



Department
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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 2024

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

● IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

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| Project reference | IWT125 |
| Project title | Breaking the illegal wildlife trade chain in Bagmati Province, Nepal |
| Country/ies | Nepal |
| Lead Partner | WWF-UK |
| Project partner(s) | WWF Nepal, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) |
| IWTCF grant value | £550,022.00 |
| Start/end dates of project | 01 April 2023 - 31 March 2026 |
| Reporting period (e.g. April 2023-Mar 2024) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3) | 01 April 2023 - 31 March 2024 |
| Project Leader name | Rebecca May |
| Project website/blog/social media | https://iwt.challengefund.org.uk/project/XXIWT125 |
| Report author(s) and date | Rebecca May (WWF-UK), Deborah Mackay (WWF-UK), Madhav Khadka (WWF Nepal), Dilip Subedi (WWF Nepal), Karma Dolma Gurung (WWF Nepal), Shambhavi Poudel (WWF Nepal), Nishan KC (WWF Nepal), Arati Rayamajhi (WWF Nepal), Sobhana Bista (WWF Nepal), Hirendra Rokaya (CIB), Krishna Nanda Joshi (CIB), Heather Sohl (WWF Tiger Trade Lead) 30 April 2024 |

1. Project summary

Bagmati Province has Nepal's highest levels of wildlife seizures, Nepal being a transit and source country for Illegal Wildlife Products (IWPs). These include parts from tigers, rhinos, pangolins, leopard and red panda, which are CITES listed and threatened by poaching. Bagmati Province reported Asia's 5th highest provincial IWT seizures and volume of tigers confiscated since 2000. Between 2015-2021, 59.3% of Nepal's IWT seizures occurred in Bagmati, through five trade routes and 10 transit points (Map 1).

Socio-economically disadvantaged people (particularly youth) living in protected-area buffer zones are paid by traders to poach wildlife in Chitwan and Parsa National Parks, often unaware of the consequences for them and their families. In recent years, WWF has worked with these communities, through Buffer Zone User Committees (BZUCs) and the Community-Based Anti-Poaching Units (CBAPUs) in support of Nepal's ambition towards zero poaching. However, the pandemic reduced employment prospects in these areas and increased poaching. Within BZUC areas around Chitwan and Parsa, closely linked to major transport networks and identified as prone to IWT, young people (men and women) lack adequate education, income and employment prospects, making them vulnerable to repeated exploitation as poachers. Even individuals already working to raise IWT awareness through CBAPUs, lack skills that could provide them with rewarding employment locally, which risks losing these valuable advocates against IWT and threatening the sustainability of the CBAPUs, which depends on volunteers.

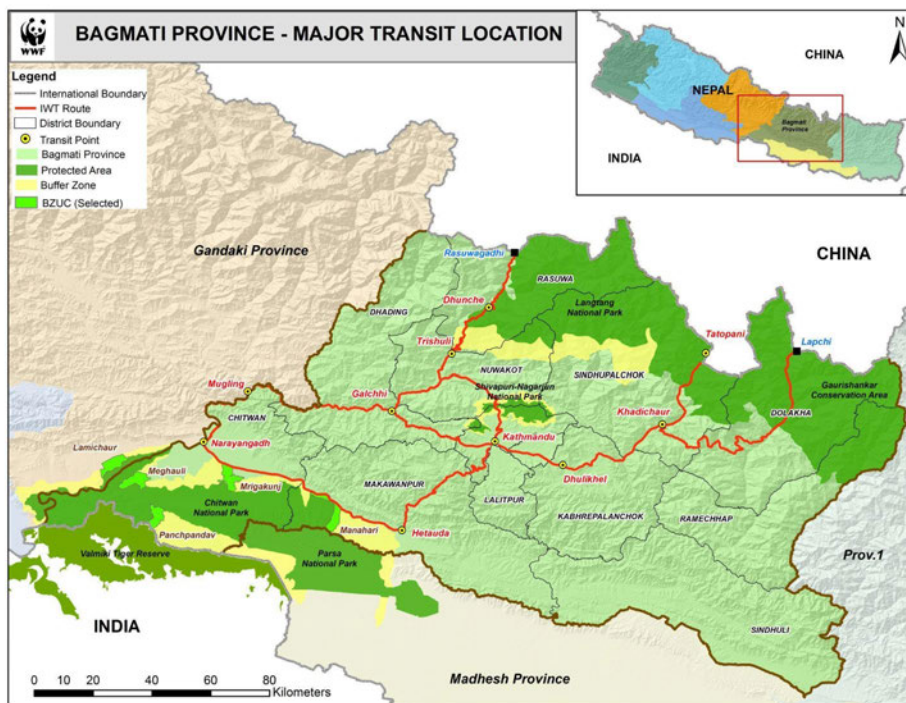
The IWT chain relies on the continued exploitation of transportation workers. When arrested, transportation workers often claim ignorance of IWT which must be addressed. Traders exploit this lack of awareness and pay for carriage of IWPs alongside legitimate goods, making them subject to severe legal consequences affecting their livelihoods, impacting families and communities.

