





Tracking the 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: 30th April 2023

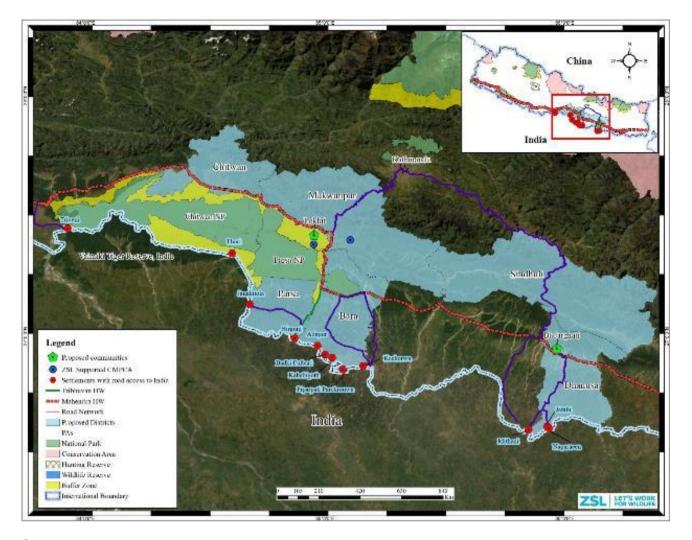
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IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWT099		
Project title	Securing Chitwan-Sindhuli Green Corridor: strengthening community stewardship and law enforcement		
Country/ies	Nepal		
Lead Partner	Zoological Society of London		
Project partner(s)	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), South Asian Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN), Himalayan Nature (HN), Mithila Wildlife Trust (MWT)		
IWTCF grant value	£548,287		
Start/end dates of project	April 2021 – March 2024		
Reporting period (e.g. April 2022-Mar 2023) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2022 – March 2023		
Project Leader name	Monica Wrobel/Bhagawan Raj Dahal		
Project website/blog/social media			
Report author(s) and date	Muna Thapa (ZSL), Bhagawan Raj Dahal (ZSL), Pradip Sedain (HN), Sita Poudel (MWT), Astha Poudel (SAWEN),		
	30 April 2023		

1. Project summary

Bordering India and China, Nepal serves as both a source and transit country for wildlife trafficking (Annex 4.1.1). Illegal wildlife trade (IWT) in protected species is widespread (in 67% districts of Nepal) and increasing (Annex 4.1.2). This project is working with four of the 26 mammal species protected by the National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973, namely: Chinese Pangolin - Manis pentadactyla (Critically Endangered, declining, CITES Appendix I), Indian Pangolin - Manis crassicaudata (Endangered, declining, CITES Appendix I), Bengal Tiger - Panthera tigris tigris (Endangered, declining, CITES Appendix I) and Greater one-horned Rhino - Rhinoceros unicornis (Vulnerable, increasing, CITES Appendix I). As pangolins are the world's most trafficked wild mammals (Annex 4.1.3) and the second-most seized wildlife product in Nepal (Annex 4.1.2), this project focuses particularly on pangolin conservation. The project is targeting two communities residing in fringe areas of pangolin habitat within the Chitwan-Sindhuli green corridor namely: Shree Chetna buffer zone community forest user group (BZCFUG) within the buffer zone of Parsa National Park (PNP) in Makwanpur-Bagmati Province; and Bhatighari Chure community forest user group (CFUG) outside the protected area (PA) in Dhanusa- Madhesh Province. More than 80% of community members (a total of 376 households) are dependent on forest resources, and their average wellbeing index score is less than 0.52. The project's focus is on strengthening law enforcement agencies and improving national and transboundary cooperation to disrupt IWT, while also increasing the communities' awareness of and engagement in pangolin conservation and reducing their reliance on natural resources in pangolin habitats through sustainable livelihood schemes, all with the aim of contributing to a reduction in pangolin trafficking and IWT.



2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) is the main government partner for ZSL's Nepal office. DNPWC and ZSL Nepal have a project coordination committee (PCC) to facilitate the design and implementation of all projects. The PCC is chaired by the Deputy Director General, with section heads from DNPWC and representation from a senior ZSL Nepal staff member. To facilitate project implementation inside the buffer zone of the protected area, a project management unit (PMU) has been formed, including representatives from NTNC, HN, MWT and ZSL and chaired by the Chief Conservation Officer of PNP. PCC supervise, monitor and review the results of project activities and provides overall guidance to the PMU for project implementation in project sites. In general, the PCC meeting is conducted quarterly but can also be organized as and when needed on basis of issue urgency. An IWT project update is briefed to the PCC at least once a year (Annex 4.2.1). The PMU works directly under the PCC and is responsible for overall programme planning based on an approved workplan, day to day implementation of project activities, joint monitoring of project activities and reporting project progress and issues to the PCC. This year the IWT related agenda was discussed in one PMU meeting (Annex 4.2.2) where year one progress and year two plan was shared.

In the course of past joint projects, ZSL Nepal has fostered a strong partnership with DNPWC. With DNPWC as a guiding partner, ZSL Nepal has partnered with the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN), Himalayan Nature (HN) and Mithila Wildlife Trust (MWT) for this project. The partners were selected based on the organisations' government-authorised roles in different aspect of conservation (DNPWC for PA management and SAWEN for curbing wildlife), and on field presence and experience (HN and MWT). The project concept was shared among all partners and the project was designed with their inputs (information, data, and feedback). Once the project funding was secured, the finalised project proposal was shared with the PCC (*Annex 4.2.1*), PMU (*Annex 4.2.2*) and then with implementing partners. Outside the PA, MWT briefed the Divisional Forest Office (DFO) at Dhanusa on the project's objectives and received approval to implement the project (*Annex 4.2.3* and 4.2.4).

SAWEN is implementing outputs 1 and 2. HN is implementing Outputs 3 and 4 with communities at the first target project site, inside the buffer zone of PNP in Bagmati Province. MWT is also implementing Outputs 3 and 4, at the second target site with communities outside the PA in Madhesh Province. The quarterly meetings are conducted among ZSL and implementing partners to share project progress and discuss any implementation issues. This year four meetings were held (Annex 4.2.5). The implementing partners (SAWEN, IWTCF Main Annual Report Template 2023

HN and MWT) shares activity completion reports and all related evidence, which is regularly monitored by the project lead.

The partnership with SAWEN has created platforms and opportunities for ZSL to share the project's findings and lessons among wildlife enforcement agencies across south Asia and in the international platforms like CITES (Annex 4.8.1, 4.8.2, 4.9.1). Similarly, implementing partners like MWT with a strong field presence have helped the project to have a positive influence over the communities, CFUGs, forest authorities (DFO Dhanusa) and decision makers (local and provincial government bodies and line agencies) (*Annex 4.2.3, 4.2.4*). Having strong partners at both central and local level enabled the project to engage government bodies and their line agencies at all three tiers: federal, provincial, and local. (*Annex 4.2.1, 4.2.4, 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.5.1, 4.6.1*)

ZSL Nepal briefed the British Embassy (Development Director and Head of Governance Politics and Services) and FCDO team (Team leader-Project coherence Unit of Bagmati Pradesh and Head of Office-Project Coherence Unit of Madhesh Province) on the project during their field visit to the Chitwan-Parsa complex on 28th Sep 2022 (*Annex 4.2.7*). Furthermore, ZSL Nepal has continued updating the British Embassy and the FCDO office on the project through annual reports and semi-annual formal letters to the Embassy.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities.

Output 1: Intelligence-sharing and collaboration between national and transboundary law enforcement agencies to combat IWT is deepened, enabled through capacity building and technology improvement, resulting in actions taken along suspected trade routes and border points.

- 1.1 Conduct a workshop with DNPWC, DoFSC, SAWEN, Nepal Police and conservation partners to document the existing gaps in the national and transboundary intelligence sharing mechanisms. The existing gaps in the national transboundary intelligence sharing mechanism were documented through literature review, questionnaire surveys and a national level workshop. Firstly, the literature review was conducted to assess the existing information-sharing mechanism and potential gaps, from local to international level. Some of the gaps identified were related to the information collection and sharing system, security issues with informants, policy backup for intelligence sharing, inadequate research, linkages of various government databases, transboundary research, and memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Nepal and India. Based on this literature review a questionnaire was developed and employed to representatives of PAs, DFOs, custom office, Armed Police Force (APF), Nepal Police, Nepal Army, and Civil Aviation Authority Nepal (CAAN), participating in a training of trainers (ToT) on wildlife part identification (Act 1.4). The findings of the literature review and a questionnaire survey was then shared in a national workshop held on 4-5 March 2023, attended by 54 participants (2 female) representing DNPWC, DoFSC, DFOs, PAs, Nepal police, APF, NTC, ZSL and WWF (Annex4.4.1). Incorporating the comments received, a draft report on information and intelligence sharing-guidelines has been prepared in Y2 (Annex 4.4.2).
- 1.2 Conduct a national stakeholder meeting/workshop in collaboration with the WCCB to establish national intelligence sharing mechanism. The draft report on information and intelligence-sharing guidelines prepared in Y2 will be shared with concerned authorities in a national stakeholder meeting (Third National WCCB meeting) in Y3 and then finalized accordingly. The WCCB meeting at national level requires huge effort as it engages high level government authority from different sectors. This year, all preparatory tasks have been completed which includes the formation of the organizing team, coordination with different stakeholders and confirmation of the date. The organizing team has decided to conduct the third national WCCB meeting on 11-13 June 2023 (Annex 4.5.1).
- 1.3 Strengthen support to WCCB to maintain crime database and collaboration with government counterparts. The project continued to support WCCB in strengthening Wildlife Crime Database-Management Information System (WCD-MIS). On 8th January 2023 a discussion meeting was held jointly by SAWEN and WCCB secretariat at DNPWC to discuss on challenges and learning received in WCD-MIS (Annex 4.6.1). In total, 15 representatives (1 female) from DNPWC, ZSL, WWF and SAWEN participated in the meeting and made the decision to conduct refresher training for the users across Nepal. Further discussion was also made to improve the WCD-MIS specially regarding its security, offline system, reporting format, legality, authorization and linkage with Criminal Record System (CRS) of Nepal Police. Furthermore, emphasis was also given to make WCD-MIS as user-friendly as possible. In line with decisions made in the meeting, seven orientation events were conducted virtually for 85 officials (17 female) from PAs (33) and DFOs (52) (Annex 4.6.2) between 26-31 March 2023. The orientation ensured the participation of staff at all levels (45 officers, 35 rangers, 4 forester/game scouts and 1 computer operator). In the orientation program two staff took all participants through the WCD-MIS and shared with them requirement of data entry. The WCCB secretariat was also supported with laptop, hard disks, and toner for the smooth operation of WCD-MIS.
- **1.4 Conduct Training of Trainers (ToT) on wildlife part identification for law enforcement agencies including custom officials and Nepal Police within transboundary districts of Nepal.** A three-day training of trainers (ToT) program on 'Identification of wildlife parts and their products' was conducted for 45 officials (4 female) from PAs (6), DFOs (17), custom office (4), Armed Police Force (APF) (6), Nepal Police (7), Nepal WTCF Main Annual Report Template 2023

Army (2), and Civil Aviation Authority Nepal (CAAN) (3) from 20-22 Dec 2022 at Sauraha, Chitwan, Nepal (Annex 4.7.1, 4.7.2). The training covered a wide range of IWT topics including wildlife crime scenarios on a national level with major illegally traded floral and faunal species in Nepal; wildlife crime control initiatives including institutional mechanism; wildlife law and prosecution; and CITES and its implementation. The course specifically emphasized the identification of commonly traded wildlife and their parts (flora and fauna) with reference to morphological and forensic techniques as well as field tips for identifying real and fake items (Annex 4.7.3). The modality of the training course was a combination of theoretical, practical and group discussion approach. Hands-on experience of different wildlife stockpiles including rhino horn, musk pod, elephant tusk, pangolin scales, antlers, bones of tigers, leopard and bear was a major part of the training. Practice of hands-on training in the field for such heterogeneously composed trainees is known to be the first of its kind in Nepal. In addition, the training program brought together different law enforcement agencies and created a platform to share their experiences and technical know-how gathered during discharge of duties. On an average, participant's knowledge score was increased by 10 % (The average pre-test score was 60% and post test score was 70%) (Annex 4.7.4).

1.5 Conduct a transboundary IWT meeting between Nepal and India in collaboration with SAWEN to establish transboundary intelligence sharing mechanism. Capitalizing the occasion of the third 'Asian Rhino Range Countries Meeting (ARRCM)' held on 3-5 February 2023, SAWEN organized a transboundary IWT meeting among 22 participants (1 female) from Nepal, Bhutan and India on 4th February 2023 at Kasara, Chitwan Nepal (Annex 4.8.1). The meeting focused on sharing biodiversity conservation practices and its threats at trans-national level. In the meeting, participants recognized that transborder informal meeting and discussions should be continuous as it could lead to formal discussion and undertakings; the border patrol is very important to combat wildlife crime in the border of India and Nepal, transborder cooperation and collaboration in the field level is imperative, so it should be continued and replicated and sharing of modus operandi could support deterrence of wildlife criminal activities and enhance knowledge. Furthermore, SAWEN also capitalized on its participation on 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) of the Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) held on 14-25 November 2022 at Panama City, Panama. During the event, SAWEN organized a side transboundary meeting event where 28 officials (10 female) from seven SAWEN member countries participated. In the meeting SAWEN presented work of the secretariat including the activities supported by the project like strengthening WCD-MIS, IWT survey report and intelligence sharing mechanism (Annex 4.8.2).

Output 2: Priority illegal wildlife trade routes through Nepal are identified, with LE agencies' enhanced understanding of wildlife crime hotspots and strengthened capacity, enabling the disruption of transnational wildlife crime.

- **2.5** Share the results of the study findings with transboundary counterparts through SAWEN. At the general meeting of SAWEN held on 2-3 November 2022 at Maldives, SAWEN secretarial also conducted a sharing workshop on 3rd Nov 2022 to share findings of the IWT survey report conducted by the project in Y1. During the meeting, Dr. Ganesh Pant (Ecologist from DNPWC), shared identified trade routes and prevailing wildlife crime hotspots in Nepal among 28 participants (1 female) from USA, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka (Annex 4.9.1 and 4.9.2). The sharing event was beneficial for the participants as they expressed the need and desire to carry out similar studies in their respective countries.
- 2.6 Hold workshop with DNPWC, DoFSC, CIB, judicial members, and community representatives to develop IWT strategic action plan to disrupt the wildlife crime syndicate.

