



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Final 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: no later than 3 months after agreed project end date.

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

IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWT091
Project title	Control poaching and IWT by strengthening community guardianship in Chitwan
Country(ies)	NEPAL
Lead Partner	National Trust for Nature Conservation
Project Partner (s)	Kalika Community Forest, Kankali Community Forest, Kalika and Rapti Municipalities and German Nepal Friendship Association
IWTCF grant value	
Start/end dates of project	15th April 2020 – 15th March 2024
Project Leader’s name	Dr Naresh [REDACTED]
Project website/blog/social media	
Report author(s) and date	NTNC, 2024 Contributors: Dr Madhu [REDACTED], Dr [REDACTED], Rishi [REDACTED] and Aashish [REDACTED]

1. Project summary

The project aimed to reduce rhino poaching threats while uplifting the socio-economic status of Chepang communities living in the northern hills of Chitwan valley. Wildlife crime syndicates often take advantage of poor economic status and jungle skills of Chepang communities and exploit them for poaching wildlife. Various conservation programs implemented in and around Chitwan valley often fail to reach these communities. Those who are found to be involved in poaching get arrested swiftly. In some families where parents are arrested, the families often lose their income source and children are deprived of care, health and education. As a result there is a risk of developing negative attitude of these communities towards conservation. It is possible to avoid such situation through awareness programs, education especially for children, livelihood and income generation activities. Based on our experience in buffer zones and other corridor forests, community ownership of wildlife can be built by increasing awareness and providing livelihood support. Through this project we also intend to transform the previous wildlife poachers to wildlife protectors.

The project has been implemented in Saipang Bansghari in Kalika Municipality (Ward no 11), and Kalikhola, Dobate, Darlami, Kawar, Shikharital and Swamitar settlements in Rapti municipality (Ward no.

10) (Figure 1 below). These settlements are situated on the Churia hills in northern part of Chitwan valley (~ 10 km north of Chitwan National Park). There are ~200 households with majority belonging to Chepang tribe (>100) along with few Tamang ethnic group and Kami (lower Hindu cast, so called untouchables). They are socio-economically marginalised. Wildlife crime syndicates take benefits of poor economic status and jungle skills of Chepang youths and mobilized them in killing rhinos in Chitwan valley. Thus, these three small settlements are ill-famed for their involvement in rhino poaching. Wildlife authorities and police have reached these settlements many times to arrest those involved in poaching. All the current efforts are carried out from the law-enforcement side (arresting and putting them in jail). No activities were conducted before to change the root cause – the community education and livelihood opportunities. Thus, we initiated this project to engage Chepang youths in alternative livelihood and educate kids in these settlements.

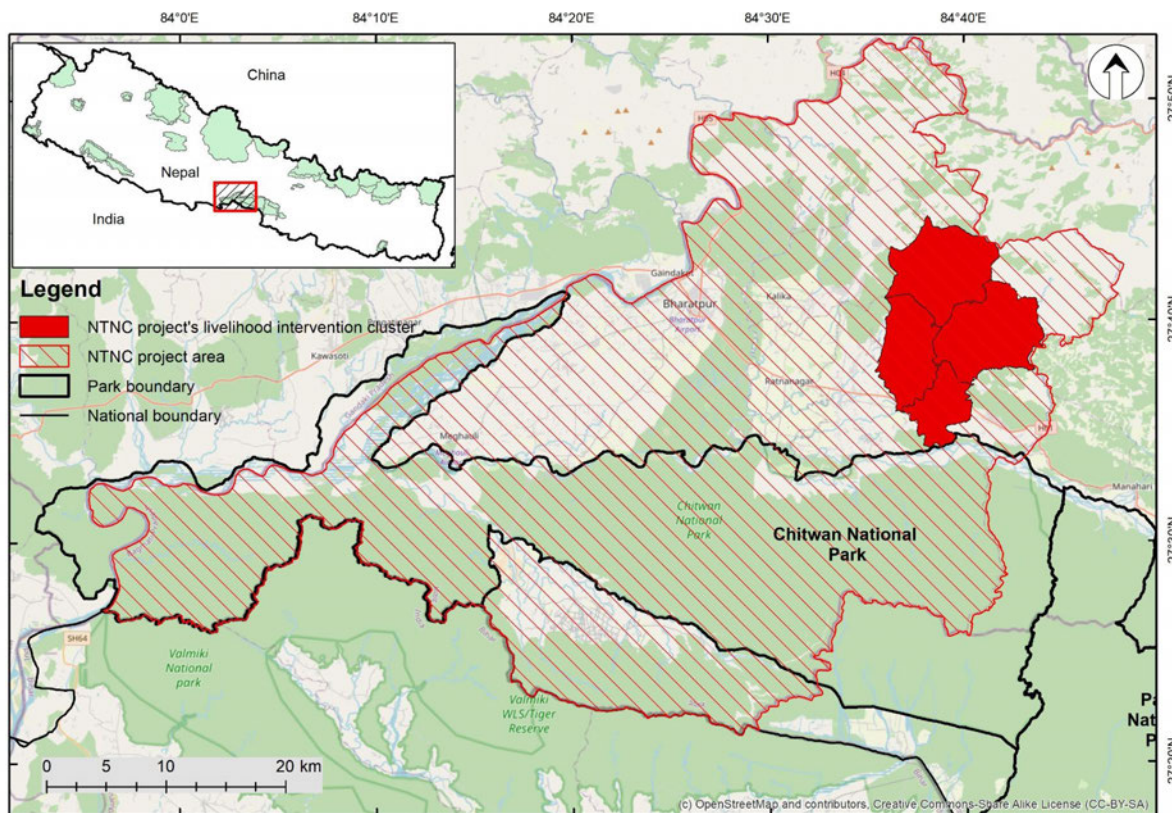


Figure 1 Project location. The livelihood intervention was focused in the red filled area

