1.1 2 out of 6 are already officially registered.</p> <p>1.2 Six villages have agreed to zero hunting in exchange for livelihood support.</p> <p>1.3 In 2022, A total of 25 days were patrolled in Yawhilu and Payartan areas. In 2023, we have could not patrol in Ywahilu and Payartan area because the current political situation is worse than in 2022.</p> <p>1.4 The project team plans to submit complete monitoring results which will include increasement of primary income by conducting socioeconomic endline survey in the next reporting period.</p> <p>1.5 58% of committee members are women and 78% of total beneficiary households were female business leaders</p> <p>1.6 In Year 3, the community patrol teams were able to detect only 2 snares, indicating a significant reduction in the snare detection rate compared to 61 snares detected in Year 1 and 40 snares detected in Year 2.</p> <p>1.7 A total of 20 HEC incidents occurs in the project area during the reporting period and two individual elephants were died by electricity shock in 2022</p>	

	number of HEC incidents within the project area resulting in death, serious injury or damage.		
Activity 1.1 Support two community VDCs to gain legal recognition and agree on VDC-level commitments including zero-tolerance to poaching and IWT, linked to livelihoods support.		Registration for the remaining VDC is discontinued	
Activities 1.2 Establish, train and support VDC-level Village Conservation Groups (VCG; self-titled rotation of community steward teams, approximately 10/village) to undertake strategic SMART patrolling in village forests to monitor, deter and report IWT and HEC, and remove snares.		<p>1. We have provided 80 participants including the VCG team with HEC training in two villages (War Chaung and Bo Dar).</p> <p>2. Two old pangolin nets were removed from the Ywahilu in 2022.</p>	Due to the political situation and security of the patrol team, we did not patrol inside of project area. Currently, we focus on the HEC area to reduce the threat of HEC and to know the elephant population.
Activities 1.3 Support VDCs to consult their community to democratically identify and implement priority livelihood diversification at community and household-levels, e.g., animal husbandry, home vegetable gardens, cash crops, and/or vocational training.		During the 3 <sup>rd</sup> reporting period, a total of eleven village groups participated in the livelihood development and small grant program and a total of 189 households benefited including 147 female business leaders.	For the progress of livelihood activities, FFI staff monitors every month.
Activities 1.4 Support VDC-level oversight and management to implement small grant schemes to enable livelihood diversification.		<p>FFI provided the following training for the purpose of smooth implementation of livelihood diversification during the reporting period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Livestock Training</li> <li>• Agriculture Training</li> </ul>	The project team plans to conduct additional technical trainings based on community interests and political situation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial management training</li> <li>• Grant Management Training</li> <li>• Gender Equality Training</li> </ul>	
<p>Activities 1.5 Train VCGs in Human Elephant Conflict (HEC) mitigation and establish an early warning system for HEC avoidance.</p>	<p>Two warning signs boards were set up in Wardin and Kyauk Gyir, replacing signs that had become faded and damaged. In addition, Elephant technicians including FFI staff gave the HEC awareness raising in Bodar and War Chaung. 80 participants attended.</p>	<p>As usual, the informant network provides up-to-date information via mobile and Viber. To more understand HEC, our team go and meet with our informant network team once a month.</p>
<p><b>Output 2.</b> Improved law enforcement capacity and effectiveness resulting from improved collaboration and communication between communities and enforcement authorities.</p>	<p>2.1 Increase in the number of warnings to offenders, confiscations, community reports responded to by KFD WPU, and reduction in re-offending (targets will be set in consultation with the stakeholders once baselines are established in Year 1).</p> <p>2.2 Number of incidents of poaching (e.g., individuals or equipment seen) per unit patrol effort reduced by 50% by project end from Y1 baseline.</p> <p>2.3 By project end, illegal activity reported by community members is informing 50% of VGC/WPU patrols (baseline zero).</p> <p>2.4. Transboundary exchange of actionable information increases on the Y1 baseline.</p>	<p>2.1 These activities were not carried out due to political unstable</p> <p>2.2 This is the same as output 1 (0.2). The VCG team from Chaung Nyauk Pyan Vilage, have removed 2 traps. In Y3s, the traps may have been reduced more than we intended, the reason for the reduce in traps is that the current government restricts the access of hunters to the forest as the project changes the livelihoods of hunters and local people.</p> <p>2.3 Baseline was zero. In Year 3, it is the same as Y2.</p> <p>2.4 Baseline is zero. Due to the political situation, information sharing between Thai, Karen and Myanmar law enforcement</p>