A draft Illegal Wildlife Trade and Poaching Control Strategic Plan (2017-2027) was already drafted (Annex 4.10.1) and needed an update to address current existing gaps and the IWT survey result findings. Therefore, an individual consultant has been hired to analyse the effectiveness and gaps in institutional capacity and legislation all three tiers of government roles and coordination. Reflecting these gaps and incorporating the IWT survey result, an updated strategic plan is under preparation for the period of 2023-2030. This plan will be shared in national level workshop in Y3 and will be finalized accordingly for the implementation.

2.7 Conduct training of trainers for 40 investigation officers on the protocols for prosecution of wildlife criminals and crime scene investigation (7-days ToT for 20 officials at each time). SAWEN in close coordination with DNPWC, conducted a five-day training course on wildlife crime investigation and prosecution training on 11-15 Sep 2022 in Dharan, Sunsari for 22 investigation officers (3 female) from 1 DNPWC, 16 DFOs, 4 PAs, and 1 Provincial Forest Directorate (PFD) Dharan of Province 1 (Annex 4.11.1 and 4.11.2). The training was focused to inform investigation officers about existing laws, policies, punishment related to wildlife crime, strengthen investigation skills and also enhance the ability of preparing case documents (Annex 4.11.3). The training course has therefore provided participants the skills and confidence to handle wildlife crime cases, follow standard procedures and prepare strong case documents with increase of average knowledge score by 16% (the average knowledge score of pre-tests was 74% and post test score was 90%) (Annex 4.11.4).

Output 3: Two Community Managed Pangolin Conservation Areas (CMPCAs) established within the Chitwan-Sindhuli corridor promote participatory pangolin conservation and protect pangolins and other traded species, reducing IWT its source.

- **3.3 Conduct annual joint training for 30 members of the CMPCAs on GESI and good governance principles.** The project organized two training events on "Gender Equality, Social Inclusion (GESI), Good Governance Principles, and Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) for 47 CMPCA members (37 female), of whom 77% belonged to indigenous and disadvantaged groups. The first training was conducted on 27-28 Dec 2022 at Sauraha, Chitwan for 29 members (18 Female) (Annex 4.12.1 and 4.12.2). Of total participants, 62% belonged to indigenous and disadvantaged groups. Similarly, the second was a one-day training event conducted on 19 March 2023 for 26 members (22 female) at Dhelkewar, Dhanusa, of whom 65% belonged to indigenous and disadvantaged group (Annex 4.12.1 and 4.12.2). The training capacitated members on concept and principle of GESI and good governance, related policies, acts and provisions, stakeholder analysis in relation with advocacy initiative and ESMS (Annex 4.12.1 and 4.12.2). During the pretest it was found that none of the participants had attended a GESI and Good Governance training before and 70% of them had no knowledge on the provision of the constitution in relation to GESI. After the training, 48% of participants expressed that they now have better understanding of the provisions and the remaining 52% also expressed that they now have some knowledge.
- **3.4 Facilitate biannual meetings between two CMPCA members to discuss progress and lesson sharing.** On 19 March 2023, an interaction meeting was held between two CMPCAs (Shree Chetana BZCFUG and Bhaatighari CFUG) at Dhelkewar, Dhanusa. The meeting was attended by 37 participants (24 female) representing CMPCAs, FECOFUN, DFO Dhanusa, PNP, HN, MWT and ZSL. Of the total participants, 84% belonged to indigenous and disadvantaged groups. In this meeting, two CMPCAs shared project activities, lessons learnt, and challenges faced in their respective CMPCAs (Annex 4.13.1). The representatives from women groups from each site (*Chetana Mahila Aayearjan Samuha* and *Bhatighari Bahu aayemik Bipanna Barga Mahila Samuha*) shared their financial status and best practices adopted for smooth functioning of womens groups and expressed their willingness to implement the best practices learnt from each other.
- **3.6 Train 20 CBAPU** members on patrolling techniques and monthly monitoring of pangolin habitat. The two events of two-day refresher training on patrolling techniques and monthly monitoring of pangolin habitat was conducted for 54 community members (20 CBAPU members and 34 CFUG members) to refresh their capacity on the roles and responsibilities of the CBAPU, pangolin behaviour and conservation issues, forest patrolling techniques, and existing wildlife rules, regulations, and acts (Annex 4.14.2, 4.3.1). Of the total participants, 24 were female and 33 belonged to indigenous and disadvantaged groups (Annex 4.14.2, 4.14.3). After the training, the average knowledge score of participants at Shree Chetana BZCFUG increased by 12% (the average pre-test score = 67% and post-test score = 79%) and Bhaatighari CFUG by 26.15% (average pre-test score=64% and post-test score = 90%) (Annex 4.14.4).

This year, two CBAPUs in joint cooperation of respective CFUGs have conducted 73 events of patrolling in Shree Chetana BZCF area (51 events) and Bhaatighari BZCF area (22 events) in the format provided (Annex 4.3.1, 4.14.5 and 4.14.6). The analysis of patrolling in Shree Chetana BZCF showed that the team members have recorded more than 180 new burrows, 90 old burrows and 70 termite mounds. On average, in every patrol CBPCU members recorded more than 3 fresh (active) burrows and 2 old (inactive) burrows. Most of the fresh burrows were recorded nearby the termite mounds and old inactive burrows. The patrolling team also reported in recent patrolling event that the inactive burrows are reused by the wild animals (Annex 4.14.6).

- **3.7 Provide essential field gears and equipment to CBAPU members for monthly patrolling and reporting.** The field gear sets, including digital cameras, GPS, binoculars, first aid kits, water bottles, shoes, jackets, t-shirts, and hats, procured in Y1 have been distributed to two CBAPUs at Shree Chetana BZCF and Bhaatighari BZCF, and are being used during forest patrolling (Annex 4.15.1). Additionally, 15 field T-shirts and 2 binoculars were handed over to CBAPU of Chhuchhekhola CF and 11 field T-shirts and 2 binoculars were handed over to CBAPU of Situ BZCF.
- **3.9 Facilitate site-level quarterly meeting between CMPCAs, PAs and DFOs for intelligence sharing and networking.** In total, eight site-level quarterly meetings have been organized by two CMPCAs (four by each CMPCAs) with PAs, DFOs, IGA groups, and other CMPCAs as well (Annex 4.3.1, 4.16.1 and 4.16.2). During these meetings, CMPCA shared project activities, progress, information regarding pangolin conservation and livelihood activities conducted by women-led cooperatives. Furthermore, they also discussed the wildlife damage relief distribution process and importance of forest patrolling. The participation of women (67%) and indigenous and disadvantaged groups (70%) were ensured in all of these meetings.
- **3.10** Aware CMPCA members and wider communities on pangolin conservation within Chitwan-Sindhuli corridor (workshops, meetings) The project had developed an animated video of 4 minutes including information on the current threats to pangolin conservation, the importance of pangolin conservation, and the legal provision for those involved in illegal trade. This video has been published through partner's digital platforms such as their official website, YouTube channel and Facebook page (Annex 4.17.1). Targeting school children, a story book on pangolin conservation has also been published (Annex 4.17.2). Additionally, to disseminate pangolin conservation messages among community members and visitors, four information boards have been installed in strategic locations around the project sites (Shree Chetana BZCF-3 and Bhaatighar CF-1). These information boards contain information about pangolin, conservation challenges, the

importance of pangolin conservation, the status of pangolin found in Nepal and legal provision of illegal trade (Annex 4.3.1, 4.17.3). Furthermore, to reach wider communities with pangolin conservation awareness within Chitwan-Sindhuli corridor, radio jingles on pangolin conservation and IWT controls were broadcast 5 times a day in each project site (Dhanusa and Makawanpur), which is about 2,862 times (HN- 1470 and MWT-1392) throughout the second year of the project (Annex 4.17.4). According to Hetauda FM, the awareness message broadcasted has reached up to 80% (nearly 368,842) of the population of Makawanpur. A sample survey conducted with 34 individuals at end of March 2023, found that all the respondents used to listen to the radio jingle through Hetauda FM. As per the survey, 74% respondents listened to the radio jingle at morning time while 15% at evening time, 6% listen at both (morning and evening) and remaining 6% listen to the radio jingle in daytime. Further at Dhanusa, information related to injured pangolin was reported to MWT by locals, who got information about pangolin conservation and MWT via the radio jingle. MWT and DFO Dhanusa then rescued the pangolin and treated it for two days before releasing it into the wild (Annex 4.17.5).

Through the drop-in centres established in Y1, several school activities were conducted in the project site to increase student and school management committees awareness. As part of this program, three school walls (Shree primary school and Shree Bal Jiwan Jyoti school around Shree Chetana CF and Rastriya primary school around Bhaatighari CF) were painted with pangolin conservation messages, logistic support was provided to Shree Primary School and Shree Bal Jiwan Jyoti School for establishing school library. In total six different school awareness-raising sessions were conducted in four schools engaging 233 students and school management committee members (121 female; 67% belonging to indigenous and disadvantaged groups) (Annex 4.17.8).

On the occasion of 12th World Pangolin Day (18th February 2023) an interaction program was organized at Manahari Rural Municipality ward-1, Chakari, Makawanpur. A total of 32 participants (18 female) representing the local government, Parsa National Park, the buffer zone user committee, the buffer zone community forest executive team, and womens groups. During the interaction program, a short presentation on pangolin conservation was presented followed by the animated video (Annex 4.17.9).

Output 4: Vulnerable community members are accessing sustainable livelihood options, ensuring economic resiliency, reducing the economic drivers of poaching and IWT related activities. 4.3 Establish and institutionalize women-led cooperatives, one per CMPCA.

The number of members of two inclusive women-led cooperatives established in year 1, have increased from 68 to 137 in Y2. Of the additional 69 members, 1 is male and 68 are female. Likewise, 72% (50) of them belong to indigenous and disadvantaged groups. This makes a total of 137 members with 1 male and 136 female members, of whom 77 % (105) belong to indigenous and disadvantaged groups.

In Shree Chetana BZCFUG, *Chetana Mahila Aayarjan Samuha* (Chetna Women's Income Generation Group) 35 female members were added, 22 of them belonging to indigenous and disadvantaged groups. In Bhatighari Chure CFUG, *Aayamik aayaarjan bipanna barga mahila upasamiti* (Poor Women's Income Generation Sub-Committee) 34 members (33 female) were added, all of them belonging to indigenous and disadvantaged groups (*Annex 4.18.1*).

The project has also supported *Chetana Mahila Aayarjan Samuha* with office management support including documents (pass book, loan request form, loan approval form and loan investment record keeping forms), furniture (computer table, office table, steel rack, chairs, carpet, office boards) and stationery for smooth operation and management of cooperative.

4.4 Conduct training to cooperative members on management and operation mechanism of the cooperatives. This year five capacity building events were conducted for cooperative members on cooperative management (3), good governance (1) and basic computer skills (1). (*Aayamik aayaarjan bipanna barga mahila upasamiti- 3 events and Mahila Aayarjan Samuha – 2 events*).

The two refresher training courses on cooperative management and operation training were conducted for 63 members (58 Female; 47 indigenous and disadvantaged group members) of *Aayamik aayaarjan bipanna barga mahila upasamiti* (39 members; 36 females; 38; indigenous and disadvantaged) *and Mahila Aayarjan Samuha* (24 members; 22 female; 12 indigenous and disadvantaged) (Annex 4.19.1). The participants were reoriented on loan and saving management, loan interest rate calculations and record/account keeping. After the training, the average knowledge score of participants was increased by 20% (average pre-test score=68% and post-test score=88%). Similarly, one four-day training course on cooperative management and operation was conducted for 34 newly added cooperative members at *Aayamik aayaarjan bipanna barga mahila upasamiti* (33 Female; All indigenous and disadvantaged group) (Annex 4.19.1). After the training, the average knowledge score of participants was increased by 29% (The average pre-test score=52% and post-test score=81%) (Annex 4.19.2).

Further, 13 executive members Aayamik aayaarjan bipanna barga mahila upasamiti (11 female; 92% indigenous and disadvantaged) were capacitated with 16 days basic computer course to help cooperative members manage data digitally (Annex 4.19.3). Before this training the average knowledge score of

participants was only 10% but after the training it was rose to 37% which is a 27% increase on the average knowledge score (Annex 4.19.4).

Finally, a two-day good governance training was organized for 79 members of two women led community cooperatives affiliated with Shree Chetana BZCF and Chuchhe Khola CF Mahila Aayarian Samuha (22 female: 54% indigenous and disadvantaged). The participants were trained on the concept of BZ/CFUG. good governance elements, analysis of good governance practices, key issue of governance, community leadership for good governance a legal provisions of BZ/CF (Annex 4.19.5). The average knowledge score of participants increased by 18% (The average pre-test score=68% and post-test score=86%) (Annex 4.19.6).

4.5 Support seed money to setup soft loans for the cooperative members to strengthen existing livelihoods and introduce livelihoods options identified in Act 4.1. With increased members, the project has supported by providing additional seed funding (NPR 1,401,280) making seed fund a total of NPR 3,136,145. The fund has increased by NPR 700,657 (22%) and reached to NPR 3,836,802 (Annex 4.20.1 and 4.22.1).

In Shree Chetana community forest, Chetana Mahila Aayarjan Samuha (Chetna Women's Income Generation Group) was provided with additional NPR 701,280 making total supported fund of NPR 1,736,145 (Annex 4.20.1). This seed fund has increased by NPR 419,657 (24%) and reached a total of NPR 2,155,802 through monthly saving, interest collection, optional saving, service charge collection and late fines.

In Bhatighari Chure CFUG, Aayamik aayaarjan bipanna barga mahila upasamiti (Poor Women's Income Generation Sub-Committee) was provided with additional NPR 700,000 making total supported fund of NPR 1,400,000 (Annex 4.20.1). The seed fund has increased by NPR 281,000 (20%) and reached NPR 1,681,000 through monthly savings, interest collection, optional saving, service charge collection and late fines.