2. Project Partnerships

NTNC (previously known as KMTNC) has been working in collaboration with Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation since its establishment in 1982. NTNC focuses on science based wildlife management and participatory wildlife conservation. NTNC leads in wildlife research and monitoring in Nepal while providing a much needed technical support for the park and the government. Similarly, it works closely with the local communities for developing ownership for biodiversity conservation and enhancing their capacity. NTNC carries out its activities in close collaboration with the national park authorities, local government and community institutions. This project has further enhanced the relation between the partner organizations as it attempts to address the issue of poaching and illegal wildlife trade at the root level i.e. to uplift the livelihood of local people and decrease their dependency on forests and activities related to IWT. The project was implemented in close coordination with the Chitwan National Park (CNP) and Divisional Forest Office Chitwan. The CNP office keeps a detailed record of wildlife (especially rhino and tiger) poaching in and around CNP including our project area. The park also helped in identifying key people from the villages in the project area who were the target groups of our project. The park has also been helping in widespread delivery of conservation education sessions and legal provisions for wildlife conservation. Similarly, the Divisional Forest Office, Chitwan provided technical support for the CBAPU formation and mobilization. The local government bodies - Rapti and Kalika municipalities and the local community organisations (Community Forest User Groups, Community Based Anti-Poaching Units) also collaborated in this project through their participation as well as technical and financial contributions where possible. The Kalika municipality provided additional support for the livelihood (NRs. 500,000 for goat farming). The community forest user groups also leveraged additional support for wildlife conservation and IWT Challenge Fund Main Final Report Template 2023

livelihood activities (cow farming, goat farming, vegetable farming etc). In collaboration with the Chitwan National Park, Divisional Forest Office Chitwan, Rapti Municipality, Kalika Municipality, Kalika and other community forest user group and other local community, NTNC successfully completed the first year of the project. This continued collaboration with all these partners, stakeholders and relevant organizations during the project year has not only seen this project succeed but it will definitely ensure development of local communities with primary focus on wildlife conservation and reduction of IWT activities in the future as well.

3. Project Achievements

3.1 Outputs

Output 1: Communities discouraged for poaching and supported in wildlife conservation as a result of diversified livelihoods opportunities

The project supported the local communities with goats, cows, vegetable farming, etc. as alternate livelihood opportunities. Although the average annual income was depicted as \$127 per year per HH, our survey of 187 HHs at the end of the project discovered the average annual income to be around \$1600 per HH before the initiation of our project. Due to the supports from this project, the average annual income is now around \$1725. As per the set SMART indicators, the average annual HHs has increased by \$125 which is almost 100% (target = 40%) compared to the baseline of \$127 per HH. In order to ensure long term sustainability and self-dependence, we also provided 2 training sessions on the basics of vegetable farming, livestock husbandry and livestock health. This approach has supported the communities to take good care of their livestock and agriculture to increase their products in both quality and quantity. The increased revenue will not only help the HHs by improving their economic status but it will also help the community to support other marginalized HHs in the future.



Figure 2 Livelihood supports: Goat farming (top left), Cow farming (top right) and Livestock training (bottom)
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Figure 3 Vegetable farming support and training for local communities

Our priority for active participation of women in livelihood and skill based trainings has resulted in more than 46% involvement of female participants (target = 30%). Overall 557 participants were involved in various activities like vegetable farming livestock farming, and skill-based trainings where 260 participants included female members (target = 40 women). Despite achieving our goals, three activities in particular: driving, electrician and plumbing training, the women participation was nil which could be because these skills are still preferred for men in Nepalese society. The opportunities created thus far has not only provided the HHs with crucial income source but it has reduced the communities' dependency on forests and forest products. After getting trained and skilled in various activities, most time of the days these families are occupied with their new daily chores. This has also decreased their time and opportunities to venture into forest areas further decreasing their pressure on forest and its resources.



Figure 4 Skill-based trainings: Electrician training (left) and Basic Nature Guide training (right)

Till date, 116 HHs (target = 100 HHs) have already gained membership and also have also become shareholders in the cooperative that was established by this project. Such eager participation ensures the improvement of effectiveness and benefits from the cooperative. The community members supported from this project as well as other HHs in surrounding communities are also willingly integrating into this cooperative to promote various livestock and agricultural activities for facilitating the communities while providing more benefits.



Figure 5 Community members participating in Cooperative management training

Output 2: Increased community awareness on social and economic consequences of the poaching/IWT

A total of 62 conservation awareness sessions (target = 12 events) were conducted in the project area. Forty two sessions were delivered to students ranging between secondary schools to Bachelors level. A total of 2852 students (target = 320 person) were reached through this activity while 1438 female students (50.4%) showed active participation (target = 40%). One hundred and forty students (baseline = 15 students) has been further supported by this project through its scholarship support for families affected by involvement in IWT activities. This annual scholarship was awarded to the hardworking students based on their annual performance. The activity supported 80 female students i.e. 57.1% of the awardees (target = 50%).



Figure 6 Students from IWT affecte HHs supported with annual scholarships

We also designed and installed 40 hoarding boards along roads that are frequently commuted in sensitive areas. The boards contained messages that not only encourages the local communities towards wildlife conservation but they also contained information about possible penalties for getting involved in any IWT activities according the government laws.



Figure 7 Hoarding boards with conservation messages and information

Figure 8 Conservation awareness poster published on International Pangolin day

Output 3: Poaching threats reduced through active community participation

During the project period, communities in the project area have conducted 242 patrolling operations. More than 596 volunteers (target = 120 youths) from the communities actively participated in those operations yielding to minimal IWT activities (firewood and forest vegetable gatherings) reported from the project area after the implementation of the project. In such cases, as the offenders are from economically marginalized HHs and are almost forced to rely on their local forests, they are often treated casually. They are promptly warned and their possessions are checked thoroughly for any serious offences and released. However, repeated offences can lead the CFUGs to take legal actions.



Figure 9 CBAPU members and forest guards during their regular patrols

Trainings for CBAPUs were conducted through 17 different events where they were mostly delivered on techniques regarding wildlife identification, tracking and understanding wildlife signs, safety measures for patrolling and legal procedures of IWT activities. Each project year 20 different CBAPUs were also equipped with field gears and equipment necessary for regular patrols. Altogether 527 CBAPU members (target = 120) benefited from this activity. The collaborative efforts of CBAPUs with DFOs, NPs and local government bodies were successful to deter any major IWT related activities in the project area.