Nepal's Community Police Partnership (CPP) mechanism already engages communities on criminal issues including drugs, but IWT is not currently considered. Nepal Police expressed interest in including IWT, to help raise awareness within communities and the transport sector.

In addition, despite recent progress, IWT enforcement remains challenging as officers have insufficient skills related to wildlife to effectively detect and prevent IWP being transported, and make simple mistakes on species identification, preventing seizures and prosecutions. Nepal's CIB identified the need for an accessible digital IWP identification manual and the integration of this into the IWT training curriculum to enable Nepal's law enforcement agencies to access information, significantly improving enforcement.

Through this project, we are addressing these issues methodically and collectively to achieve a 50% reduction in IWP trafficking through Bagmati Province by the end of the 3 year period, as a result of improved capacity of transportation workers and police and enhanced employment opportunities for local communities who are helping protect wildlife.

Map 1: Major IWT routes and transit points in Bagmati Province



2. Project stakeholders/ partners

WWF-UK partners with WWF Nepal on this project, who then have partnerships with Nepal’s Department for National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), BZUCs and CIB Nepal Police.

WWF-UK and WWF Nepal have monthly calls for this project in order to keep updated, and to plan and review progress. This has been working well. Rebecca May also spent 10 days in Nepal, meeting with project partners and stakeholders to discuss progress (Annex 4.1).

DNPWC: All conservation projects developed by WWF-Nepal contribute to national priorities and are prepared under the aegis of DNPWC, Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE). DNPWC has been collaboratively involved in the project from co-design to Year 1 implementation, alongside WWF-Nepal. During project implementation, DNPWC provided guidance and technical support through Chitwan and Parsa National Parks to the 5 target BZUCs, to implement awareness and livelihood related activities. We have learnt that the engagement of the National Park offices will help increase their buy-in, as an important stakeholder, and so we will continue to engage them as appropriate.

BZUCs: BZUCs are key to the implementation of output 1. CBAPUs are an entity under the BZUCs institutional structure. WWF Nepal worked closely with the 5 BZUCs and WWF-UK to define selection criteria and then use these to select CBAPU members, who have been and continue to be committed to conservation, to become Conservation Champions, and to finalise the curriculum for their training which took place in November 2023.

Conservation and Youth Champions: The Conservation Champions (CCs) were selected based on agreed criteria with the BZUCs, and then the Youth Champions (YCs) were selected according to specified criteria. These are members of CBAPUs, and together with the BZUCs, they suggested this new approach of helping committed young conservationists with employment opportunities. If they have local employment prospects, which are linked to their conservation commitment and interests, they are more likely to stay and play a key role in conservation and campaigning against IWT over many years to come. To date, these champions are highly motivated individuals who work well together, and who want to help make their lives and their surrounding environment better for people and wildlife.