4.6 Conduct training to cooperative members on sustainable alternative livelihood skills. Three livestock rearing training courses were conducted for the women's cooperatives, aiming to enhance their skills on basic to advanced skills of livestock rearing, as well as informing them about different possible livestock diseases and the preventive/curative measures required for healthy livestock (Annex 4.21.1).

In Chetana Mahila Aayarjan Samuha, a 7 days commercial livestock rearing training course was conducted (Annex 4.21.1) focusing primarily on the newly added 35 members, however 14 members from women affiliated to Situ CFUG and 3 members from Shree Chetana BZCFUG also joined the training making total of 52 participants (50 Female). The training has helped participants increase their average knowledge score by 33% (The average pre-test=44% and post-test=77%) (Annex 4.21.2). In Bhatighari Chure CFUG's Aayamik aayaarjan bipanna barga mahila upasamiti, a three-day refresher training on commercial livestock rearing was conducted (Annex 4.21.1) for 33 cooperative members from Y1, however, 7 Bhaatighari CFUG members also joined the training making total participant number of 40 (34 female). Further, one four-day training course on livestock rearing was conducted for newly added 34 members along with 9 additional members of Bhaatighari CFUG (Annex 4.21.1). The training helped increase the average knowledge score of participants by 41% (the average pre-test score=40% and post-test=81%) (Annex 4.21.2).

4.7 Conduct monthly meetings to assess the proposals of community members, reviewing savings, returns, sharing progress and for dispersal of loan. 28 monthly meetings (Chetana Mahila Aayarjan Samuha-12 and Aayamik aayaarjan bipanna barga mahila upasamiti-16) were held by the two women-led cooperative groups (Annex 4.3.1, 4.22.1). In the monthly meeting, members collect monthly savings, return loans, share progress, and disperse the loans. The seed fund has increased by NPR 700,657 (22%) and reached to NPR 3,836,802. Out of 137 members, 98 members (72%) have received loans for various income generating activities.

Out of 70 members in Chetana Mahila Aayarjan Samuha, 60 members (86 %) have taken a loan to initiate the locally appropriate income-generating activities such as buffalo keeping, cow farming, goat farming, poultry farming, agriculture activities, small enterprises (retail shop) (Annex 4.22.1 and 4.22.2). Similarly, out of 67 members in Aayamik aayaarjan bipanna barga mahila upasamiti, 38 members (57%) have taken a loan to initiate locally appropriate income generating activities such as buffalo farming, pig farming, cow farming, goat farming, poultry farming, vegetable farming and other small enterprises (Annex 4.22.2).

The livelihood activities monitoring conducted by partners has showed that members running livelihood activities by taking loan from women cooperatives are making monthly earning from NPR. 7,000- NPR. 15,000 depending on their livelihood activities (Annex 4.3.1, 4.25.1).

4.8 Conduct exposure visit for the members of newly established CMPCAs and cooperative members to other ZSL supported successfully run CMPCAs to learn and share best practices on pangolin conservation, management, and livelihood activities. Two exposure visits were organized for the 158 project beneficiaries from Chetana Mahila Aayearjan Samuha of Shree Chetana BZCF and Situ Bahuaayemik Aayearjan Bipanna Barga Mahila Upsamiti under Situ BZCF members of Makawnpur. The first exposure visit was conducted on 15 June 2022 and community members were taken to Chuchhekhola CF and Rani CF of Makawanpur district (Annex 4.23.1). The participants got the opportunity to learn about Rani CF's work in

promoting locally appropriate income-generating activities (IGA), biodiversity conservation, forest management and Pangolin Park management by Chuchhekhola community forest. Similarly, a second exposure visit was conducted from 14 to 19 December 2022 and project beneficiaries were taken to the Pithauli and Amaltari of Nawalpur district. In this visit, the participants got the opportunity to learn about IGA activities of Namuna Madhyawarti Gramin Samudayik Bikash Samuha, vulture restaurant, habitat managed by BZCFs and community-based wildlife and culture tourism (Annex 4.23.1).

4.9 Provide support to cooperatives members with alternative energy options to fuel wood. The social survey conducted in Y1 showed that more than 82.9% of respondents from Shree Chetana BZCF were engaged in collecting forest resources. The project therefore initiated to reduce fuelwood pressure on the forest. For this, a needs assessment was conducted to understand the fuel preferences of community members. The needs assessment found that 44% were using LP gas and 22% were using both LP gas and fuel wood for cooking. The study also showed that 99% of community members surveyed are willing to use alternative energy and 88% showed their preference for electric cooking stoves (Annex 4.3.1, 4.24.1). As this preference was also in line with Government of Nepal (GoN) plans, the project provided 100 infrared induction cooking stoves. Of total the cooking stoves, 70 were provided to members of women-led cooperatives and the remaining 30 were provided to forest-dependent households as determined by the social survey from Y1 (Annex 4.24.1).

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: The intelligence-sharing and collaboration between national and transboundary law enforcement agencies is increasing to combat IWT. In the second year of the project, the SAWEN secretariat has made 12 intelligence-related communications with transboundary government counterparts of SAWEN member countries, which is 7% more compared with baseline communication (n=5) (*Ind 1.1*).

The project has also capacitated 45 LE officers (4 women) on the identification of wildlife parts and their derivatives (*Ind 1.2.1*). The number of LE officers capacitated is 13% more than the target set. For this capacity-building event, a manual on wildlife parts identification developed by DNPWC was updated with a training specific component and local context (*Ind 1.2.2*). To generate IWT related information the WCD-MIS is being strengthened since Y1 (*Ind 1.3.1*). As a result, WCD-MIS is now being operated by LE officers across country and is centrally managed by the WCCB secretariat. In Y2, 403 new cases were entered in the system (*Ind 1.3.2*). The WCCB secretariat is currently generating IWT information from these data so that they can share it with concerned government authorities at different tiers (*Ind 1.3.2*). The LE surveillance has also increased in the identified IWT hotspot. The IWT survey report has identified *Thori area* (area joining PNP, CNP and VTR) as one of the IWT hotspot border areas. In Y2, 35 LE officials (23 from Nepal and 12 from India) have jointly monitored *Thori area* (*Ind 1.4*).

The result of the efforts made in the project in Y1 and Y2 indicated that output 1 is highly likely to be achieved. The analysis of data provided by SAWEN secretariat and PNP are helping to measure the achievement of output 1. The target of indicator 1.1 is met by 70% in Y1. Regarding indicator 1.2, the pre- and post- test assessment shows that knowledge score of LE officers trained has increased by 10%, indicating trainees are likely to retain their knowledge on successfully identifying the seizures (*Ind 1.2*). However, the exact percentage of trainees retaining knowledge will be measured in Y3 after the endline survey is conducted. The indicators 1.3 and 1.4 are also progressing positively towards achieving the set target.

Output 2: The priority illegal wildlife trade routes through Nepal identified in Y1 were finalized in Y2 (*Ind 2.1.1*) and the recommendation of IWT survey report for IWT route was submitted to DNPWC (*Ind 2.1.2*). DNPWC has fully owned this report and its recommendations and has also started sharing the findings at national and international forums (19th COP of CITES and SAWEN general meeting) to enhance the understanding of wildlife crime hotspots in Nepal (*Sec 3.1-Act 1.5 and 2.5*). DNPWC is also incorporating the findings of the IWT survey report and route maps in updating the Wildlife Trade and Poaching Control Strategic Plan for period 2023-2030 (*Ind 2.1.3*). Furthermore, the capacity of 22 investigation officers (3 female) were strengthened on wildlife crime related case building and prosecution to target traffickers (*Ind 2.2.1*) increasing their average knowledge score by 16%. This is a positive indication that they will implement their new skills and knowledge in prosecution successfully (*Ind 2.2.2*) and efficiently (*Ind 2.2.3*). However as planned, both Indicator 2.2.2 and 2.2.3 will be measured after endline survey in Y3. The second year has also seen a 14% increase in the number of IWT suspected traffickers arrested (*Ind 2.3*), which is 4% more than that of the target set. All these achievements indicates that output 2 is highly likely to be achieved by end of the project. The progress of achievements in this output were measured by analysing data provided by PNP, CNP and SAWEN secretariat.

Output 3: The two CMPCAs established in Y1 (*Ind 3.1*) within the Chitwan-Sindhuli corridor are actively promoting participatory pangolin conservation, protecting pangolins and other traded species. The communities' increased stewardship of CMPCA (*Ind 3.2*) is evident with the endorsement of the participatory natural resource management plans (drafted in Y1) promoting equitable participation of women and vulnerable groups and including provisions of CMPCA (*Ind 3.2.*1). The endorsement of the plan indicates communities'

interest and ownership of the CMPCAs. Further, CMPCAs with technical and financial support of the project have created awareness programs on pangolin conservation and IWT control for 233 school children/school management committee members and 32 stakeholders and community members in Y2 (*Ind* 3.2.2). Furthermore, two CMPCAs with support of two CBAPUs (the voluntary group of youth and community members) have conducted 73 forest patrolling events in Y2 (*Ind* 3.3.1). Through forest patrolling CBAPUs are updating the status of pangolin habitat. In Shree Chetana BZCF the team members have recorded more than 180 new burrows, 90 old burrows and 70 termite mounds (*Sec* 3.1-Act 3.6). Such pangolin and its habitat related information along with progress of CMPCAs's activities are being shared with PAs and DFOS in 8 quarterly meetings in Y2, four by each CMPCAs (*Ind* 3.3.2). With increased awareness and engagement communities are also sharing pangolin and IWT related information. This year, locals from Bhatighari CF shared information about an injured pangolin to MWT and DFO Dhanusa (*Ind* 3.4). Although the people who caused injury were unknown, DFO Dhanusa in joint cooperation with MWT was able to rescue and treat injured pangolin and then release it to its natural habitat (*Sec* 3.1-Act 3.10).

The output is highly likely to be achieved by end of the project as two indicators (*Ind 3.1 and 3.2.1*) are already met by Y2, which were measured with the help of data provided by partners in their annual report; the target set for Y2 of two indicators (3.3.1 and 3.3.2) are also met, which were measured by analyzing forest patrolling data and CMPCAs' meeting minutes, and remaining three indicators (*Ind 3.2.2, 3.2.3 and 3.4*) are making expected progress but the quantitative measurement of achievement can be determined after the post-project assessment planned in Y3.

Output 4: The two inclusive women-led cooperatives established with 68 female members (47 indigenous, 8 disadvantaged, 11 Brahmin/Chettri and 2 Others) and seed funds of NPR 1,734,865 in Y1 (*Ind 4.1 and 4.2*), are helping vulnerable cooperative members access sustainable livelihood options by providing loans from the seed fund established at minimum interest (6%) for desired livelihood option. This year, 69 members (68 female; 39 indigenous, 11 disadvantaged and19 Brahmin/Chettri) were added (*Ind 4.1*) along with additional seed funds, amounting NPR 1,401,280 (*Ind 4.2*). This brings the total number of cooperative members to 137 (136 females; 86 belong to indigenous groups, 19 belong to disadvantaged groups (Madhesi and Dalit), 30 belong to Brahmin/Chettri and 2 belong to other groups) and total seed funds NPR 3,136,145. The seed funds provided by the project have been increased by 22% (NPR 700,657) and reached NPR 3,836,802 through monthly saving, interest collection, optional saving, service charge collection and the late fines, indicating communities' interest and ownership of cooperative and livelihood schemes (*Ind 4.2*). By Y2, 98 out of 137 members (72%), have received loans for various income generating activities and the members taking loans are making monthly earnings of NPR 7000-15,000 (*Ind 4.3*; *Sec 3.1-Act 4.7*). Further, 100 forest dependant HHs (including 70 cooperative members) in Shree Chetana BZCF were also supported with infrared induction cooking stoves to reduce their dependency over forest for fuel wood (*Ind 4.4*).

The project is highly likely to achieve output 4 as progress is moving positively toward meeting the target set. The 69% target of Indicator 4.1 has already been met by Y2 and the remaining 31% of the target will easily be met in Y3. The target is being measured with the help of analysis of cooperatives' meeting minutes. The 44% target for Indicator 4.2 is already met by Y2 and remaining 56% target will be met easily with more monthly savings and interest collected from increased cooperative members. The measurement of this target is being done through the analysis of data received from cooperative's monthly meetings, and livelihood monitoring conducted by partners. The analysis of cooperatives' monthly meeting and livelihood monitoring data shows that Indicator 4.3 is positively progressing but actual percentage reporting increase in come will be measured through post project assessment/endline survey planned in Y3. As planned, measurement of progress toward Indicator 4.4 will also need an endline survey.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Outcome: Green transboundary corridors in Chitwan-Sindhuli secured through strengthened law enforcement, underpinned by community-led participatory pangolin conservation, with diversified sustainable livelihood schemes improving human wellbeing and reducing key drivers for IWT.

The project's support for the capacity enhancement of 67 LE officials (*Ind 1.2* and *Ind 2.2*), the sharing of the IWT route map prepared through IWT survey (*Ind 2.1*), increased transboundary sharing of IWT related information (*Ind 1.1*), increased LE surveillance on identified IWT border spots (*Ind 1.4*), increased arrests of IWT suspected traffickers (*Ind 2.3*) and increased data entry in IWT database (WCD-MIS) (*Ind 1.3*) are continuously helping strengthen law enforcement in an integrated way in Chitwan-Sindhuli corridor. As a result, 43 successful arrests and prosecutions were reported in Y2, which is an increase of 39% (*Ind 0.1*) when compared with the baseline (31 successful prosecution in 2019). Similarly, 8kg of wildlife parts have been seized including 26.5kg of pangolin derivatives, 24 pieces of skin, teeth, bones, and horns has been seized in Y2 (*Ind 0.2*), the total weight of wildlife parts is less than baseline (3kg of wildlife parts comprising 16 species including 24.42kg pangolin derivatives in 2018/19). The higher number of arrests and lower weight of wildlife parts and derivates in Y2 indicates that more people were engaged in IWT activities with smaller quantity of wildlife parts and derivatives. The indicator 0.1 and 0.2 were measured by analysing data received from Nepal's Crime Investigation Bureau (CIB) in 2021/2022. The CMPCAs established in Y1 are leading participatory

pangolin conservation by creating pangolin awareness (*Ind 3.2.2*), conducting regular patrolling of pangolin habitat (*Ind 3.3.1*) and sharing information related to pangolin conservation issues (*Ind 3.4*). This year locals from Bhatighari CF shared information about injured pangolin to MWT and DFO Dhanusa (Ind 0.4). Although people causing injury were unknown, DFO Dhanusa in joint cooperation with MWT was able to rescue and treat injured pangolin and then release it to its natural habitat (Sec 3.1-Act 3.10). Such progress in output and outcome level indicator is indicating that communities' support for conservation and combatting IWT is increasing, but the total percentage increase in support will be measured through post-project assessment planned in Y3. Finally, the increase in the number of members in women-led cooperatives (*Ind 4.1*), members contributing to increase seed funds by 22% (*Ind 4.2*) and 72% members adopting livelihood schemes with average income of NPR 7000-15000 (*Ind 4.3*) positively indicates that the wellbeing of participating HHs is likely to be improved (*Ind 0.4*) by the end of the project and will be measured through post-project assessment/endline survey. The overall outcome level progress until Y2 shows that the project is highly likely to achieve intended outcome and the indicators designed are adequate to measure the result.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Outcome:

Assumption 1: Pangolin conservation remains a national priority.