Figure 10 CBAPU members attending a training on wildlife monitoring techniques

Fifty one GSM (Global System for Mobile communication) automatic cameras were purchased through this project in the first year. The GSM feature in this camera can connect it with the mobile network through a SIM card allowing us to gather the picture data in almost real time. These cameras were installed in the 8 CFs (Baghmara, Kumroj, Panchakanya, Chaturmukhi, Bhimwali, Thankhola, Kankali, Ajingarey,

Amritdharapani, Dudhkoshi, Kalika and Baghdevi community forest) within the project area. We installed the cameras at area by mobilizing CBAPU and forest guard. The data access was also shared with Nepal Army for providing necessary information to conduct patrols in and around Chitwan NP. So far 16 units of cameras were lost due to vandalism and theft. The communities have reported the incidents to local police as we requested but there have been no progress in finding the cameras. Realizing the benefits of these types of cameras, Division Forest Office of Chitwan requested for 5 units of cameras for their surveillance. The DFO has deployed the GSM cameras to monitor wildlife activities around the highways of Ramnagar as well as to gather information on any illegal wildlife activities. Similarly, we also installed these GSM cameras at various other locations of CNP. Mostly, the cameras were used to monitor tigers that ventured too close to human settlements. The real time data from these cameras helped us to track and rescue 3 individual tigers that posed potential risk on human safety. The prompt rescue of these animals has helped in minimizing the development of negative attitudes among local people towards the wildlife and the Park.



Figure 11 CBAPU members training and installing GSM cameras



Figure 12 Tiger and rhino with a calf recorded in the project area

During the project period we recorded 20 different species from the project area including rare and endangered species like tiger and rhino. The most commonly recorded species were spotted deer (*Axis axis*), sambar deer (*Rusa unicolor*) and rhesus macaque (*Macaca mullata*). As the cameras were installed in strategic locations to detect IWT activities, it could have decreased the detection of most of the wildlife activities. A total of 70,736 images were recorded in the cameras, out of which more than 50% (42,661) of images were that of humans showing the level of anthropogenic disturbance in this particular area. We also recorded 99 images of possible poachers with traditionally and locally manufactured muskets. The images were shared with the DFO Chitwan and Nepal Army who are responsible for further investigation and undertaking the legal actions.



Figure 13 Illegal activities recorded in the project area

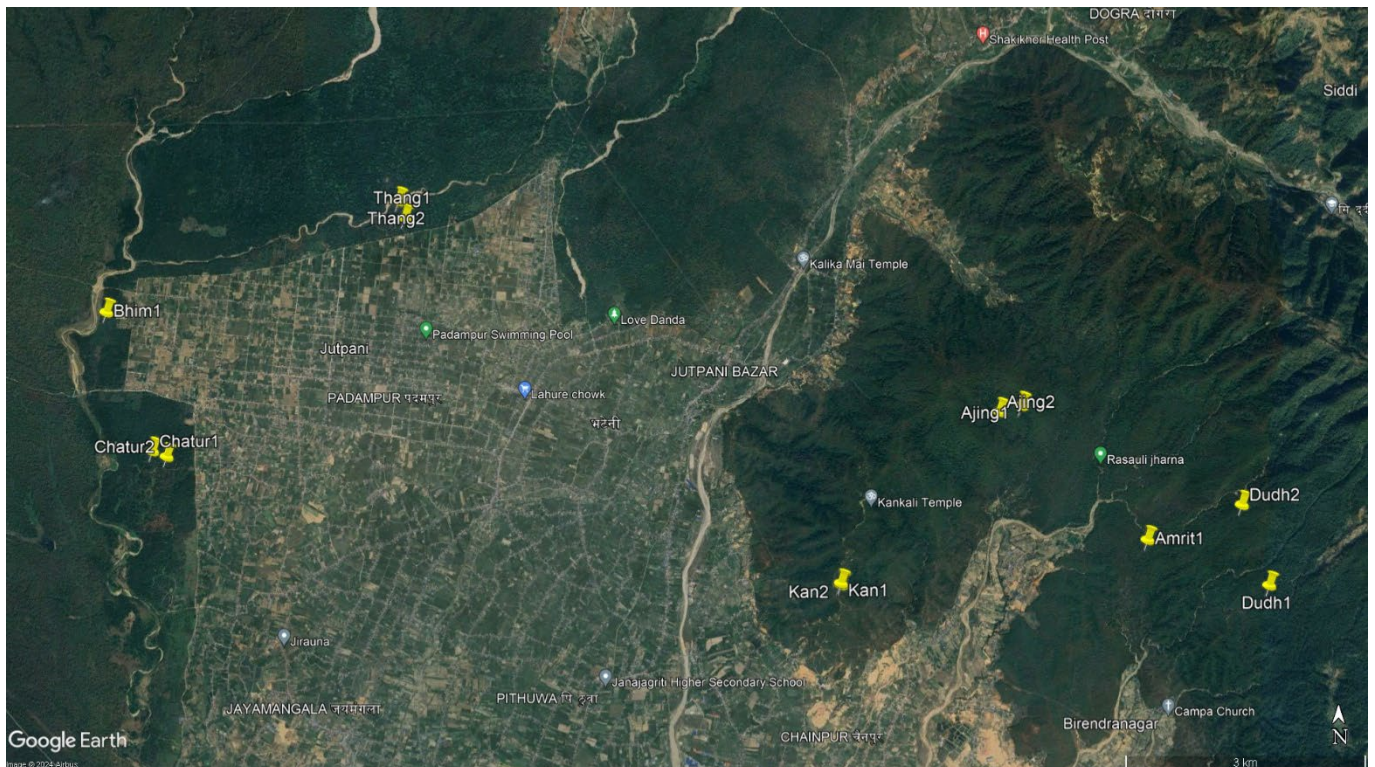


Figure 14 Locations of the camera traps installed around project area. In most of the sites repeated theft and vandalism forced us to avoid those areas overall

In Amritdharapani CF 6 people were apprehended for illegal logging and 2 people for illegal firewood collection. In Kalika CF, 15 people related to illegal logging were apprehended and 30 people were investigated for illegally entering the forest area. Similarly, during the project period there have been 5 rhino poaching and 22 cases of other species, however, none of the communities in our project area were found to be involved in any of those cases in any way. This project has also supported 73 CFs (target = 30 CFs) for conducting regular patrols by mobilizing 2 forest guards each from every CFs. These forest guards carry out these patrols on daily basis (also in the group with volunteers from the communities mentioned previously under Output 3).