	<p>2.5. Actionable information shared with Thai partners results in at least two transboundary law enforcement actions by project end.</p> <p>2.6. At least one prosecution by project end.</p>	<p>authorities could not be facilitated in Y3 however information sharing is taking place between INGOs (FFI, WCS, WWF and Freeland) who have relationships with the government authorities on both sides of the border as part of the Tiger Working Group.</p> <p>2.5 Not applicable in Y2 because of the political situation.</p> <p>2.6 Not applicable in Y3</p>	
<p>Activities 2.1 Support newly established KFD ten-person WPU to undertake strategic, intelligence-led patrolling using SMART and CyberTracker software</p>	<p>This is the same as the above activities 2:1</p>	<p>This is the same as the above activities 2:1</p>	
<p>Activities 2.2 with all stakeholders, co-establish a mechanism for community members to document and report illegal activity to VCGs, FD and KFD, including building trust, shared identity and ownership, and overcoming barriers to reporting</p>	<p>During the reporting period, the Forest Law Enforcement team (Forest Department) working together with FFI and VCG posted 3 warning signboards in the township entry point at Tanintharyi, district and two villages (Chaung La Mu and Chaung Nyauk Pyan in 2022 according to IWT workshop agreement.</p>	<p>Now, VCG from Chaung Nyauk Pyan start sending their activities report to GAD (General Administration Department)</p>	
<p>Activities 2.3 Work with FD and KFD to develop and pilot standardized systems for joint monitoring and analysis of all project data on IWT occurrences and trends, for planning and sharing with police.</p>	<p>As mentioned above in activities 2.3</p>	<p>As mentioned above in activities 2.3</p>	
<p>Activities 2.4 Establish VCG representation in the Tanintharyi Region Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force (WLET), e.g., on planning and enforcement actions</p>	<p>As mentioned in Y2, we carried out an IWT workshop in Tanintharyi FD in 2022. Similarly, we already held an IWT workshop in Kawthaung</p>	<p>Based on the results obtained from the workshop, some consulting activities</p>	

		District with departmental staff in 2023. In the IWT workshop, one of the VCG from Chaung Nyauk Pyan Village were represented	have been carried out, while some processes have been temporarily suspended due to the political situation.
Activities 2.5 Work with Freeland to build relationships and systematic cooperation and sharing of actionable information between FD, KFD, Tanintharyi Regional WLET, and Thai Authorities.		As mentioned above in activities 2.5	As mentioned above in activities 2.5
<b>Output 3.</b> Approach and learn from community-level responses to IWT documented and shared nationally (and globally) to promote replication in Myanmar.	3.1 Learning shared with 50 key stakeholders from 10 relevant institutions (community, civil society, government) in Myanmar.  3.2 Successes incorporated into the national policy (e.g., SOPs for community patrols).	Although it was commenced in Y2 and announced last year that this activity would be started in Y3, due to the worsening of politics, these activities were not carried out.	Workplan will be developed based on the ongoing political situation in the project area.
Activities 3.1 Develop recommendations based on field experience, evaluation and learning for community engagement in enforcing Myanmar's biodiversity and forest laws in concert with authorities		Although this activity is mentioned in Y2, we could not implement this activity because of the ongoing political situation in the project area.	Although this activity is mentioned in Y2, we could not implement this activity because of the ongoing political situation in the project area.

<p>Activities 3.2 Share recommendations from practical field experience of community-level responses to IWT with key stakeholders in Myanmar and at relevant national, regional and international forums.</p>	<p>This activity will commence at the end of the project.</p>	<p>This activity will commence at the end of the project.</p>
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**Annex 2: Project’s full current log frame as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)**

*N.B. if your application’s log frame is presented in a different format in your application, please transpose into the below template. Please feel free to contact [IWT-Fund@itsi.co.uk](mailto:IWT-Fund@itsi.co.uk) if you have any questions regarding this.*