Comments: Still holds true. The Pangolin Conservation Action Plan for Nepal (2018-2022) is active.

Assumption 2: Law enforcement agencies continue sharing data on arrests and prosecution.

Comments: Still holds true. WCD-MIS is receiving data (Section 3.1 and 3.2).

Assumption 3: Local communities are supportive of conservation and are keen to diversify their income generation.

Comments: Still holds true. Communities are actively participating in project activities and have formed community groups to support conservation (Section 3.1 and 3.2).

Assumption 4: Avenues exist for improving law enforcement's response to IWT and they remain supportive of conservation initiatives.

Comments: Still holds true. Law enforcement is participating in project activities and providing necessary information (Section 3.1 and 3.2).

Assumption 5: The short-medium term impacts of COVID on all stakeholders, government and communities continue to be assessed and integrated into project planning, delivery, and sustainability.

Comments: Still holds true.

Output 1:

Assumption 6: There is an avenue for partnership with SAWEN to improve transboundary information-sharing mechanisms and collaboration.

Comments: Still holds true. Output 1 and Output 2 have been implemented in partnership with SAWEN. (Section 3.1 and 3.2)

Assumption 7: Opportunities to improve national capacity and coordination of the wildlife enforcement agencies through WCCB exist.

Comments: Still holds true. Orientation and coaching on WCD-MIS was held jointly by SAWEN and the WCCB secretariat (Sec 3.1).

Output 2:

Assumption 8: Chitwan-Sindhuli corridor remains a priority pangolin habitat for the Government of Nepal. **Comments:** Still holds true. DNPWC, DoFSC, DFO, and the PAs participated in the project activities (Section 3.1).

Assumption 9: Unidentified trade routes exist in the project site and law enforcement agencies remain supportive in identifying trade routes linked to the project site.

Comments: Still holds true. DNPWC shared IWT survey results in national and international forum(Section 3.1).

Output 3:

Assumption 10: The communities remain receptive to forming CMCPA.

Comments: Still holds true. Two CMPCAs have been formed across both project sites.

Assumption 11: Suitable and diverse candidates are voluntarily available and willing to work as CBAPU members.

Comments: Still holds true. Two CBPAUs conducted 73 forest patrolling (Section 3.1 and 3.2).

Assumption 12: School management remain supportive.

Comments: Still holds true. Two drop-in centers formed are conducting awareness programs (Section 3.1).

Assumption 13: Community and law enforcement collaborations continue with a shared vision to halt IWT.

Comments: Still holds true. The CMPCA and law enforcement agencies (DFO and PAs) are participating in sharing meeting of CMPCAs (Section 3.1).

Assumption 14: Communities are being fully supported in post-COVID recovery with engagement in conservation and additional security providing enabling conditions for them to do so.

Comments: Still holds true.

Output 4:

Assumption 15: Gender and social bias exist; women and marginalized communities are under-represented in decision making and livelihood generation schemes.

Comments: Still holds true.

Assumption 16: Communities are receptive of diversifying livelihood schemes as an alternative to forest dependent livelihood.

Comments: Still holds true. Communities are participating in identifying livelihood schemes and enhancing their livelihood skills (Section 3.1).

Assumption 17: ZSL's livelihood works have been successful in generating over 50% increase in seed fund in other projects.

Comments: Still holds true. This capacity has been further evidenced for this project by the fact that in Y1, after only two months of saving, the seed funds has already increased by a total of 1.5% (Ind 4.2).

Assumption 18: More than 25% of the members in the existing CMPCAs have adopted sustainable higher income generating activities.

Comments: Still holds true.

Assumption 19: Economic conditions (post COVID) continue to enable suitable incentive framework is future proofed across the trail sites for beyond the life span of the project.

Comments: Still holds true.

3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on illegal wildlife trade and poverty reduction Impact: Pangolin-trafficking and IWT is reduced throughout the Shivalik landscape, securing long-term community support and wellbeing through diversified sustainable livelihood schemes and strengthened collaboration across law enforcement agencies.

The project is strengthening law enforcement in the Shivalik landscape with enhanced IWT knowledge (IWT survey and route maps), effective legal frameworks (national and international intelligence-sharing mechanism), updated policy and plans (Wildlife Trade and Poaching Control Strategic Plan), technological advancement (WCD-MIS) and individual capacity enhancement (Sec 3.2 and 3.3). This, in turn, is increasing the effectiveness of law enforcement with increased successful arrests and prosecutions (Sec 3.3, Ind 0.1) and seizures of wildlife parts and derivatives (Sec 3.3, Ind 0.2). Community ownership and engagement on pangolin conservation has also increased which is evident through endorsement of participatory natural resource management plan including pangolin conservation, communities' increased monitoring in pangolin habitat and sharing of information related with pangolin and their habitat (Sec 3.2, Sec 3.3). Additionally, poor and vulnerable communities living around pangolin habitat are making regular income through livelihood schemes supported by the project (Sec 3.2, Ind 4.3). Such strengthened and effective law enforcement backed up with support of the community who are getting access to alternative income generating options is contributing towards reducing pangolin trafficking and IWT throughout the Shivalik landscape which is expected to be reflected in impact level evaluation in coming years. In the second year, the project's various interventions have directly reached to 172 law enforcement officials (PA managers, forest officials, the APF, the CIB of the Nepal Police, and customs officials) and 350 community members (84 Male and 266 Female) (Section 3.1 and 3.2).

4. Thematic focus

The project has contributed three themes:

Ensuring effective legal frameworks and deterrents: The project is supporting WCCB in developing a report on information and intelligence-sharing guidelines (*Sec 3.1-Act 1.1*). The draft report on information and intelligence-sharing guidelines will be shared with concerned authorities in a national stakeholder meeting in Y3 and finalized accordingly (*Sec 3.1-Act 1.2; Ind 2.1.3*). These guidelines will help establish an intelligence-sharing mechanism.

Strengthening law enforcement: The project is strengthening law enforcement through capacity enhancement of 67 LE officials (Ind 1.2 and Ind 2.2), sharing of IWT route map prepared through IWT survey (Ind 2.1), increasing transboundary sharing of IWT related information by 7% (Ind 1.1), increasing LE surveillance on identified IWT border spots (*Ind 1.4*), increasing arrests of IWT suspected traffickers by 14% (Ind 2.3) and increasing data entry in the IWT database (WCD-MIS) by 403 new cases (Ind 1.3). As a result of LE capacity-building, 43 successful arrests and prosecutions were reported in Y2, an increase of 39% (Ind 0.1) compared to baseline (31 successful prosecution in 2019). Similarly, 38kg of wildlife parts has been including 26.5kg of pangolin derivatives – 24 pieces of skin, teeth, bones, and horns – have been seized in Y2 (Ind 0.2). LE authorities have been further strengthened with support of two CMPCAs in creating pangolin awareness among 233 students/teachers and 32 stakeholders (Ind 3.2.2), conducting 73 patrolling events of pangolin habitat (Ind 3.3.1) and sharing one information related to pangolin conservation issues (Ind 3.4).

Developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT: The project is targeting two communities residing in the fringe areas of pangolin habitat within the Chitwan-Sindhuli corridor. There

are 376 households in these communities, with a total population of 1,879 people (975 males, 904 females) (Ind 3.1). The average wellbeing index is 0.52 (Ind 0.4). The project is aiming to reach 200 households with sustainable livelihood schemes to increase incomes and wellbeing and reduce dependency on natural resources in pangolin habitat. By year two, the project had already reached 167HHs through two women-led cooperatives and alternative options for fuel wood. In Y2, 69 members were added to the women-led cooperatives (Ind 4.1), trained in commercial livestock rearing and the seed fund was also increased to NPR 3,136,145 (*Ind 4.2*). Cooperative members have contributed to the seed fund, increasing it by 22% (Ind 4.2), with 72% adopting livelihood schemes by taking loans from the seed fund and are making an average income of NPR 7,000-15,000 (Ind 4.3). Furthermore, 100 forest dependant HHs (including 70 cooperative members) in Shree Chetana BZCF were also supported with infrared induction cooking stoves to reduce dependency on the forest for fuel wood (Ind 4.4).

5. Impact on species in focus

The project is showing positive impacts towards pangolin conservation and control of illegal trade of pangolin derivatives. Project efforts in strengthening law enforcement agencies and collaboration has contributed towards successful seizure of 26.5Kg of pangolin derivatives (*Ind 0.2*). Further community engagement in pangolin conservation is helping provide information to LE about pangolins and their habitat. CBAPUs jointly with respective CFUGs, have conducted 73 patrolling events (*Ind 3.3.1*). Analysis of patrolling in Shree Chetana BZCF showed that team members have recorded more than 180 new burrows, 90 old burrows and 70 termite mounds. On average, in every patrol, CBAPU members recorded more than 3 fresh (active) burrows and 2 old (inactive) burrows (*Sec 3.1-Act 3.6*). Similarly, at Dhanusa, information on an injured pangolin was reported to DFO Dhanusa/MWT by locals (*Ind 3.4*), DFO Dhanusa/MWT then rescued the pangolin and provided treatment for two days before release back into the wild (*Sec 3.1-Act 3.10*).

6. Project support to poverty reduction

The project is targeting two communities residing in the fringe areas of pangolin habitat within the Chitwan-Sindhuli corridor. There are 376 households in these communities, with a total population of 1,879 people (975 males and 904 females) (Ind 3.1). The average wellbeing index is 0.52 (Ind 0.4). The project is aiming to reach 200 households with sustainable livelihood schemes to increase their income and wellbeing and to reduce their dependency on natural resources in the pangolin habitat. Specifically, women from indigenous and disadvantaged groups are the main targeted beneficiaries for the livelihood schemes. By year two, the project had already reached 167 HHs through two-women led cooperatives and alternative options for fuel wood. In Y1, women cooperatives were established with 68 women members and in Y2 an additional 69 members were added giving 137 members in total (136 female). Of the total members across both cooperatives, 86 belong to indigenous groups and 19 belong to disadvantaged groups. Due to the increased members, the project provided additional seed funding (NPR 1,401,280) giving a seed fund total of NPR 3,136,145. Members (both new and old) were trained in livelihoods skills (commercial livestock rearing) and had their capacity increased in cooperative management so that they can manage the seed fund and use the funds for the incomegenerating activities. These two women-led community cooperatives have expanded their initial seed fund by 24% (NPR 700,657) through monthly savings, interest collection, optional savings, service charge collection and late fines, giving a total fund of NPR 3,836,802 (Ind 4.2). Out of 137 members, 98 (72%) have received loans for various income generating activities (Sec 3.1-Act 4.7). The livelihood activity monitoring conducted by partners has shown that members running livelihood activities by taking loans from women cooperatives are making monthly earnings of NPR. 7,000-NPR. 15,000 depending on their livelihood activities (Sec 3.1-Act 4.7). The alternative options to fuel wood (infrared induction cooking stove) have further supported 100 HHs (70 cooperative member HHs and 30 other forest dependant HHs) in reducing their dependency on the forest for fuel wood.

7. Gender equality and social inclusion

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	The proportion of women on the project board is 42% (8 out of 19 staff are female)
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 .	All project partners are led by men.

The project is progressive towards gender equality. Men and women are given equal opportunity to participate in capacity-building opportunities; however, women are often less represented than men in Nepal unless the project specifically encourages women's participation. Therefore, participation of women and communities

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.

from indigenous and disadvantaged groups was encouraged by the project. Across all project activities, participants include 80% women and 66% indigenous and disadvantaged groups. Furthermore, the project conducted two training events on "Gender Equality, Social Inclusion (GESI), Good Governance Principles, and Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) for 47 CMPCA members (37 female), of whom 77% belonged to indigenous and disadvantaged groups. Additionally, the project added 68 female members to the women-led cooperatives in Y2, giving 136 female members (99%) in total. Of the total number of members across both cooperatives, 86 belong to indigenous groups and 19 belong to disadvantaged groups (Ind 4.2). Being affiliated to women's cooperatives has created economic decision-making opportunities for women in the project sites. These members have been trained in cooperative management and livelihood skills and supported with additional seed funds amounting to NPR 1,401,280 giving a seed fund total of NPR 3,136,145 (Ind 4.2). Women members have full management rights over this seed money. Based on fund management quidelines, members take loans at low interest to start livelihoods schemes in which they have been trained. Out of 137 members, 98 females (72%) have received loans for various income generating activities (Sec 3.1-Act 4.7). The livelihood activity monitoring conducted by partners has shown that members running livelihood activities using loans from the women's cooperatives, are making monthly earnings of NPR. 7,000-NPR. 15,000 depending on their livelihood activities (Sec 3.1-Act 4.7). Furthermore, the alternative options to fuel wood (infrared induction cooking stoves) provided by the project have helped create a clean cooking environment for women. In Nepal, women are mainly responsible for cooking and fuelwood is often associated with indoor air pollution and therefore respiratory tract problems in women (Annex 4.1.4). For this reason, using clean cooking stoves will help prevent respiratory tract diseases in women related to indoor pollution.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

The PCC and PMUs are the key monitoring units established by the project for monitoring and evaluation purposes (Annex 4.2.1 and 4.2.2). Similarly, PNP and DFO Dhanusa, in coordination with project partners, buffer zone representatives and local communities, are conducting regular monitoring of project progress at the site (Annex 4.25.1, 4.25.2). Regular visits have also been conducted by the project lead to monitor and evaluate implementation. In total, 4 monitoring visits have been made by the project lead.