3.2 Outcome

Outcome 1: Indigenous Chepang and Tamang communities practising sustainable livelihood measures and discouraged in IWT, zero poaching for rhinos and tigers maintained in Chitwan and poaching /IWT threats of other wildlife reduced.

One of the indicators for this outcome was to shift at least 70% of the 190 HHHs to alternate livelihood options. Almost all of the supported HHHs were already depended on agriculture or livestock for their primary

income, thus we have helped 557 HHs (way over 100%) to further develop their income generating opportunities through project activities.

The project has helped increase the annual HH income by 100% as mentioned in the Output 1 of section 3.1.

Although there have been several poaching cases in and around CNP during the project period, none of the individuals from our project area were found to be involved in those crimes. This is a clear indication of change in people's attitude in our project area and demands for such projects to be implemented in wider scale to further reduce IWT cases in and around Chitwan.

Tiger population in CNP has increased from 93 individuals in 2018 to 128 individual tigers in 2022 with an increase of 37% (target = 10%). Similarly, the rhino population in CNP has risen from 605 in 2015 to 694 individual rhinos in 2022 which shows an increase by 14% (target = 10%). The rise in tiger population could be one of the factors resulting in tiger populations spreading out to adjoining forests of CNP.

During the project implementation, the communities were also sensitized about various illegal wildlife activities, their consequences and impact on local people, community and the environment. They were educated about the legal and environmental penalties that they have to incur due to biodiversity loss.

3.3 Monitoring of assumptions

None

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

Impact:

Rare assemblage of large mammals in and around Chitwan national park in Nepal is conserved sustainably in guardianship of the local communities.

Impact on illegal wildlife trade:

This project has been able to provide necessary field-based trainings for 527 CBAPU members and support for the strengthening of the 60 CBAPUs (20 CBAPUs in each project year) with field gears and equipment for their regular patrols in their community forest areas. We also supported 73 CFUGs (during different project years) for their regular patrols mobilizing their forest guards. As a result, the communities are now better equipped and trained for increasing the effectiveness of their wildlife conservation activities. During the project year, there have been no major activities related to illegal wildlife trade which can be partially contributed to our project activities. We have also conducted activities and delivered sessions to enhance conservation awareness among 2852 students and 716 community members to make them realise the importance of biodiversity and the benefits of their conservation. These sessions and activities also makes them aware about the legal consequences of illegal wildlife trade so the communities are further discouraged to get involved in such activities.

Also the activities supporting human development and well-being also has a positive impact on illegal wildlife trade because self-sustaining and educated communities are morally demotivated to get involved in such illegal activities.

Impact on human development and well-being:

This project has supported 557 HHs with alternate income generating opportunities through activities such as - livestock farming, vegetable farming and skill-based trainings. These HHs now have additional income to support their livelihoods. It will also provide opportunities for the children of those HHs to be able to pursue a higher education which will in turn provide them with more job opportunities and a sustainable income. The supported HHs have already increased their annual income by \$125 in average. Furthermore, 140 students from IWT affected HHs were also supported with academic scholarship to morph their understanding towards wildlife conservation while alleviating literacy. Higher literacy will open up a variety of opportunities for the families to uplift their socio-economic status. The scholarship scheme will also reduce the financial burden on the HHs so they can invest their efforts on the well-being of their families. These activities not only contribute to human development and well-being, but also support wildlife conservation. As the communities become educated and self-sufficient, their reliability on the forest will decrease which will in turn provide the wildlife to flourish in their undisturbed habitats.

4. Contribution to IWT Challenge Fund Programme Objectives

4.1 Thematic focus

1. Strengthening law enforcement

This project focused on enhancing the awareness level of local people towards wildlife conservation while making them realize the consequences of activities related to IWT. We focused especially on students because they are the generation that can contribute to wildlife conservation in the future. We have also distributed different wildlife conservation posters, documents and booklets among the communities in our project area to further raise the awareness level. We installed 40 hoarding boards with conservation messages in strategic locations (where the communities are prone to activities related to IWT). We have also produced a conservation documentary that was broadcasted on national television. The documentary demonstrated the works done by this project in the project villages to uplift livelihood of the communities. It depicts the previously hunter communities shift towards agriculture and livestock rearing while completely abandoning their hunting culture. These activities have definitely been well received by the communities.

The project also provided field-based trainings with necessary tools and equipment (GPS, digital camera, field gears) for members of community based anti-poaching units who are involved in wildlife monitoring and patrolling of their community forests. The field-based trainings enhance their knowledge on wildlife behaviour, safety measures, monitoring techniques and data documentation. The field gears like boots, jackets, torch lights and water bottles distributed from this project ensures their well-being while increasing the efficiency of their work. They can accurately identify and closely monitor the wildlife in their locality while being safe themselves. The GPS devices and digital cameras have helped the community groups to keep a scientific record and evidence for any IWT related activities as well as wildlife monitoring.

Thus, this project has successfully contributed to strengthening our law enforcement against IWT related activities especially in the project area.

Evidence:

We have attached the photos and minutes of conservation awareness sessions, installed hoarding boards, published posters and video of the broadcasted documentary. The periodic patrol reports submitted from different CBAPUs are documented. Furthermore, the CBAPU of Kalika rescued a Chinese Pangolin from village area and released in their forest during the second project year.

2. Developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT

Our project has supported 557 HHs with various income generating activities which include: vegetable farming, livestock farming and skill-based trainings. This project also supported the IWT affected HHs with necessary trainings, services and materials required for sustaining the activities in the initial phase. As the HHs started to make income from the farm products, they were able to invest for more production leading to a self-sustaining community. For example: we have supported 103 HHs (in the second year alone) with a healthy higher breed of goat. These breed of goats have started to produce offspring with local breed of goats helping the respective HHs financially. Some offspring will be distributed to other HHs by the CFUGs to promote the income generating opportunities for all the HHs in their communities. We have also provided the families with necessary trainings on livestock husbandry and management. In collaboration with the respective Municipality, our veterinarians have done a complete health check-up and supplied the farmers with necessary supplements vitamins and minerals. They are monitoring the livestock health regularly. We have also established a cooperative for all these individuals to help them in sales of their products in the local and regional market. The locals are selling their products like vegetables, milk, butter and meat through the established cooperative. It has made life easier for the HHs as they don't have to search for market for their products by themselves. The cooperative also helps them get appropriate monetary value for their products as per the amount set by local government. From the generated income, they can invest in further improving their businesses to earn more money. Some of the HHs have bought additional goats and from regular breeding they own several goats (up to 20-25 goats) with very high monetary value. Thus, all HHs can steadily increase their income through these supports and develop a sustainable livelihood with determination and hard work. With the upliftment of these HHs, it will ultimately lead to a prosperous community with sustainable livelihood leading to less dependency on forest, wildlife and any illegal wildlife trade activities.

Evidence:

The photos, minutes and registers regarding the supports distributed through this project are properly documented. The HH survey data (in the Annex) at the end of the project provides ample evidence the improvement in the livelihoods of the communities.

4.2 Impact on species in focus

The population status from National surveys of the species in focus:

Greater One-horned Rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*)

Population in CNP in 2015 = 605 individuals

Population in CNP in 2021 = 694 individuals

Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*)

Population in CNP in 2018 = 93 individuals

Population in CNP in 2022 = 128 individuals

Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*)

Population in CNP in 2020 = 219 individuals

Population in CNP in recent = Not surveyed

4.3 Project support to poverty reduction

The project targets Chepang communities living at the northern part of Chitwan valley of Nepal. Chepang is one of the indigenous tribes of Nepal who are well-known for their life in harmony with nature. Most of them are socio-economically marginalised. Wildlife crime syndicates have often taken advantage of their poor economic status and jungle skills, and mobilised them for killing rhinos in Chitwan National Park and the adjoining forests. Often one or more members from most Chepang families in our project area are charged (and/or even jailed) for poaching wildlife including rhinos and tigers. As a result those families, especially the children, suffer the most as they are often left out and even neglected from basic needs such as education, health and job opportunities. This can lead the future generation of Chepang to resort back to activities related to IWT. This project aims to rescue them from this vicious cycle while morphing them from hunters to protectors of the wildlife through various activities to uplift their livelihood and socio-economic status. Our project also provides them with conservation education to raise their awareness level. The project also awarded scholarships to students from Chepang and other underprivileged indigenous communities to complete their school and get higher qualifications. Higher education will open up new opportunities for these communities while ensuring their direct and indirect contribution for wildlife conservation.

This project has supported 557 HHs in the project area with different income generating activities like vegetable farming, livestock farming and skill-based activities. This has directly impacted on their poverty by increasing their average annual income by \$125 already. As the communities improve on these supports, they can gradually produce more income. For their convenience, we have also established a cooperative that will further improve the sales of their products and increase their yearly income. The members who received skill-based trainings are also engaged in their own respective professions in their local areas and beyond. We also provide hardworking students with annual scholarship award. During the project period we have supported 140 students (60 boys and 80 girls) with this award. This further decreases the financial cost for the family regarding the education of their children. For this we have established a revolving fund of NPR. 3,100,000 to sustain the scholarship program for a long term. With increased income, upgrading of a primary and a secondary school (through different NTNC project) and providence of scholarship for hardworking students, the young children in and around the project area are now readily attending their schools. In long term this will definitely move the community towards a better socio-economic state while becoming aware towards the importance of wildlife and their conservation.

4.4 Gender equality and social inclusion

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	4
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women ² .	30%

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
Not yet sensitive	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
Sensitive	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	X
Empowering	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

5. Monitoring and evaluation

The project activities are monitored by NTNC as a lead organization implementing this project. We used the log frame of the project as the basis for monitoring and evaluation. We have conducted multiple monitoring visits to the site and also reviewed the documents obtained from the project partners and government authorities. Most of our project activities consist of livelihood support (goat, cow) or trainings, workshops and meetings with partner organisations and related stakeholders. The monitoring of the trainings was done by assessing the field reports and necessary documents submitted by the community groups. The meetings and workshops held by the communities were monitored by NTNC's staff and also checked their documents such as minutes, photographs and video clips (where available). The project activities also include equipment supports, livestock support and vegetable supports for the target households. We will continue to monitor the usage of the equipment through the data recorded and documented by the community groups. The data will be summarised and attached in our annual reports. Furthermore, each year the project progress was also monitored by a team of internal and government audit team.

6. Actions taken in response to Annual Report reviews

None

7. Lessons learnt

The project activities had multidimensional activities including livelihood development, enhancing law enforcement and raising awareness. We put our full effort to complete all the activities in agreed time frame despite the challenging aftermath of COVID crisis. We worked closely with the communities and local government bodies which facilitated the project implementation. NTNC's continuous engagement with communities was also supportive for this project. The communities, especially the Chepang people have also accepted this project very well. Community consultations and partnership for project implementation is important. Establishing a cooperative was one of the major challenges this year. The mushrooming of several cooperatives in Nepal has had its toll on the community of project area as well. As a result, the local people were initially reluctant to the idea and other previously established cooperatives created high

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

² Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

competition and challenges for us as well. Our field staff (Mr Rishi Ram Subedi) even received some anonymous messages and calls suggesting not to proceed with the establishment of the cooperative. However, with the support from the local community and the local government body, we were successful to register and establish the Kalika Multipurpose Cooperative Limited. Another challenging aspect was for developing booklets for awareness. Due to the limited number of quality publication vendors, the activity kept getting postponed and as a result the lack of time we were unable to complete this particular activity which was very unfortunate for NTNC and the project itself.