Project Summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: (Max 30 words) Populations of tiger, Asian elephant and Sunda pangolin are stable (or growing) in Myanmar, protected by community-led wildlife stewardship and effective law enforcement.</p>			
<p><b>Outcome:</b> (Max 30 words)  Effective law enforcement and community-led stewardship deters poaching of target species for IWT in Tanintharyi, supported by stronger transboundary law enforcement.</p>	<p>0.1 Tiger and elephant populations in the project location are recorded as stable throughout the project period. 0.2 Number of incidents of poaching (e.g., individuals or equipment seen) per unit patrol effort reduced by 50% by project end from Y1 baseline. 0.3 At least 50% increase in the number of both men and women in target communities who are engaged in wildlife stewardship or in active support of law enforcement from Y1 baseline.</p>	<p>0.1 Tiger, elephant: Camera trap data in focus areas of the landscapes. 0.2 SMART reports from VDC patrols and/or FD records, including snare, trap, pitfall and drift net encounter rates. 0.3 Community survey pre- and post- implementation (gender disaggregated); community patrol and crime reports.</p>	<p>Sufficient people are encouraged to participate in recording IWT events; null records are also recorded.  SMART data can be sufficiently well recorded and maintained by VDCs.  Elections, government changes and natural events during the project period do not cause major changes in access to project sites, the ability of civil society to operate or dramatic fluctuations in currency exchange rates.  No major changes in national or international policy relating to target species.</p>
<p><b>Outputs:</b> Output 1: Six target communities voluntarily taking actions to address</p>	<p>1.1 Six VDCs have gained legal recognition (baseline = zero) by project end.</p>	<p>1.1 Internal monitoring reports; VDC registration documents; public dissemination of zero-</p>	<p>All VDCs will desire to register as Associations. SMART data can be</p>

<p>IWT due to the creation and retention of livelihoods benefits and human-elephant conflict (HEC) management.</p>	<p>1.2 Six communities agree commitments and actions to achieve zero-tolerance of IWT for target species (linked to livelihood support) by end Y1.</p> <p>1.3 The number of person-days of community-led/ collaborative patrols increase by &gt;50% from Y1 baseline by project end.</p> <p>1.4 At least 70% (252) households reporting a new and/or higher primary source of income due to the project end.</p> <p>1.5 Female participation reaches 50% in small grant beneficiary groups by project end (from a current base of ≈ 30%).</p> <p>1.6 Snare detection rates by community patrol teams reduced by 80% on Y1 baseline</p> <p>1.7 By project end, there is a recorded decrease in the number of HEC incidents within the project area resulting in death, serious injury or damage.</p>	<p>tolerance commitments, and documentation of personal pledges to combat IWT.</p> <p>1.2 SMART reports from VDC and/or from FD records.</p> <p>1.3 Livelihood monitoring data including ranking income sources and livelihood strategies (extended in project Year 1, but based on surveys from 2016/17 and 2018/19, gender disaggregated).</p> <p>1.4 As above.</p> <p>1.5 As above.</p> <p>1.6 SMART reports from VDC and/or from FD records.</p> <p>1.7 Aggregated Monthly HEC monitoring data.</p>	<p>sufficiently well recorded and maintained by the VDCs.</p> <p>The current community preference for avoiding conflict with authorities and attracting development assistance continues through the project period.</p> <p>The small grants (up to 2000 GBP) are sufficient for the selected livelihoods activities. The selected interventions will produce perceptible livelihood returns within the project lifetime.</p>
<p>Output 2: Improved law enforcement capacity and effectiveness resulting from improved collaboration and communication between</p>	<p>2.1. Increase in number of warnings to offenders, confiscations, community reports responded to</p>	<p>2.1 SMART reports from VCG and/or from KFD records (gender disaggregated).</p>	<p>Law enforcement agencies will respond to the information provided by the community guardians and other informants. This however seems reasonable based on experience in other examples of this</p>



<p>communities and enforcement authorities.</p>	<p>by KFD WPU, and reduction in re-offending (targets will be set in consultation with the stakeholders once baselines are established in Year 1).</p> <p>2.2. Number of incidents of poaching (e.g., individuals or equipment seen) per unit patrol effort reduced by 50% by project end from Y1 baseline.</p> <p>2.3. By project end, illegal activity reported by community members is informing 50% of VGC/WPU patrols (baseline zero).</p> <p>2.4. Transboundary exchange of actionable information increases on Y1 baseline.</p> <p>2.5. Actionable information shared with Thai partners results in at least two transboundary law enforcement actions by project end.</p> <p>2.6. At least one prosecution by project end.</p>	<p>2.2 As above.</p> <p>2.3 As above.</p> <p>2.4 A draft TOR is being applied, even if not fully ratified, as evidenced by meeting minutes.</p> <p>2.5 Formal or informal reports from project stakeholders, media or communities collected by project staff.</p> <p>2.6 SMART reports from VGC and/or from KFD records.</p>	<p>approach in Myanmar, but the chances can be improved by raising the profile of this community approach and engaging with political leaders and the media.</p> <p>Corruption is managed effectively.</p> <p>Low-level territorial disputes do not dissuade the two national governments from continuing and expanding their cooperation on IWT.</p>
<p>Output 3: Approach and learning from community-level responses to IWT documented and shared nationally and globally to promote replication in Myanmar.</p>	<p>3.1 Learning shared with 50 key stakeholders from 10 relevant institutions (community, civil society, government) in Myanmar.</p> <p>3.2 Successes incorporated into national policy (e.g., SOPs for community patrols).</p>	<p>3.1 Communications and meeting/event reports.</p> <p>3.2 National policy documents</p>	<p>Community-led guardianship results in the desired decline in illegal killing and trafficking of wildlife, making it a source of learning for others.</p>