Tied to the logframe, the ZSL project team also uses a performance appraisal framework (PAF), to conduct M&E. PAF is a web-based system to track progress and promote interaction between project partners. Monthly highlight reports are generated from the PAF system with input from all relevant project components. These feed into the regular project reports for both the IWT Challenge Fund and ZSL's internal M&E procedures.

The capacity enhancement of 67 LE officials (*Ind 1.2* and *Ind 2.2*), sharing of IWT route maps prepared through the IWT survey (*Ind 2.1*), increased transboundary sharing of IWT related information (*Ind 1.1*), increased LE surveillance on identified IWT border spots (*Ind 1.4*), increased arrests of IWT suspected traffickers (*Ind 2.3*) and increased data entry in the IWT database (WCD-MIS) (*Ind 1.3*) are continuously helping strengthen law enforcement in an integrated way in the Chitwan-Sindhuli corridor which is evidenced through 43 successful arrests and prosecutions (39% increase) (*Ind 0.1*), as well as seizure of 38kg of wildlife parts, including 26.5kg of pangolin derivatives, 24 pieces of skin, teeth, bones and horns (*Ind 0.2*). The CMPCAs are leading participatory pangolin conservation by creating pangolin awareness (Ind 3.2.2), conducting regular patrolling of pangolin habitat (Ind 3.3.1) and sharing information related to pangolin conservation issues (Ind 3.4). This year locals from Bhatighari CF also shared information about an injured pangolin to MWT and DFO Dhanusa (Ind 0.4). Finally, the increase in the number of members in women-led cooperatives (Ind 4.1), members contributing to increase the seed fund by 22% (Ind 4.2) and 72% of members adopting livelihood schemes with an average income of NPR 7,000-15,000 (Ind 4.3) positively indicates that the wellbeing of participating HHs is likely to be improved (Ind 0.4) by the end of the project.

To date, there have been no changes in the M&E plan. As planned, M&E responsibilities are shared among partners and all required data is being collected accordingly. SAWEN is supporting with data and evidence for output 1 and 2, whilst HN and MWT are supporting with output 3 and 4. All partners are also conducting preand post-event surveys to measure effectiveness of the capacity-building events which is also reported quarterly (Annex 4.14.4, 4.19.2, 4.19.4, 4.19.6, 4.21.2). Community engagement partners (HN and MWT) are conducting both activity and output level monitoring jointly with community members. For example, the two CBAPUs are conducting monthly monitoring (patrolling) of two CMPCAs (Shree Chetana CF and Bhaatighari CF) and partners are helping analyse the monitoring data collected by CBAPUs (Sec 3.1- Act 3.6) to provide updates on achievements towards pangolin protection (Ind 3.3.1). Similarly, partners also attend site-level quarterly meetings between CMPCAs. PAs and DFOs and get updated information of CMPCA's activities in the project site and information related to pangolins and their habitat status (Sec 3.1-Act 3.9) to make progress towards credible information by CMPCA (Ind 0.3.2, Ind 3.4) and protection of pangolins (Ind 3.3.2). By attending and analysing monthly meetings of the women-led cooperatives (Sec 3.1-Act 4.7), partners provide information on additional members (Ind 4.1) and status of the seed funds (Ind 4.2). Furthermore, partners also conduct monthly monitoring of livelihood activities (Annex 4.25.1) helping the project team understand progress towards financial wellbeing (Ind 0.4, Ind 4.3).

To secure data sharing and storage among partners, data is collated on the OneDrive cloud and made available to all in a timely and easy manner. Monitoring and reporting officers compile data received from partners twice a year (half yearly and yearly) to measure output and outcome level indicators to report against the logical framework. Furthermore, quarterly update meetings are conducted with partners to share updates on project progress. This year, four quarterly update meetings were conducted (Annex 4.2.5).

9. Lessons learnt

- Coordination, cooperation and collaboration among LE authorities at all three tiers of government (local, provincial and federal) through WCCB has helped in effective intelligence sharing to combat IWT.
- Regular engagement of higher authorities (DNPWC) through the PCC has helped effective project implementation through active participation of respective line agencies (PAs and DFOs).
- Integrating project learning and combining update sessions can optimise resource use and improve project implementation: This year ZSL implemented two Biodiversity Challenge Fund (BCF) projects (One DI main and one IWTCF main). From the start of this project, learnings from IWTCF were incorporated and comments received from the independent reviewer of the Y1 report were considered and shared with partners accordingly. This helped ease Y2 reporting. Furthermore, as the DI main and IWTCF have similar reporting requirements, progress update sessions and reporting orientation were combined, helping implementing partners learn from each other, as well as saving time and effort for the ZSL project team.
- Capacity enhancement of partners is crucial: To increase partner capacity, four capacity improvement events were conducted for partners both in person and virtually. On 4th and 17th August 2022, the partners (MWT, HN and SAWEN) were briefed in detail about comments received from the independent reviewer on the annual report, the project logframe, partners roles in achieving results and deliverables as well as reports needed to be submitted by partners to evidence those achievements. Similarly, an orientation on safeguarding and financial compliance was conducted on 22nd September 2022 for partners of both BCF projects. Finally, a refresher orientation on reporting took place on 29th March 2022. All these sessions helped partners understand project requirements which ultimately helps in timely implementation and reporting (Annex 4.2.6).
- Virtual platforms are a cost effective and efficient medium for regular communication and coordination: The project maximised the use of virtual platforms for monitoring, reporting, progress sharing and partner capacity building. The online drive (OneDrive) was used to submit all reports, data and evidence. Partners provide update reports and evidence after completion of each activity which helps the project team monitor activities virtually. Similarly, the online communication platform (Microsoft Teams) was used to conduct progress meetings and partner capacity building sessions, which not only helped in timely communication and partners capacity improvement but also helped organise cost effective events without the need of additional resources.

Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

The first-year report of the project had received three comments of which only two were suggested to be incorporated in second year annual report. After the project received comments from an independent reviewer, the ZSL project team organized two meetings with all implementing partners namely: MWT (4 Aug 2022) and HN/SAWEN (17 Aug 2022). In these meetings, ZSL shared comments received on first year annual report and jointly prepared an action plan to address the feedback. ZSL also created a reporting template for the partners which included the reporting requirements of IWT. Details of action taken against each comment are below:

No.	Comments from reviewer	Action taken
1	The reviewer commends the project team on getting off to a good start. The report is well written and clearly laid out.	No response needed.
2	Reporting on the governance of the project could be strengthened (section 2 partnerships) to clarify how frequently the PCC and PMU meet and the roles of each in governing the project.	The project team have clarified the frequency and the roles of the PCC and PMU in the second-year report (Section 2). ZSL conducts PCC meetings quarterly and PMU meetings bimonthly. PCC provides guidance to PMU for the overall project implementation and adaptive management. PMU is responsible for day-to-day project management and activity implementation in project site.
3	Monitoring of the project could be strengthened to clarify how activity to Output monitoring and Output to Outcome monitoring is achieved and	The project team has attempted to clarify linkages of activity, output and outcome monitoring along with role of partners in second

further clarity on the reporting and meeting cycles to ensure that good monitoring is in place. It may be that this is happening, but it is not clear from the report.

year report (Section 8). The partners provide reports quarterly and the update meetings with partners are also held quarterly. This is also mentioned in Section 8.

11. Risk Management

This year, no new risks have arisen. However, one issue rose in mid-October. The field implementation was halted for one month (19 Oct-20 Nov 2022) due to provincial and federal elections. As a result, we rescheduled all activities planned in that period to be undertaken in the latter half of Q3 and first half of Q4. The issue was resolved in time ensuring timely implementation.

12. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

This is not applicable to this report.

13. Sustainability and legacy

The project was developed in line with the Government of Nepal's priority area, the National Pangolin Conservation Action Plan, and the DNPWC's strategic plan. The DNPWC therefore has taken ownership of the project and has supported the project's development and implementation. The IWT survey report, along with the trade route map and WCD-MIS has become an important asset to the DNPWC. The DNPWC has shared the trade route maps and IWT survey results at various national and international platforms including at the general meetings of SAWEN and 19th COP of CITES (Sec 3.1-Act 1.5 and 2.5). Similarly, the findings of the results are also being used to prepare the Wildlife Trade and Poaching Control Strategic Plan (2023-2030) (Sec 3.1-Act2.6). This long term IWT strategic plan will be another great asset for the DNPWC in curbing IWT in Nepal. Enhancing the capacity of the law enforcement officials by 67 individuals trained in wildlife part identification and wildlife crime investigation and prosecution has led to an increase in the average knowledge of participants by 10% and 16% respectively (Ind 1.2 and Ind 2.2; Sec 3.1-Act 1.4 and 2.7). Therefore, it is expected to continue increasing seizures of wildlife parts and successful prosecutions in years to come. Similarly, the community groups (CMPCAs and CBAPUs) formed by those living around the forests as part of the project provide an assurance of long-term community support for pangolin conservation and IWT reduction which is evident through the 73 patrolling events conducted by two CMPCAs in the forest area/pangolin habitat (Ind 3.3.1; Sec 3.1-Act 3.6). The women-led cooperatives formed in this first year of the project, with sustainable financial flow mechanisms, are a step towards establishing environmentally and economically sustainable livelihoods in project communities. This year an additional 69 community members got affiliated with these cooperatives, indicating increased interest and understanding of the benefits of these cooperatives (Ind 4.1; Sec 3.1-Act 4.3). Further, by the end of the second year (Ind 4.2; Sec 3.1-Act 4.5), these women-led cooperatives have expanded their original seed fund by 22% which shows their investment in and ownership of the project activities. As the activities planned for second year of the project went smoothly, the exit strategy for the project remains valid.

14. IWT Challenge Fund identity

The IWT Challenge Fund has been mentioned in each agreement signed with the partners. The IWT Challenge Fund logo and a description of the project has been published in ZSL's periodic newsletter. The guidelines on the use of the IWT Challenge Fund logo was briefed to project partners at the beginning of Y2. The IWT Challenge Fund logo, along with the partner logo, has also been placed on banners, information boards, presentations and videos prepared by the project. The project will continue placing the IWT Challenge Fund logo on hoarding boards and any other communication materials.

The project supported by the IWT Challenge Fund is a distinct project in the Chitwan-Sindhuli green corridor. However, the project also aligns with the government's programme for pangolin, tiger and rhino conservation, which considers control of poaching and IWT to be a key element in conservation for all of the project's focus species.

In general, the wildlife conservation community in Nepal is familiar with the IWT Challenge Fund because of previously supported projects. However, this project has particularly publicised the IWT Challenge Fund in Madhesh province through engagement of local and province-level government bodies and line agencies in inception meetings and stakeholder consultations.

15. Safeguarding

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 foca Yes[If yes, please provide their name and expoint?		nail]
Has the focal point attended any formal training No [If yes, please provide date and details of triin the last 12 months?		training]

What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?

Past: 42% [8] Planned: 52%

A one-day training on Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) was conducted on 20th May 2022 at Sauraha, Chitwan for 22 participants (11 female) from ZSL (3), MWT (8), HN (2) and community members (9) directly involved in implementing the IWTCF funded project in Chitwan-Sindhuli Green Corridor (Annex 4.2.6). In the training participants were introduced to the concept and evolution of ESMS, policy, social contexts and potential areas of risk in conservation initiatives, as well as principles and standards of ESMS, integrating ESMS in project design and implementation, and risk management strategies in project context.

Additionally, ZSL organized a virtual orientation event (22 Sep 2022) on safeguarding and financial compliance for partners implementing BCF funded projects (one DI main and one IWTCF main). The orientation event was combined for all partners involved (Mithila Wildlife Trust and Himalayan Nature) engaging nine of their staff. Of those, 7 staff members were from this project (Annex 4.2.6).

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

Safeguarding is a relatively new term for many of our project partners and beneficiaries, therefore continuous refresher training is required to help them understand, report and address safeguarding related issues.

Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify.

The project will conduct training on safeguarding for project partners and beneficiaries (CMPCA members) along with GESI and good governance training (Act 3.3).

16. Project expenditure

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

Project spend (indicative) sinc 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)				_
TOTAL	210,898	210,898		

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).

Building on the foundations laid during the first year, the project is making positive steps towards achieving a reduction in pangolin trafficking and IWT, securing long-term community support and wellbeing through diversified sustainable livelihood schemes, and strengthening collaboration across law enforcement agencies.

In collaboration with SAWEN and the WCCB secretariat, the project increased its intelligence-related communication with transboundary counterparts by 7%. We have also been able to enhance the capacity of the law enforcement officials by 67 individuals all of whom are trained in wildlife part identification and wildlife crime investigation and prosecution. Similarly by enhancing the WCD-MIS through the addition of 85 government officials, as well as equipment, it has enabled the WCCB to increase the number of wildlife crime cases recorded. To date we have recorded 978 incidents, an increase of 403 this year. In addition, the DNPWC is sharing the IWT survey report showing IWT hotspots and route maps at national and international forums to curb IWT in Nepal.

All of these interventions are helping to strengthen law enforcement in the Chitwan-Sindhuli corridor, evidenced by 43 arrests of IWT traffickers at IWT hotspots (14% increase), seizure of 26.5kg of pangolin derivatives and 43 successful prosecutions (39% increase). The communities are also showing their support through increased forest patrolling (73 events) and awareness raising programmes. In addition they also regularly share sightings and observations of pangolin habitats with LE agencies (PAS and DFOs), and there was one incident of an injured pangolin which was reported to DFO Dhanusa/MWT which enabled its timely rescue and treatment. Finally, the communities are demonstrating increasing interest and ownership in the livelihood schemes supported by this project. Membership of the women-led cooperative has increased by 69, giving a total of 137 members, and the project seed fund (NPR 3,136,145) has increased by 22% (NPR 700,657) through monthly saving, earning interest, service charge collection and late fines. They are utilising the fund for loans at low

interest (6%) for income-generating activities. This year, 73% of members have received a loan and have reported monthly income ranging from NPR 7,000-15,000.