8. Risk Management

None

9. Sustainability and legacy

This project was implemented in collaboration with different stakeholders including the Rapti and Kalika Municipality, Divisional Forest Office Chitwan, Chitwan National Park and Community Forests. Since the beginning of the project we involved different stakeholders and asked them to leverage the matching funds wherever possible. It will develop ownership for the project activities among the stakeholders and the legacy of the project continues. With the support from different project partners the achievements of the project will be sustainable. Moreover, NTNC will continue to seek the external support for these communities from the funding agencies even after completion of this project. We seek to apply these interventions to most of such communities residing around Chitwan valley to further improve wildlife conservation while deterring IWT activities.

10. IWT Challenge Fund Identity

a. Efforts to publicise the IWT Challenge Fund and its UK Government sponsors

As a donor organisation, IWT Challenge Fund was acknowledged (with its logo) in each and every reports, banners and all publications. While conducting training/workshops, we also acknowledged verbally the support of IWT Challenge Fund and UK Government. We also called the media personnel where possible during the project implementation to publicise the project activities. We have also updated our activities through social media through NTNC-BCC's such as Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/NTNCBCC>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/ntncbcc>) accounts.

b. Recognition of UK Government's contribution

UK Government is acknowledged for the support in project activities and all publications

c. Project recognition and identity

This project is recognized as a distinct project with the clear identity. This is the first project of this scale in the project area targeting the marginalised Chepang, Tamang and Dalit communities.

d. Understanding of the IWT Challenge Fund within the host country

The people in the wildlife sector and all stakeholders in project implementation areas are now familiar with the IWT Challenge Fund.

11. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months	Yes/No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes Ms. Reetu [REDACTED]
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	Yes Rising from the Root (Climate Change and Gender) organized by Power-Shift Nepal (January 2024)
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 60% Planned: 100%

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

None.

Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the lifetime of the project; include topics covered and number of participants.

Human-wildlife co-existence
Poaching/IWT awareness

Have there been any concerns around Health, Safety and Security of your staff over the lifetime of the project? If yes, please outline how this was resolved.

None.

12. Finance and administration

This section seeks information about the finances of your project since the last Annual Report.

Please amend the financial years in the tables to suit the reporting period and add/remove rows in the sub-tables if necessary. If you need to provide information for more than one Financial Year (FYs), please copy the table below and amend the FYs as required. You should not mix reporting of different FYs. 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.

12.1 Project expenditure

Complete the expenditure table below, providing a breakdown of salaries, capital items and explanations of 'Other' costs. If the budget was changed since the project started, please clarify the main differences. **Explain in full** any significant variation in expenditure where this is +/- 10% of the approved budget lines.

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2022/23 Grant (£)	2022/23 Total actual IWTCF Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	£68,578.00	£65,820.80		

Staff employed (Name and position)	Cost (£)
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Rachana Shah, Project Manager		
Aashish Gurung, Conservation Officer		
Bishwa Prasad Adhikari, Senior Conservation Education Assistant		
Rishi Ram Subedi, Senior Natural Resource Conservation Assistant		
Raju Chaudhary, Senior Accountant		
Debaka Siwakoti, Senior Admin Assistant		
TOTAL		£25,969.71

Capital items – description	Capital items – cost (£)
TOTAL	

Other items – description	Other items – cost (£)
TOTAL	

12.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Source of funding for project lifetime	Total (£)
NTNC & Nepal German Friendship Association	
TOTAL	

Source of funding for additional work after project lifetime	Total (£)

TOTAL	

12.3 Value for Money

13. **OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project (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).

With the multi-dimensional activities, this project has supported communities, their livelihoods and their wildlife conservation in the project area. One of the major achievements of this project can be considered as the impact in attitude and improvement in livelihood resulting in zero involvement in IWT related activities. As the communities now have better income opportunities and education support for their children, they are demotivated to participate in IWT activities as it poses risks not only to their legal freedom but also to their well-being and dignity. Cooperative established from this project has further helped them to easily sell their product as per the market value. Trainings provided to CBAPUs has enhanced their knowledge about wildlife reducing risks from wildlife during patrols and wildlife monitoring. The piloting of GSM camera was well received by CNP and DFO as they have also purchased and installed GSM cameras for monitoring wildlife and illegal activities in their jurisdiction areas. The most important achievement was the fact that no one from our project area (although in the past these communities were infamous for harbouring few of the most wanted rhino poachers in Nepal) was involved in 5 cases of rhino poaching in CNP during the project period.

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)
Chepang documentary		Chepang documentary, Nepal, NTNC, Nepal Television		Yes
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No

Annex 1 Project's original (or most recently approved) logframe, including indicators, means of verification and assumptions.

Note: Insert your full logframe. If your logframe was changed since your application and was approved by a Change Request the newest approved version should be inserted here, otherwise insert application logframe.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact:			
Rare assemblage of large mammals in and around Chitwan national park in Nepal is conserved sustainably in guardianship of the local communities			
Outcome: Indigenous Chepang and Tamang communities practising sustainable livelihood measures and discouraged in IWT, zero poaching for rhinos and tigers maintained in Chitwan and poaching /IWT threats of other wildlife reduced	<p>0.1 (a) 70% of the indigenous communities (190 households) in the intervention cluster shift to alternate livelihood options by yr III</p> <p>0.1 (b) Average household income increase by 40% by yr III <i>Baseline: NPR 15,000 (US\$ 127)/year/household in 2020</i></p> <p>0.2 Zero poaching for tigers and rhinos maintained. Poaching of other species reduced by 60% <i>Baseline: 3 rhinos poached, 22 poaching cases of other wildlife</i></p> <p>0.3 Tiger, rhino and gharial population increase by 10% <i>Baseline: Tiger 93, Rhino 605, Gharial 219</i></p>	<p>0.1 (a) Progress reports of yr I, III & III indicating the number of households reached in livelihood activities</p> <p>0.1 (b) Household survey report in yr III indicating change in income among the beneficiaries from livelihood opportunities</p> <p>0.2 Wildlife poaching records from Chitwan and Parsa NP</p> <p>0.3 Survey reports</p>	