CIB, Nepal Police: WWF Nepal and CIB Nepal Police signed a new 2 year MOU, outlining respective interests and roles in working together to tackle poaching and IWT. This was signed by both parties in November 2023 and is the third such MOU since 2014; this relationship and MOU form the foundation to enable us to work smoothly together to implement the activities in this project. The CIB are essential to the delivery of outputs 2 and 3, and have been supporting the planned activities, in a timely and constructive manner. WWF Nepal has regular meetings with the CIB and the training provided have been well received, as they respond to a need expressed by them.

Transportation sector: Transportation workers (drivers, assistants, helpers), owners (private & public vehicle) and committee members of transportation associations who participated in the events under the Community Police Partnership programme were sensitised on IWT issues and the role of the transportation sector in combating IWT and they provided valuable feedback and response to the CPP programme.

Hoteliere, tourism, hospitality sectors: The hotelier, tourism & hospitality sector (including Regional Hotel Association, Sauraha; Restaurants and Bar Association Nepal (REBAN); United Elephant Jungle Safari Co-Operative Ltd; Park Jeep Safari; Royal Jeep Safari; Nature Guide Association; Bird Education Society; and Small Tourism Enterprises Group) are potential employment providers to the youths of 5 BZUCs which will be provided skill based trainings in years 2 & 3 to increase their local employability.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

During the inception phase of the project, the following activities took place:

Project Inception and rollout workshop

The workshop took place on August 22–23, 2023 (Annex 4.2) in Sauraha Chitwan, with the active participation of 27 representatives (please also refer to Annex 1 of this project's Half Year Report 2023) from the park offices of Chitwan National Park (CNP) and Parsa National Park (PNP), Buffer Zone Management Committee (BZMC), 5 Buffer Zone User Committees (BZUCs), Community-based Anti-poaching Units (CBAPU) of respective 5 BZUCs, WWF Nepal, and the Terai Arc Landscape office. The workshop was successful in gaining overall insight into the project's aim, implementation sites, and strategies among the stakeholders through different technical sessions (Annex 2 of this project's Half Year Report 2023). The constructive discussions and interactions among the participants strengthened coordination and collaboration, and leveraged support among the project stakeholders.

Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESSF) Orientation & Sensitisation

The WWF Nepal safeguards specialist conducted ESSF orientation and sensitisation sessions in relation to this IWT project to implementing partners (BZUCs, CBAPUs). The core component of ESSF, which aims to manage risks, uphold human rights, and ensure conservation projects deliver better outcomes for communities and nature, was disseminated to participants. The concept of "do no harm" by identifying, avoiding, and mitigating any negative social and environmental impacts in project activities carried out by WWF Nepal was communicated with the participants, in addition to the importance of grievance redress mechanisms and accessibility of suggestion boxes.

Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) facilitation and Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) Sensitisation

FPIC implementation processes involved detailed discussion of project activities and mitigation measures with relevant community leaders, who need to understand FPIC processes, so that they use this when prioritising Indigenous People (IP) communities as CBAPU Conservation Champions. As the [National FPIC Implementation Guideline](#) launched in June 2023 is relatively new, the project will also help aid awareness and build capacity on FPIC processes among a wider range of community stakeholders. The major considerations were regarding the target age range and provision of additional support for women to ensure their sustained participation as

Conservation Champions. Participants expressed the need to ensure livelihoods support was based on need so that sustained efforts and participation is achieved.

The following activities took place to support the achievement of output 1.

1.1 Train 25 existing, unemployed and highly motivated CBAPU members on IWT issues, risks and consequences to create 'Conservation Champions'.

A total of 30 CBAPU unemployed youth from five targeted BZUCs were recruited in accordance with pre-established beneficiary criteria (Annex 4.3). The reason for selecting 30, is that we decided to include the CBAPU coordinators from the 5 areas, to ensure their support, engagement, buy-in and encouragement. In order to ensure that the criteria was followed and to facilitate active consultation and interaction, the project team closely supported the relevant BZUC office during the selection phase.