Apart from project activities planned in workplan, the lead partner also invested quality time and effort in building capacity of the implementing partners (SAWEN, HN and MWT) through series of capacity building events including orientation on safeguarding, financial compliance and report writing. Furthermore, to maintain value for money and integrate cross learning between the projects, virtual orientations and sharing meetings were conducted among BCF project implementing partners. This helped partners share their learnings on project implementation and reporting.

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)
Image	Forest monitoring by CBAPU members	CBAPU members monitoring forest/pangolin habitat. PC: Sita Poudel/MWT	FB/Twitter/Insta: @OfficialZSL/ LinkedIn: Zoological Society of London	Yes
Image	Information board on pangolin conservation	Information board installed for pangolin conservation. PC: Sita Poudel/MWT	As above	Yes
Image	Injured Pangolin rescued by MWT	MWT rescuing injured pangolin. PC: MWT	As above	Yes
Image	Livelihood activities 2	Cooperative member on her pig farm. PC: Sita Poudel/MWT	As above	Yes
Image	Livelihood activity monitoring by cooperative members	Executive cooperative members monitoring livelihood options adopted by members. PC: Sita Poudel/MWT	As above	Yes
Image	Livelihood activities	Happy family of cooperative members adopting livelihood activity. PC: Pradip Sedain/HN	As above	Yes
Image	Livelihood training for cooperative members	Cooperative members engaging in livestock rearing training. PC: Pradip Sedain/HN	As above	Yes
Image	School program	Students engaged in painting during school awareness program. PC: Sita Poudel/MWT	As above	Yes
Image	TOT on wildlife parts identification	LE officers looking at wildlife parts during the TOT on wildlife part identification. PC: SAWEN	As above	Yes

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2022-2023

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact ☐ Pangolin-trafficking and IWT is reduced throughout the Shivalik landscape, securing long-term community support and wellbeing through diversified sustainable livelihood schemes and strengthened collaboration across law enforcement agencies.		Project has laid foundations in Y1 and is positively moving forward to contribute to the achievement of this impact.	
Outcome Green transboundary corridors in Chitwan-Sindhuli secured through strengthened law enforcement, underpinned by community-led participatory pangolin conservation, with diversified sustainable livelihood schemes improving human wellbeing and reducing key drivers for IWT.	 0.1 10% increase in the proportion of successful prosecutions of IWT within the hotspots of Chitwan-Sindhuli corridor at the end of Y3. (baseline—31 successful prosecutions in 2019). 0.2 At least 10% increase of seizures of wildlife parts and derivatives through national and transboundary level information sharing at the end of Y3. (Baseline - 43 kg of wildlife parts comprising 16 species including 24.42 kg pangolin derivatives in 2018/19) 0.3 Within two CMPCAs: 0.3.1 at least a 50% increase in mean scores regarding 'support for 	proportion of successful prosecutions of IWT in Y2. The total number of successful arrests and prosecution is 43 for Y2. (Source: CIB report 2021/2022). 0.2 The total percentage increase in seizures of wildlife parts and derivatives through national and transboundary level information sharing can be determined at the end of Y3. In Y2, 38 Kg of wildlife parts has been seized including 26.5 Kg of pangolin derivatives, 24 pieces of skin, teeth, bones, and horns have been seized. (Source: CIB report 2021/2022). 0.3 Within two CMPCAs: 0.3.1 baseline on support for conservation was set in Y1. 0.3.2 The percentage increase in	Third national level WCCB meeting will take place. Report on intelligence sharing mechanism will be finalised. Wildlife Trade and Poaching Control Strategic Plan for the period of 2023-2030 will be prepared. Capacity building of 20 investigation officers. Strengthening and institutionalising CMPCAs and CBAPUs will be continued such that they can jointly and effectively work and support on combating illegal trade of pangolins and other endangered species. Capacity building and institutionalising women-led cooperatives will be continued, to run livelihoods schemes
	conservation' and 'support for combatting IWT' among community members (disaggregated by gender and ethnicity) by the end of Y3 Baseline set in Y1Bhatighari Chure CFUG- 67.7% Strongly support conservation	number of credible information reports on IWT received from CMPCA members to law enforcement (LE) agencies will be determined by the end of Y3. In Y2, information related to an injured pangolin was reported to MWT by locals from Bhatighari CF, which was then rescued by MWT and DFO Dhanusa.	sustainably in project communities

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
	-Shree Chetana BZCFUGUG- 19.72% Strongly support the conservation 0.3.2 at least a 50% increase in number of credible information reports on IWT received from CMPCA members to LE agencies through established information pathways by the end of Y3 (baseline set in Y1 - 0). 0.4 80% of the participating households (200 HHs) report improved wellbeing at the end of Y3 (baseline to be set in Y1- Average wellbeing index for Bhatighari Chure CFUG-0.36 and Shree Chetana BZCFUG- 0.52), with 0.4.1 All participatory metrics for inclusion in wellbeing index co defined by end Y1 0.4.2 Status quo maintained by the end of Y2 0.4.3 Minimum 10% increase by the end	0.4 % of the participating households (200 HHs) reporting improved wellbeing will be measured at the end of Y3, with 0.4.1 All participatory metrics for inclusion in wellbeing index were co defined by end Y1. 0.4.2 Status quo maintained by the end of Y2. 0.4.3 Minimum percentage increases will be reported by the end of Y3	
Output 1. Intelligence-sharing and collaboration between national and transboundary law enforcement agencies to combat IWT is deepened, enabled through capacity building and technology improvement, resulting in actions taken along suspected trade routes and border points.	1.1 10% increase in sharing of IWT-related intelligence with transboundary government counterparts e.g., through transboundary meetings and nodal mechanisms by the end of Y3. (Baseline=7 communications since the start of 2020 until now) 1.2 80% of trainees (customs, police and government attorneys) trained as trainers retain knowledge on successfully identifying seized wildlife parts by the end of Y3, with	government counterparts through SAV intelligence related communications we transboundary government counterparts. 1.2 The percentage of trainees traine successfully identifying seized wildlif Y3. In Y2 the average knowledge score of training. 1.2.1 45 LE officers (4 females)	T-related intelligence with transboundary VEN secretariat. In Y2, a total of 12 re made by SAWEN secretariat to the (Source: SAWEN secretariat 2022/2023) and as trainers retaining knowledge on the parts will be measured by the end of the frainees has increased by 10% after the parts increased on the provided in section 3.2 of report and

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
	1.2.1 40 LE officers trained by Y2. 1.2.2 wildlife parts identification manual produced by Y2.		ication manual developed by DNPWC ning specific components and used during
	1.3 IWT database fully operational and being managed by WCCB with 1.3.1 database adopted by the WCCB in Y1. 1.3.2 database fully operational in Y2. 1.3.3 40% increase in the IWT related information from the database shared between government tiers (federal, provincial, local) of wildlife enforcement agencies by the end of Y3 (Baseline = 5 information package shared since the start of 2020 until now) 1.4 30% increase of wildlife LE surveillance at identified IWT border hotspots by Y3 (Baseline to be set in Y1 - 0).	started entering data through WC 1.3.2 Database is operational. entered in the system. In Y2, 4 system making the total of 978 secretariat 2022/2023) 1.3.2 The IWT related inform analysis/preparation and it will wildlife enforcement agencies by 1.4 The total percentage increase of wildli hotspots will be determined by Y3. In	in Y1 and forest/protected area officials CD-MIS. In Y1, a total of 575 new cases were 103 new cases were entered into the cases entered by Y2. (Source: SAWEN nation from the database us under be shared between government tiers of the end of Y3. fe LE surveillance at identified IWT border Y2, one wildlife LE surveillance was and India-12) at Thori area (Border area
	DNPWC, DoFSC, SAWEN, Nepal Police the existing gaps in the national and anisms.	A draft report on information and intelligence sharing guidelines has been prepared in Y2 through literature review and workshop held for 54 participants (2 female) representing DNPWC, DoFSC, DFOs, PAs, Nepal police, APF, NTC, ZSL and WWF.	No activity planned for next period.
Activity 1.2 Conduct a national stakeholder meeting/workshop in collaboration with the WCCB to establish national intelligence sharing mechanism.		An organizing team to conduct third national level WCCB meeting has been formed, coordination with different concerned authorities initiated and date for third national level WCCB meeting confirmed.	The draft report on information and intelligence sharing guideline prepared in Y2 will be shared with concerned authorities in the third national level WCCB meeting in June 2023.
Activity 1.3 Strengthen support to WCCB to maintain crime database and collaboration with government counterparts.		In total, seven orientation events were conducted virtually for 85 officials (17	Support to strengthen WCD-MIS will be continued.

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
		Female) from PAs (33) and DFOs (52) (Annex) between 26-31 March 2023.	
		Equipment (laptop, hard disks, and tonner) were provided to WCCB secretariat for smooth operation of WCD-MIS.	
	(ToT) on wildlife part identification for law om officials and Nepal Police within	A three-day training of trainers (ToT) program on 'Identification of wildlife parts and their products' was conducted for 45 officials (4 female) from PAs (6), DFOs (17), custom office (4), Armed Police Force (APF) (6), Nepal Police (7), Nepal Army (2), and Civil Aviation Authority Nepal (CAAN) (3) from 20-22 Dec 2022 at Sauraha, Chitwan, Nepal	No activity planned for next period.
	WT meeting between Nepal and India in ish transboundary intelligence sharing	Two transboundary IWT meeting were organized during 'Third Asian Rhino Range Countries Meeting (ARRCM)' at Kasara, Chitwan and 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) of the Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) at Panama City, Panama engaging 50 participants (11 female) from Nepal, Bhutan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Pakistan.	Transboundary IWT meeting between Nepal and India will be conducted.
Output 2. Priority illegal wildlife trade routes through Nepal are identified, with LE agencies' enhanced understanding of wildlife crime hotspots and strengthened capacity, enablingthe disruption of transnational wildlife crime. 2.1 Wildlife trade routes prioritised and disrupted with, 2.1.1 comprehensive map of IWT trafficking routes produced by end of Y1. 2.1.2 formal recommendations for IWT route enforcement /control approaches submitted to DNPWC and DoFSC by end of Y2. 2.1.3 recommendations for IWT control approaches owned by DNPWC, informing IWT control strategies by end of Y3		in Y2. (Evidence provided in sect 2.1.2 Recommendations of IWT /control approaches submitted to 2.1.3 Recommendations of IWT owned by DNPWC in Y2. DNPWC and international forum and is al Wildlife Trade and Poaching	maps developed in Y1 has been finalized tion 3.2 of report and Annex 4.9.2) survey report for IWT route enforcement

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
	2.2 40 investigation officers from priority provinces trained as trainers on wildlife crime related case building and prosecution to target traffickers with 2.2.1 Two ToT programmes conducted for 20 investigation officers in Y1 and 20 in Y2 increase level of understanding on wildlife crime investigation by up to Level 2 measured on a scale of 1-5. 2.2.2 80% of participants in post project assessment are shown to be successfully implementing new skills and knowledge gained in their training by end of Y3. 2.2.3 15% reduction of processing time from the point of seizure/interception for IWT case building and submission by Y3. (Baseline= 45 days) 2.3 10% increase in the number of IWT suspected traffickers arrested and prosecuted (with associated)	2.2 22 investigation officers (3 female) from 1 DNPWC, 16 DFOs, 4 PAs, and Provincial Forest Directorate (PFD) Dharan of Province 1 trained as trainers wildlife crime related case building and prosecution to target trafficker (Evidence provided in section 3.2 of report and Annex 4.11) 2.2.1 One ToT programme conducted for 22 investigation officers female) in Y1. 2.2.2 The percentage of participants in post project assessment shown be successfully implementing new skills and knowledge gained in the training will be measured by end of Y3. In Y1, the average knowledge so of trainees has increased by 16%. 2.2.3 % reduction of processing time from the point of seizure/intercept for IWT case building and submission will be measured by end of Y3.	
	evidence) by end of Y3. (Baseline = 43 arrests)		IWT suspected traffickers arrested in Y2. arrested (Source: Annual report of PNP
	B, DNPWC, DFOs, SAWEN and WCCB to rding trading routes and the seizure trend	No activity planned for Y2.	No activity planned for next period.
	routes through Nepal in close coordination CIB via field visits, stakeholder meetings	No activity planned for Y2.	No activity planned for next period
	ceholder workshops with relevant law 3, WCCB, Police etc) to share and validate	No activity planned for Y2.	No activity planned for next period
Activity 2.4 Hold site level stakeholder and local government to share and validation	workshops with PAs, DFOs, communities ate the study findings.	No activity planned for Y2.	No activity planned for next period.