	<p>0.4 95% household members understand the prevailing wildlife conservation policies and social impacts <i>Baseline: 20% households</i></p>	0.4 Questionnaire survey	
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Communities discouraged for poaching and supported in wildlife conservation as a result of diversified livelihoods opportunities</p>	<p>1.1 Alternative livelihood opportunities result to an increase of income by 40% by year III (190 households) <i>Baseline: NPR 15,000 (US\$ 127)/year/household in 2020</i></p> <p>1.2 40 local youths (30% of the intervention cluster) including 15 females benefited from skill-based training packages in yr I & II[s1] <i>Baseline: 0 in 2020</i></p> <p>1.3 Over 100 households (67%) are involved in cooperative <i>Baseline: 0 in 2020</i></p>	<p>1.1 Project progress reports, household survey report in year III</p> <p>1.2 Project progress reports, list of participants</p> <p>1.3 Cooperative record and profiles</p>	
<p>2. Increased community awareness on social and economic consequences of the poaching/IWT</p>	<p>2.1 12 conservation education/extension sessions delivered to over 320 persons (40% female) <i>Baseline: 0 in 2020</i></p> <p>2.2 70 school students (50% girls) of targeted families continue their education through scholarship support <i>Baseline: 15 in 2020</i></p> <p>2.3 Installed hoarding boards (10), published a booklet (1000 copies) and a documentary <i>Baseline: 0 in 2020</i></p>	<p>2.1 Project progress reports, minutes, photographs and participants registration</p> <p>2.2 School records, students report card</p> <p>2.3 Photographs of the hoarding boards, booklet digital copies and distribution records, documentary digital copy & broadcasting records/Youtube views</p>	

<p>3. Poaching threats reduced through active community participation</p>	<p>3.1 By year III Over 120 youth (at least 30% female) volunteers are engaged actively in controlling wildlife crime <i>Baseline: 36 in 2020</i></p> <p>3.2 120 CBAPU members trained and equipment support provided <i>Baseline: 0 in 2020</i></p> <p>3.3. surveillance cameras (20) send pictures regularly <i>Baseline: 0 in 2020</i></p> <p>3.4 60 forest guards in 30 Community Forest User Groups mobilised for controlling IWT activities <i>Baseline: 0 in 2020</i></p>	<p>3.1 Activity reports, CBAPU meeting minutes, patrol records, illegal activities detected</p> <p>3.2 Training reports and equipment distribution records, photos</p> <p>3.3 Report of the pilot study</p> <p>3.4 Patrolling and seizure records</p>	
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p>			

Annex 2 Report of progress and achievements against final project logframe for the life of the project

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
<p>Impact</p> <p>Rare assemblage of large mammals in and around Chitwan national park in Nepal is conserved sustainably in guardianship of the local communities</p>		<p>No involvement of communities from project are in any IWT activities. Tiger and rhino population increased by 37.6% and 14.7% respectively.</p>
<p>Outcome Indigenous Chepang and Tamang communities practising sustainable livelihood measures and discouraged in IWT, zero poaching for rhinos and tigers maintained in Chitwan and poaching /IWT threats of other wildlife reduced</p>	<p>0.1 (a) 95.5% of the indigenous communities (190 households) in the intervention cluster shift to alternate livelihood options by yr III</p> <p>0.1 (b) Average household income increase by 40% by yr III <i>Baseline: NPR 15,000 (US\$ 127)/year/household in 2020</i></p> <p>0.2 Zero poaching for tigers and rhinos maintained. Poaching of other species reduced by 60% <i>Baseline: 3 rhinos poached, 22 poaching cases of other wildlife</i></p> <p>0.3 Tiger, rhino and gharial population increase by 10% <i>Baseline: Tiger 93, Rhino 605, Gharial 219</i></p> <p>0.4 95% household members understand the prevailing wildlife conservation policies and social impacts <i>Baseline: 20% households</i></p>	<p>0.1 (a) 557 HHs in the project area supported with alternate income generating activities</p> <p>0.1 (b) Average annual HH income increased by almost 100% (annual income increased by \$125).</p> <p>0.2 No records of rhino or tiger being poached in the project area till date since the project implementation.</p> <p>0.3 Tiger population of 2022 increased from 93 to 128 (37.6%). Rhino population increased from 605 to 694 (14.7%). Gharial survey not conducted.</p> <p>0.4 >100% HHs sensitized on prevailing wildlife conservation policies and social impacts.</p>
<p>Output 1. Communities discouraged for poaching and supported in wildlife conservation</p>	<p>1.1 Alternative livelihood opportunities result to an increase of income by 40% by year III (190 households)</p>	<p>Average annual HH income increased by 100% after 557 HHs were supported through various livelihood programs. One cooperative established with 116 members and increasing. 128 youths including 29 women benefited from the skill-based training packages.</p>

<p>as a result of diversified livelihoods opportunities</p>	<p><i>Baseline: NPR 15,000 (US\$ 127)/year/household in 2020</i></p> <p>1.2 40 local youths (30% of the intervention cluster) including 15 females benefited from skill-based training packages in yr I & II <i>Baseline: 0 in 2020</i></p> <p>1.3 Over 100 households (67%) are involved in cooperative <i>Baseline: 0 in 2020</i></p>	
<p>Activity 1.1 Engage IWT affected families (n=100) in vegetable farming</p>		<p>Activity 1.1. 154 households engaged in vegetable farming</p>
<p>Activity 1.2 Support skill-based training for the local youths –electricians (n=10), driving (n=15)</p>		<p>Activity 1.2. Electrician=15, Driving=10, Plumbing=8, Carpet weaving=20</p>
<p>Activity 1.3 Nature guide training (n=15; 10 men; 5 women)</p>		<p>Activity 1.3 Nature guide=60 local people (51 men and 9 women)</p>
<p>Activity 1.4 Goat farming (n=25 HHs)</p>		<p>Activity 1.4. Goat farming=206 HHs</p>
<p>Activity 1.5 Cow farming (n=25 HHs)</p>		<p>Activity 1.5 Cow farming=69 HHs</p>
<p>Activity 1.6 Establish one cooperative with at least 50% of women members</p>		<p>Activity 1.6 One cooperative established with 52.5% women members out of a total 116 members</p>
<p>Output 2. Increased community awareness on social and economic consequences of the poaching/IWT</p>	<p>2.1. 12 conservation education/extension sessions delivered to over 320 persons (40% female) <i>Baseline: 0 in 2020</i></p> <p>2.2. 70 school students (50% girls) of targeted families continue their education through scholarship support <i>Baseline: 15 in 2020</i></p>	<p>62 conservation education sessions delivered to a total of 3568 people (1861 men and 1707 women). 140 students awarded with annual scholarship support. Installed 40 hoarding boards and a video documentary prepared and published.</p>