<b>Activities</b> (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for examples 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)			
1.1	Support six community VDCs to gain legal recognition and agree VDC-level commitments including zero-tolerance to poaching and IWT, linked to livelihoods support.		
1.2	Establish, train and support VDC-level Village Conservation Groups (VCG; self-titled rotation of community steward teams, approximately 10/village) to undertake strategic SMART patrolling in their village forests to deter and detect IWT, monitor and report HEC, and remove snares.		
1.3	Support VDCs to consult their community to democratically identify and implement priority livelihood diversification at community and household-levels, e.g., animal husbandry, home vegetable gardens, cash crops, and/or vocational training.		
1.4	Train and support VDC-level oversight and management to implement a small grants scheme to enable livelihood diversification.		
1.5	Train VCGs in HEC mitigation and establish an early warning system for HEC avoidance.		
2.1	Support newly established KFD ten-person WPU to undertake strategic, intelligence-led patrolling supported by SMART and CyberTracker software.		
2.2	With all stakeholders, co-establish a mechanism for community members to document and report illegal activity to VCGs, FD and KFD, including building trust, shared identify and ownership, and overcoming barriers to reporting.		
2.3	Work with FD and KFD to develop and pilot standardised systems for joint monitoring and analysis of all project data on IWT occurrences and trends, for planning and sharing with police.		
2.4	Establish VDC representation in the Tanintharyi Region Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force (WLET), e.g., on planning and enforcement actions.		
2.5	Work with Freeland to build relationships and systematic cooperation and sharing of actionable information between FD, KFD, Tanintharyi Regional WLET and Thai Authorities.		
3.1	Develop recommendations based on field experience, evaluation and learning for community engagement in enforcing Myanmar's biodiversity and forest laws in concert with authorities.		
3.2	Share recommendations from practical field experience of community-level responses to IWT with key stakeholders in Myanmar and at relevant national, regional and international forums.		

## Annex 3 Standard Indicators

**Table 1 Project Standard Indicators**

<b>IWTCF Indicator number</b>	<b>Name of indicator using original wording</b>	<b>Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with IWTCF Standard Indicators</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Disaggregation</b>	<b>Year 1 Total</b>	<b>Year 2 Total</b>	<b>Year 3 Total</b>	<b>Total to date</b>	<b>Total planned during the project</b>
IWTCF-A01	Livestock Training		People				18	18	18
IWTCF-D12	Gender Equality Training		People				26	26	26
	Agriculture Training		People				22	22	22
	Financial Management and Accounting		People				88	88	88
	IWT Workshop in Bokeyyin District		People		40				40
	IWT Workshop in Tanintharyi Township		People				30	30	30
	IWT Workshop in Kawthaung District		People				20	20	20

<b>IWTCF Indicator number</b>	<b>Name of indicator using original wording</b>	<b>Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with IWTCF Standard Indicators</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Disaggregation</b>	<b>Year 1 Total</b>	<b>Year 2 Total</b>	<b>Year 3 Total</b>	<b>Total to date</b>	<b>Total planned during the project</b>
	HEC awareness training		People				95	95	95

**Table 2 Publications**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Type</b> (e.g., journals, manual, CDs)	<b>Detail</b> (Authors, year)	<b>Gender of Lead Author</b>	<b>Nationality of Lead Author</b>	<b>Publishers</b> (Name, city)	<b>Available from</b> (e.g., weblink or publisher if not available online)

## Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the <b>correct template</b> (checking fund, type of report (i.e., Annual or Final), and year) and <b>deleted the blue guidance text</b> before submission?	Yes
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> putting the project number in the subject line.	Yes
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> If so, please discuss with <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the subject line.	No
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Yes
<b>Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report?</b> If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	No
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 17)?	n/a
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	



Fig (7) Gender Training and Livestock Training in Myeik