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 2.5 Share the results of the study findings with transboundary counterparts through SAWEN.		SAWEN secretarial conducted a sharing workshop on 3rd Nov 2022 to share findings of the IWT survey report conducted by the project in Y1 among 28 participants (1 female) from USA, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka at Male, Maldives during general meeting of SAWEN.	No activity planned for next period.
	Activity 2.6 Hold workshop with DNPWC, DoFSC, CIB, judicial members, and community representatives to develop IWT strategic action plan to disrupt the wildlife crime syndicate.		This plan will be shared in national level workshop in Y3 and will be finalized accordingly for the implementation.
Activity 2.7 Conduct training of trainers for 40 investigation officers on the protocols for prosecution of wildlife criminals and crime scene investigation (7-days ToT for 20 officials at each time).		A five-days training on wildlife crime investigation and prosecution training on 11-15 Sep 2022 in Dharan, Sunsari for 22 investigation officers (3 female) from 1 DNPWC, 16 DFOs, 4 PAs, and 1 Provincial Forest Directorate (PFD) Dharan of Province 1	A TOT will be conducted for 20 investigation officers.
Output 3. Two Community Managed Pangolin Conservation Areas (CMPCAs) established within the Chitwan-Sindhuli corridor promote participatory pangolin conservation and protect pangolins and	Two Community Managed Pangolin Conservation Areas (CMPCAs) established within the Chitwan-Sindhuli corridor promote participatory pangolin		n established by Y1. CMPCA in Shree sholds with 416 males and 387 females. member households with 559 males and females.
other traded species, reducing IWT its source.	 3.2 90% increase in the stewardship of the CMPCAs by the end of the Y3, with: 3.2.1 participatory natural resource management plan promoting equitable participation of women and vulnerable groups produced and endorsed by the CMPCA by end of Y1. 3.2.2 CMPCAs conducting awareness programmes for 1000 	from Y2 onwards. • 3.2.1 Participatory natural resource participation of women and vulneral endorsed in Y2. • 3.2.2 CMPCA conducted award children/school management commit community members in Y2. (Eviden Annex 4.17.7, 4.17.8,4.17.9) • CMPCA in Bhatighari	management plan promoting equitable ble groups drafted by CMPCA in Y1 is eness programme for 233 school ittee members and 32 stakeholders and ce provided in section 3.2 of report and Chure CFUG conducted awareness lents, teachers and school management

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
	school children and 750 community members to raise awareness of benefits of conservation by Y3 3.2.3 90% of communities are reporting positively on the benefits of conservation by the establishment of CMPCAs by Y3 3.3 Pangolins and other IWT species protected in two sites, by 3.3.1 each CMPCA conducting 120 patrols throughout the project period (24 in Y1, 48 in Y2 and 48 in and then I Y3). (baseline is 0). 3.3.2 each CMPCA conducting quarterly meetings to disseminate IWT related information gathered from patrolling to IWT enforcement agencies by Y1. 3.4 15% increase in IWT related arrests from intelligence derived from community information reports and patrolling to protect pangolins and other IWT species by the end of Y3 (baseline to be set in Y1 - 0).	disadvantaged groups). CMPCA in Shree Chetn for 111 students, teached members (60 female; 8 groups) and 32 stakehold 13 from indigenous and 6 3.2.3 The total percentage of communof conservation by the establishment (Evidence provided in section 3.2 of ref. 4.16.2) 3.3.1 CMPCAs have conducted 73 for 3.3.2 CMPCAs have conducted 8 quality of the section of the section 3.2 of ref. 3.3.2 CMPCAs have conducted 8 quality of the section of the section 3.3.1 CMPCAs have conducted 8 quality of the section of the section 3.3.2 CMPCAs have conducted 8 quality of the section of the section of the section 3.3.1 CMPCAs have conducted 8 quality of the section of the sect	unities reporting positively on the benefits of CMPCAs will be determined by Y3. WT species continued in two sites in Y1 eport and Annex 4.14.5, 4.14.6, 4.16.1, orest patrols through CBAPUs in Y2.
	level stakeholder workshops to identify uli landscape to designate as Community (CMPCA).	No activity planned for Y2.	No activity planned for next period.
Activity 3.2 Establish and institution representation of women and members to	nalize two CMPCAs with participatory from vulnerable groups.	No activity planned for Y2.	No activity planned for next period.
Activity 3.3 Conduct annual joint trainings for 30 members of the CMPCAs on GESI and good governance principles.		Two events of trainings on "Gender Equality, Social Inclusion (GESI), Good Governance Principles, and Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) conducted for 47	Trainings on GESI and good governance will be conducted

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
		CMPCA members (37 female), of whom 77% belonged to indigenous and disadvantaged group.	
Activity 3.4 Facilitate biannual meetings between two CMPCA members to discuss progress and lesson sharing.		One bi-annual meeting was organized on 19 Mar 2023 between two CMPCAs (Shree Chetana BZCFUG and Bhaatighari CFUG) at Dhelkewar, Dhanusa. The meeting was attended by 37 participants (24 female) representing CMPCAs, FECOFUN, DFO Dhanusa, PNP, HN, MWT and ZSL. Of total participants, 84% belonged to indigenous and disadvantaged group.	Cross-learning meetings between two CMPCAs will be conducted.
Activity 3.5 Establish 10-member (CBAPUs) under the CMPCA.	Community Based Anti-Poaching Unit	No activity planned for Y2.	No activity planned for next period.
Activity 3.6 Train 20 CBAPU members on patrolling techniques and monthly monitoring of pangolin habitat.		The two events of two-day refresher training on patrolling techniques and monthly monitoring of pangolin habitat was conducted for 54 community members (20 CBAPU members and 34 CFUG members). Of the total participants, 24 were female and 33 belonged to indigenous and disadvantaged groups. After the training, the average knowledge score of participants at Shree Chetana BZCFUG increased by 12% and Bhaatighari CFUG by 26%.	Capacity enhancement of 20 CBAPU members will be continued.
Activity 3.7 Provide essential field gears and equipment to CBAPU members for monthly patrolling and reporting.		Field gear procured in Y1 was distributed to three CBAPUs working for pangolin conservation in three CFUGs.	No activity planned for next period.
Activity 3.8 Develop community-LE collaboration guidelines and establish functional reporting mechanism between CMPCA, PAs and DFOs to monitor, and evaluate the learning of CMPCAs, encourage harmonious relationship and aid the flow of intelligence.		Planned for Y3	No activity planned for next period.
Activity 3.9 Facilitate site-level quarter DFOs for intelligence sharing and networ	ly meeting between CMPCAs, PAs and king.	In total eight site-level quarterly meetings have been organized by two	Quarterly meeting will be organized regularly.
MTCE Main Annual Depart Template 2022		00	

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
		CMPCAs (four by each CMPCAs) with PAs, DFOs, IGA groups, and other CMPCAs as well. The participation of women (67%) and indigenous and disadvantaged groups (70%) were ensured in all of these meetings.	
conservation within Chitwan-Sindhuli cor Develop and produce awareness raising Develop radio jingles and broadcast in the	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	 A four-minute animated video including information on the current threat of pangolin conservation, importance of pangolin conservation, legal provision for those involved in illegal trade has been developed and published through partner's digital platforms like the official website, YouTube channel and Facebook page. A story book on pangolin conservation has also been drafted and is currently under process of publication. Radio jingles on pangolin conservation and IWT control were broadcasted 5 times a day in each project site (Dhanusa and Makawanpur) that is around 2,862 times (HN- 1470 and MWT-1392) throughout the second year of the project. Through the drop-in centres established in Y1, three school walls were painted with pangolin conservation messages, logistic support was provided to two schools for establishing school library and six different school awareness sessions were also 	CMPAs will continue increasing awareness through drop-in centres.
		conducted in four schools engaging 233 students and school management committee members (121 female; 67% (156) belonging	

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 3.11 Support CMPCA to ideattitudes/behaviour towards pangolin in contents.	dentify drivers of IWT and poaching, community.	to indigenous and disadvantaged groups). On the occasion of the 12 th World Pangolin Day (18 th February 2023) an interaction program was organized at Manahari Rural Municipality ward-1, Chakari, Makawanpur. A total of 32 participants (18 female) representing the local government, Parsa National Park, the buffer zone user committee, the buffer zone community forest executive team, and women groups. No activity planned for Y2.	No activity planned for next period.
Output 4 Vulnerable community members are accessing sustainable livelihood options, ensuring economic resiliency, reducing the economic drivers of poaching and IWT related activities.	4.1 Two inclusive livelihood cooperatives (disaggregated by gender, ethnicity and vulnerability) in place (one per CMPCA) with total of 50 members added by the end of Y2 total of 100 members added by the end of Y3. 4.2 50% increase in seed funds in each cooperative available as loans for vulnerable community members to access to support sustainable livelihoods by the end of Y3.	with 137 members (136 females; 86 belong to indigenous groups, 19 be disadvantaged groups (Madhesi and Dalit), 30 belong to Brahmin/Chettri belong to other groups) in Y1 and Y2. In Y2, 69 members added (68 fem belong to indigenous groups, 11 belong to disadvantaged group and 11 be Brahmin/Chettri). (Evidence provided in section 3.2 of report and Annex 4.1 women's Income Generation Group) 35 female members were ac Y2, 22 of them belonging to indigenous and disadvantaged groups In Bhatighari Chure CFUG, Aayamik aayaarjan bipanna barga upasamiti (Poor Women's Income Generation Sub-Committee)	
	4.3 85% cooperative members adopting sustainable livelihood(through trainings and seed fund) reporting a 20% increase in income by the end of Y3 with, 4.3.1 preferred community livelihood schemes and high value market supply	In Y2, project supported additional se seed fund (supported by project) total section 3.2 of report and Annex 4.20.1, 4 In Shree Chetana CF, Chetana NPR 701,280 added making total seed fund has increased by NF	Mahila Aayarjan Samuha seed fund of al supported fund of NPR 1,736,145. This PR 419,657 (24%) and reached to NPR ing, interest collection, optional saving,

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
	chains identified through community consultations by end of Y1. 4.3.2 25% of the cooperative members accessing high value market by the end of Y2.	upasamiti seed fund of NPR 700,000 added making total supported fund of NPR 1,400,000. The seed fund has increased by NPR 281,000 (20	
	4.4 50% decrease in the forest dependency for the direct beneficiaries in cooperative by end of Y3. (Baseline to be set Y1- Average forest dependency index for Bhatighari Chure CFUG- 0.65 and Shree Chetana CFUF – 0.52).	that, members running livelihood activities by taking loans from wome cooperatives are making monthly earnings of NPR. 7,000- NPR. 15,000 depending on their livelihood activities. (Evidence provided in section 3.2 of report and Anne 4.20.1, 4.22.1, 4.22.2, 4.25.1)	
		will be determined by the end of Y3 only	for direct beneficiaries in the cooperatives . In Y2, 100 infrared induction cooking dant households. (Evidence provided in
	s to identify vulnerable forest dependent noods, and wellbeing in the community.	No activity planned for Y2.	No activity planned for next period.
	Covid-19 on existing livelihoods of the project supported livelihood schemes.	No activity planned for Y2.	No activity planned for next period.
Activity 4.3 Establish and institution CMPCA.	nalize women-led cooperatives, one per	The number of members of two inclusive women-led cooperatives established in year 1, have increased from 68 to 137 in Y2. Of the additional 69 members, 1 is male and 68 are female. Likewise, 72% (50) of them belong to indigenous and disadvantaged groups. This makes total 137 members with 1 male and 136 female members, of whom 77 %	Both women-led cooperatives will be strengthened with institutional support

Project summary	SMART Indicators		ogress and Achievements April 22 - March 2023	Actions period	required/planned	for	next
		•	disadvantaged groups. In Shree Chetana BZCFUG, Chetana Mahila Aayarjan Samuha (Chetna Women's Income Generation Group) 35 female members were added, 22 of them belonging to indigenous and disadvantaged groups. In Bhatighari Chure CFUG, Aayamik aayaarjan bipanna barga mahila upasamiti (Poor Women's Income Generation Sub-Committee) 34 members (33 female) were added, all of them belonging to indigenous and disadvantaged groups Chetana Mahila Aayarjan Samuha supported with office management support including documents, furniture and stationeries for smooth operation and management of cooperative				
Activity 4.4 Conduct training to cooperation mechanism of the cooperatives	erative members on management and	•	This year five capacity building events were conducted for cooperative members on cooperative management (3), good governance (1) and basic computer skills (1). (Aayamik aayaarjan bipanna barga mahila upasamiti- 3 events and Mahila Aayarjan Samuha – 2 events).	and upg managen	ing will be continued grade women's ca nent and accoun	apacit	y on
Activity 4.5 Support seed money to setul to strengthen existing livelihoods and intro 4.1.	p soft loans for the cooperative members oduce livelihoods options identified in Act	•	To support the increased number of members, the project provided additional seed funding (NPR 1,401,280) making the seed fund a total of NPR 3,136,145. In Shree Chetana CF, Chetana Mahila Aayarjan Samuha was provided with additional NPR	No activit	y planned for next p	eriod	

Project summary	SMART Indicators		ogress and Achievements April 22 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
		•	701,280 making a total supported fund of NPR 1,736,145. In Bhatighari Chure CFUG, Aayamik aayaarjan bipanna barga mahila upasamiti was provided with an additional NPR 700,000 making a total supported fund of NPR 1,400,000.	
Activity 4.6 Conduct training to cooperalivelihood skills.	ative members on sustainable alternative	•	Three livestock rearing trainings were conducted for the women's cooperatives. In Shree Chetana CF, Chetana Mahila Aayarjan Samuha, 7 days' of commercial livestock rearing training conducted, was mainly focused on the newly added 35 members, however 14 members from women affiliated to Situ CFUG and 3 members from Shree Chetana BZCFUG also joined the training making a total of 52 participants (50 female). The training has helped participants increase their average knowledge score by 33%	Trainings on livelihood skills will be continued for members in both womenled cooperatives.
		•	In Bhatighari Chure CFUG, Aayamik aayaarjan bipanna barga mahila upasamiti, three-days refresher training on commercial livestock rearing was conducted for 33 cooperative members from Y1, however 7 Bhaatighari CFUG members also joined the training making a total participant number of 40 (34 female). Furthermore, one four-day training on livestock rearing was conducted for the newly added 34 members along with 9 additional members of Bhaatighari CFUG. The training helped increase	

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
		the average knowledge score of participants by 41%	
Activity 4.7 Conduct monthly meetings members, reviewing savings, returns, sha	s to assess the proposals of community aring progress and for dispersal of loan.	In total, 28 monthly meetings (Chetana Mahila Aayarjan Samuha-12 and Aayamik aayaarjan bipanna barga mahila upasamiti-16) were held by the two women-led cooperative groups. In the monthly meetings, members collect monthly savings, return loans, share progress, and disperse loans. The seed fund has increased by NPR 700,657 (22%) and reached NPR 3,836,802. Out of 137 members, 98 members (72%) have received loans for various income generating activities.	Monthly meetings will be conducted regularly.
and cooperative members to other ZSL	e members of newly established CMPCAs supported successfully run CMPCAs to ngolin conservation, management, and	Two exposure visits were organised for the 158 project beneficiaries from Chetana Mahila Aayearjan Samuha of Shree Chetana BZCF and Situ Bahuaayemik Aayearjan Bipanna Barga Mahila Upsamiti under Situ BZCF members of Makawnpur.	Exposure visit will be continued.
Activity 4.9 Provide support to cooper options to fuel wood.	atives members with alternative energy	Total of 100 infrared induction cooking stoves were provided, 70 were provided to members of the womens cooperatives and the remaining 30 were provided to forest dependent households	