	2.3. Installed hoarding boards (10), published a booklet (1000 copies) and a documentary <i>Baseline: 0 in 2020</i>	
Activity 2.1 Community education sessions (Total 12 sessions in which four sessions in communities (20 participant/session*4= 80 participants) and eight sessions in schools (30 students/session*8=240 students)		Activity 2.1 Community education sessions=62 sessions (Community members=716 people, School/College=2852 students)
Activity 2.2 Scholarship for 70 children from IWT affected families (with at least 30% girls)		Activity 2.2 Scholarship for 140 children (75 students in Y1, 26 students in Y2 and 39 students in Y3) from IWT affected families (61.5% girls)
Activity 2.3 Installing 10 Hoarding boards about wildlife conservation, penalties against IWT at strategic locations		Activity 2.3. Installed 40 hoarding boards in the project area
Activity 2.4 Publishing a booklet (1000 booklets published and distributed to IWT affected communities, local school libraries, municipal offices, Divisional Forest Offices, Chitwan and Parsa National Parks and nature guides)		Activity 2.4. Pangolin posters=105
Activity 2.5 Developing and broadcasting a documentary covering the story of those involved in the poaching in the past and adopted sustainable livelihood		Activity 2.5 A 20 minutes long video documentary developed and broadcasted on Nepal television, a national media.
Output 3. Poaching threats reduced through active community participation	<p>3.1. By year III Over 120 youth (at least 30% female) volunteers are engaged actively in controlling wildlife crime <i>Baseline: 36 in 2020</i></p> <p>3.2. 120 CBAPU members trained and equipment support provided <i>Baseline: 0 in 2020</i></p> <p>3.3. surveillance cameras (20) send pictures regularly <i>Baseline: 0 in 2020</i></p> <p>3.4. 60 forest guards in 30 Community Forest User Groups</p>	

	<p>mobilized for controlling IWT activities</p> <p><i>Baseline: 0 in 2020</i></p>	
Activity 3.1 20 CBAPUs (120 members) equipped (GPS, camera, field gears – field jacket, cap, water bottle, torch, field boot)		Activity 3.1. 60 CBAPUs equipped with field gears and equipment
Activity 3.2 Four training events (30 members/event) for three days conducted and CBAPU mobilised		Activity 3.2. 18 training events conducted for 149 CBAPU members and mobilised
Activity 3.3 Pilot GSM enabled surveillance camera (20 cameras) in coordination with CBAPUs		Activity 3.2. 16 cameras installed in the project area
Activity 3.4 Support 30 Community Forest User Groups (including Buffer Zone) for controlling IWT activities (mobilise 2 forest guards/community forest)		Activity 3.4. 73 CFUGs supported for controlling IWT activities including 588 forest guards

Annex 3 Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

IWTCF Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with IWTCF Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
IWTCF-A1	Engage IWT affected families in vegetable farming 100	Number of HHs supported	HH	None	61	59	34	154	100
IWTCF-A2	Support for electrician training	Number of local people trained	People	Men: 15	15	0	0	15	15
IWTCF-A3	Support for driving training	Number of local people trained	People	Men: 10	25	0	0	25	10
IWTCF-A4	Support for plumbing training	Number of people trained	People	Men: 15	8	0	0	8	-
IWTCF-A5	Support for carpet weaving training	Number of people trained	People	Women: 20	20	0	0	20	-
IWTCF-A6	Nature Guide Training	Number of people trained	People	Men: 51 Women: 9	34	26	0	60	15
IWTCF-A7	Support for Goat farming	Number of HH supported	HH	None	30	103	73	206	25
IWTCF-A8	Support for cow farming	Number of HH supported	HH	None	28	30	11	69	25
IWTCF-A9	Establish a cooperative	Number of Office established	Office	Men: 55 Women: 61	0	1	0	1	1
IWTCF-B1	Strengthen CBAPUs with field gears and equipment	Number of CBAPUs strengthened	Units	None	20	20	20	60	20
IWTCF-B2	Trainings for CBAPU members	Number of people trained	Event People	Men: 309 Women: 218	Events: 14 People: 441	Events: 2 People: 58	Events: 1 People: 28	Events: 17 People: 527	Events: 4 People: 60
IWTCF-B3	Pilot GSM enabled surveillance cameras in coordination with CBAPUs	Number of cameras purchased and installed	Cameras	None	0	51	0	51	51

IWTCF Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with IWTCF Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
IWTCF-B4	Support 30 community forest user groups for controlling IWT activities	Number of User Groups supported	User groups	None	32	20	21	73	30
IWTCF-C1	Conservation education sessions for students and community members	Number of events conducted and number of participants	Events Community members Students	Comm men: 447 Comm women: 269 Student men: 967 Student women: 1169	Events: 20 Comm: 103 Student: 837	Events: 22 Comm: 519 Student: 1047	Events: 20 Comm: 94 Student: 968	Events: 62 Comm: 716 Student: 2852	Events: 36 Community members: 80 Students: 240
IWTCF-C2	Scholarship support for children of IWT affected families	Number of students supported	Students	Men: 60 Women: 80	75	26	39	140	70
IWTCF-C3	Install hoarding boards with conservation message	Number of boards installed	Hoarding boards	None	0	20	20	40	10
IWTCF-C4	Publish booklet with conservation message	Number of booklet designed and published	Booklets	None	0	105 posters	0	105 posters	1000

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 10)?	
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	
Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? 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.	
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 13)?	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	