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

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions			
Impact: Pangolin-trafficking and IWT is reduced throughout the Shivalik landscape, securing long-term community support and wellbeing through diversified sustainable livelihood schemes and strengthened collaboration across law enforcement agencies.						
Outcome: Green transboundary corridors in Chitwan-Sindhuli secured through strengthened law enforcement, underpinned by community-led participatory pangolin conservation, with diversified sustainable livelihood schemes improving human wellbeing and reducing key drivers for IWT.	the hotspots of Chitwan-Sindhuli corridor at the end of Y3.(baseline—31	O.1 DNPWC records, CIB records, Court Records. O.2 CMPCA records, seizure data records, pre- and post-project assessments, PA records. O.3 Cooperative records, CMPCA records, pre- and post-project assessments. O.4 DNWPC records, CIB records, SAWEN records.	Pangolin conservation remains a national priority. LE agencies continue sharing data on arrests and prosecution. Local communities are supportive of conservation and are keen to diversify their income generation. Avenues exist for improving law enforcements' response to IWT and they remain supportive of conservation initiatives. The short-medium term impacts of COVID on all stakeholders government and communities continue to be assessed and integrated into project planning, delivery and sustainability.			

	information pathways by the end of Y3 Baseline set in Y10 0.4 80% of the participating households (200 HHs) report improved wellbeing at the end of Y3 (Baseline to be set in Y1 - Average wellbeing index for Bhatighari Chure CFUG-0.36 and Shree Shree Chetana BZCFUG- 0.52), with, 0.4.1 All participatory metrics for inclusion in wellbeing index codefined by end Y1 0.4.2 Status quo maintained by the end of Y2 0.4.3 Minimum 10% increase by the end of Y3		
Output 1 Intelligence-sharing and collaboration between national and transboundary law enforcement agencies to combat IWT is deepened, enabled through capacity building and technology improvement, resulting in actions taken along suspected trade routes and border points.	1.1 10% increase in sharing of IWT-related intelligence transboundary government counterparts e.g., through transboundary meetings and nodal mechanisms by the end of Y3. (Baseline=7 communications since the start of 2020 until now) 1.2 80% of trainees (customs, police and government attorneys) trained as trainers retain knowledge on successfully identifying seized wildlife parts by the end of Y3, with 1.2.1 40 LE officers trained by Y2. 1.2.2 wildlife parts identification manual produced by Y2. 1.3 IWT database fully operational and being managed by WCCB with 1.3.1 database adopted by the WCCB in Y1. 1.3.2 database fully operational in Y2.	 1.1 DNPWC records, SAWEN records. 1.2 Workshop minutes, pre and post training assessments, post project survey. 1.3 Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) records, DNPWC records. 1.4 DNPWC records, DFO records, 	There is avenue for partnership with SAWEN to improve transboundary information sharing mechanism and collaboration. Opportunities to improve national capacity and coordination of the wildlife enforcement agencies through WCCB exists.

	1.3.3 40% increase in the IWT related information from the database shared between government tiers (federal, provincial, local) of wildlife enforcement agencies by the end of Y3. (Baseline = 5 information package shared since the start of 2020 until now) 1.4 30% increase of wildlife LE surveillance at identified IWT border hotspots (baseline to be set in Y1 - 0) by Y3.		
Output 2 Priority illegal wildlife trade routes through Nepal are identified, with LE agencies' enhanced understanding of wildlife crime hotspots and strengthened capacity, enabling the disruption of transnational wildlife crime.	2.1 Wildlife trade routes prioritised and disrupted with, 2.1.1 comprehensive map of IWT trafficking routes produced by end of Y1 2.1.2 formal recommendations for IWT route enforcement /control approaches submitted to DNPWC and DoFSC by end of Y2. 2.1.3 recommendations for IWT control approaches owned by DNPWC, informing IWT control strategies by end of Y3 2.2 40 investigation officers from priority provinces trained as trainers on wildlife crime related case building and prosecution to target traffickers with 2.2.1 Two ToT programmes conducted for 20 investigation officers in Y1 and 20 in Y2 increase level of understanding on wildlife crime investigation by up to Level 2 measured on a scale of 1-5. 2.2.2 80% of participants in post project assessment are shown to be successfully implementing new skills and knowledge gained in their training by end of Y3.	 2.1 Survey results, GIS map, Meeting minute, DNPWC record. 2.2 Training minutes, photograph evidences, pre and post training assessments DNPWC records, SAWEN records. 2.3 DNPWC records, CIB records, court records. 	Chitwan-Sindhuli corridor remains a priority pangolin habitat for the Government of Nepal. Unidentified trade routes exist in the project site and law enforcement agencies remain supportive in identifying trade routes linked to the project site.

	3.4 15% increase in IWT related arrests from intelligence derived from community information reports and patrolling to protect pangolins and other IWT species by the end of Y3 (baseline to be set in Y1 - 0).		
Vulnerable community members are accessing sustainable livelihood options, ensuring economic resiliency, reducing the economic drivers of poaching and IWT related activities.	4.1 Two inclusive livelihood cooperatives (disaggregated by gender, ethnicity and vulnerability) in place (one per CMPCA) with 4.1.1 total of 50 members added by the end of Y2 4.1.2 total of 100 members added by the end of Y3. 4.2 50% increase in seed funds in each cooperative available as loans for vulnerable community members to access to support sustainable livelihoods by the end of Y3. 4.3 85% cooperative members adopting sustainable livelihood (through trainings and seed fund) reporting a 20% increase in income by the end of Y3 with, 4.3.1 preferred community livelihood schemes and high value market supply chains identified through community consultations by end of Y1. 4.3.2 25% of the cooperative members accessing high value market by the end of Y2. 4.4 50% decrease in the forest dependency for the direct beneficiaries in cooperative by end of Y3. (baseline to be set Y1 - Average Forest dependency index for Bhatighari Chure CFUG- 0.65 and Shree Chetana CFUG – 0.52).	 4.1 CMPCA records, workshop and meeting minutes, cooperative records. 4.2 Cooperative records, CMPCA records. 4.3 Cooperative records, post project survey. 4.4 Pre and post project surveys. 4.5 CMPCA records, pre and post project survey. 	Gender and social bias exist; women and marginalized communities are under-represented in decision making and livelihood generation schemes. Communities are receptive of diversifying livelihood schemes as an alternative to forest dependent livelihood. ZSL's livelihood works have been successful in generating over 50% increase in seed fund in other projects. More than 25% of the members in the existing CMPCAs have adopted sustainable higher income generating activities. Economic conditions (post COVID) continue to enable suitable incentive framework is futureproofed across the trail sites for beyond the life span of the project.

Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

- 1.1 Conduct a workshop with DNPWC, DoFSC, SAWEN, Nepal Police and conservation partners to document the existing gaps in the national and transboundary intelligence sharing mechanisms.
- 1.2 Conduct a national stakeholder meeting/workshop in collaboration with the WCCB to establish national intelligence sharing mechanism.
- 1.3 Strengthen support to WCCB to maintain crime database and collaboration with government counterparts.
- 1.4 Conduct Training of Trainers (ToT) on wildlife part identification for law enforcement agencies including custom officials and Nepal Police within transboundary districts of Nepal.
- 1.5 Conduct a transboundary IWT meeting between Nepal and India in collaboration with SAWEN to establish transboundary intelligence sharing mechanism.
- 2.1 Conduct workshops with CIB, DNPWC, DFOs, SAWEN and WCCB to understand the gaps in knowledge regarding trading routes and the seizure trend of pangolin and other wildlife derivatives.
- 2.2 Identify and map the trading routes through Nepal in close coordination with the DWNPC, SAWEN, WCCB and CIB via field visits, stakeholder meetings and research study.
- 2.3Hold central level stakeholder workshops with relevant law enforcement agencies (DNPWC, DoFSC, WCCB, Police etc) to share and validate the study findings.
- 2.4Hold site level stakeholder workshops with PAs, DFOs, communities and local government to share and validate the study findings.
- 2.5 Share the results of the study findings with transboundary counterparts through SAWEN.
- 2.6 Hold workshop with DNPWC, DoFSC, CIB, judicial members, and community representatives to develop IWT strategic action plan to disrupt the wildlife crime syndicate.
- 2.7 Conduct training of trainers for 40 investigation officers on the protocols for prosecution of wildlife criminals and crime scene investigation (7-days ToT for 20 officials at each time).
- 3.1 Organise central and site level stakeholder workshops to identify potential sites within the Chitwan-Sindhuli landscape to designate as Community Managed Pangolin Conservation Areas (CMPCA).
- 3.2 Establish and institutionalize two CMPCAs with participatory representation of women and members from vulnerable groups.
- 3.3 Conduct annual joint trainings for 30 members of the CMPCAs on GESI and good governance principles.
- 3.4 Facilitate biannual meetings between two CMPCA members to discuss progress and lesson sharing.
- 3.5 Establish 10-member Community Based Anti-Poaching Unit (CBAPUs) under the CMPCA.
- 3.6 Train 20 CBAPU members on patrolling techniques and monthly monitoring of pangolin habitat.
- 3.7 Provide essential field gears and equipment to CBAPU members for monthly patrolling and reporting.
- 3.8 Develop community-LE collaboration guidelines and establish functional reporting mechanism between CMPCA, PAs and DFOs to monitor, and evaluate the learning of CMPCAs, encourage harmonious relationship and aid the flow of intelligence.
- 3.9 Facilitate site-level quarterly meeting between CMPCAs, PAs and DFOs for intelligence sharing and networking.
- 3.10 Aware CMPCA members and wider communities on pangolin conservation within Chitwan-Sindhuli corridor (workshops, meetings)
- Develop and produce awareness raising materials.

Develop radio jingles and broadcast in the project site through local radio stations.

Facilitate CMPCA to establish drop-in centres and conservation events for school libraries in collaboration with school.

- 3.11 Support CMPCA to identify drivers of IWT and poaching, attitudes/behaviour towards pangolin in community.
- 4.1 Conduct social surveys to identify vulnerable forest dependent communities, locally appropriate livelihoods, and wellbeing in the community.
- 4.2 Assess the impact of Covid-19 on existing livelihoods of the communities and provide access to the project supported livelihood schemes.
- 4.3 Establish and institutionalize women-led cooperatives, one per CMPCA.
- 4.4 Conduct training to cooperative members on management and operation mechanism of the cooperatives.
- 4.5 Support seed money to setup soft loans for the cooperative members to strengthen existing livelihoods and introduce livelihoods options identified in Act 4.1.
- 4.6 Conduct training to cooperative members on sustainable alternative livelihood skills.
- 4.7 Conduct monthly meetings to assess the proposals of community members, reviewing savings, returns, sharing progress and for dispersal of loan.
- 4.8 Conduct exposure visit for the members of newly established CMPCAs and cooperative members to other ZSL supported successfully run CMPCAs to learn and share best practices on pangolin conservation, management, and livelihood activities.
- 4.9 Provide support to cooperatives members with alternative energy options to fuel wood.

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	Disaggre gation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
IWTCF-A01	E.g. People who attended training on skills related to agricultural practices.	E.g. Number of community members who received training on skills related to agricultural practices.	People	Men	20			20	60
IWTCF-D12	E.g. Articles published by members of the project team	E.g. Number of papers published in peer reviewed journals	Number	None	1			1	4
IWTCF-A01		Number of people who received training in sustainable livelihood skills	People	Men Women Total	Men-3 Women-67 Total-70	Men-3 Women- 87 Total-90		Men-6 Women-154 Total-160	200
IWTCF-A02	85% cooperative members adopting sustainable livelihood (through trainings and seed fund) reporting a 20% increase in income by the end of Y3	Number of people reporting they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.	People	Women	0	98		98	200
IWTCF-A02	Two inclusive livelihood cooperatives (disaggregated by gender, ethnicity and vulnerability) in place (one per CMPCA) with total of 50 members added by the end of Y2 total of 100 members added by the end of Y3.	Number of cooperatives established	cooperative s	None	2	0	0	2	2
IWTCF-A07	50% increase in seed funds in each cooperative available as loans for vulnerable community members to access to support sustainable livelihoods by the end of Y3.	Total value (£) of loans provided	GBP sterling ³	None	11,656	14,012		25,668	31,361

³ GBP 1 = NPR 150

IWTCF Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with IWTCF Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggre gation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
IWTCF-B01	40 LE officers trained on wildlife part identification by Y2.	Number of people trained in law enforcement skills.	People	Men Women Total	0	Men-41 Women-4 Total-45		Men-41 Women-4 Total-45	45
IWTCF-B01	40 investigation officers from priority provinces trained as trainers on wildlife crime related case building and prosecution to target traffickers	Number of people trained in law enforcement skills.	People	Men Women Total	0	Men-19 Women-3 Total-22		Men-19 Women-3 Total-22	40
IWTCF-B06	Comprehensive map of IWT trafficking routes produced by end of Y1	Number of criminal networks/trade routes mapped/identified.	Number	Languag e- English	1	0		1	1
IWTCF-B07	At least 10% increase of seizures of wildlife parts and derivatives through national and transboundary level information sharing at the end of Y3.	Number of illegal wildlife products/shipments detected	KG	None	0	38		38	
IWTCF-B14	10% increase in the proportion of successful prosecutions of IWT within the hotspots of Chitwan-Sindhuli corridor at the end of Y3.	Number of individuals successfully prosecuted for wildlife crimes,	Number		0	43		43	
IWTCF-B21	Recommendations for IWT control approaches owned by DNPWC, informing IWT control strategies by end of Y3	Number of policies and frameworks12 developed or formally contributed to by projects and being implemented by appropriate authorities.	Number		0	0		0	1
IWTCF-D02	CMPCAs conducting awareness programmes for 1000 school children and 750 community members to raise awareness of benefits of conservation by Y3	Number of individuals benefitting from training (i.e. broader households of individual directly trained)	People	Men Women Total	Men-99 Women-121 Total-220	Men-126 Women- 139 Total-265		Men-225 Women-260 Total-485	1750

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Animated video on pangolin conservation	VDO	ZSL, HN, MWT, SAWEN			(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsaOy2Scrs8&ab_channel=HimalayanNature)
Comic book on pangolin conservation		ZSL, HN, MWT, SAWEN			

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 correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	
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.	
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 17)?	
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.	1