The 30 youths who were chosen were trained for six days to become CCs. The training focused on developing these young people's leadership skills in addition to providing technical workshops on comprehending challenges related to the illegal wildlife trade. In addition, the participants received training in designing behaviour change campaigns and identifying the message and medium to engage the stakeholders. **"Disappearing: Without Conservation, community and youth"** ("I am lost") was developed by the CCs as a Three-Year Campaign Against Illegal Wildlife Trade and has begun implementation.

1.2 Support 25 Conservation Champions to create awareness to 75 youth from targeted 5 buffer zone user committees focusing on IWT issues and wildlife conservation.

A total of 75 YCs - 15 youths between the ages of 18 and 30 selected from each of the 5 BZUCs - based on pre-established beneficiary criteria agreed by WWF and the BZUCs (Annex 4.3). The CCs provided training on IWT issues, as well as orientation and onboarding for the 75 YCs in the campaign implementation. 54% of these 75 YCs are female (Annex 4.4).

At first, the BZUCs had doubts about young people's interest in becoming CCs and YCs. However, the Meghauli BZUC Chair stated that they received an overwhelming response when the call for 15 youth champions was released. "About 150 applications were received, and we get questions every day now from young people asking how they might get involved in conservation efforts," he said.

1.3 Organise awareness raising programmes led by 25 Conservation Champions by engaging local youth and implement youth-led campaigns within their local communities.

As part of the campaign plan which was discussed during the trainings (Annex 4.5), five BZUCs ran a total of ten awareness events (Annex 4.6). With a message and medium specifically designed for each audience, the activities aimed to raise awareness of IWT issues among various stakeholders within the communities. 492 people were directly impacted by the events (Annex 4.4). Y1 events focused on marginalised and indigenous communities that are dependent on rivers and forests. The community members were reached through schools, mother groups, forest user groups, squatter settlements, and community gathering places. The awareness events aimed to make local people aware about the role of communities as a fundamental pillar to control wildlife crime related activities and to enhance stewardship towards wildlife conservation.

1.4 Conduct review and reflection workshops for conservation champions to reflect on the effectiveness and challenges of awareness raising programmes to the larger community buffer zone user group level.

Thirty CCs conducted a review reflection over the course of two days (Annex 4.7). This will be done annually. In addition to examining the process's results, the review reflection sessions

involved facilitating the CCs' personal reflection. Some changes were decided upon for Y2 - for example, regarding the number of attendees for each event, which should be dependent upon the target audience rather than having the same target for all events, and the organisation of half yearly meetings with National Park authorities for support and coordination.

1.5 Provide certified vocational training related to hospitality and tourism to 100 youth (25 Conservation Champions and 75 youth from targeted communities) with at least 40% girls/women to increase employability.

To support the youth employment initiative outlined in the project, in July, a rapid survey was conducted within the private sector in the project area (Annex 4.8), particularly focusing on the tourism sector. Also, in anticipation of the diverse training needs of 100 youths earmarked for hospitality/tourism and repair mechanics training in the second year, a thorough assessment of suitable institutions and training centres was undertaken. A consultative meeting with over 40 stakeholders was also held (Annex 4.9), with representatives from hotels, resorts, hotel associations, restaurant associations, and nature guide associations based in Chitwan, which yielded invaluable insights. These discussions were not only fruitful in pinpointing high-demand skills such as culinary expertise, barista skills, bakery, English language course and nature guiding, but they also refined the training curricula and highlighted essential aspects to be covered during nature guide training sessions.

The following activities took place to support the achievement of output 2.

2.1: Develop a model on existing community-police (Nepal Police) partnership (CPP) that also integrates IWT issues along transportation hubs in 10 transit locations.

During October - November 2023, a series of meetings were organised with CIB senior officials to develop a common understanding about the project and its activities. A renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (Annex 4.10) between WWF Nepal and Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) was signed on November 23, 2023. Based on recommendation from CIB senior team, WWF Nepal had a series of meetings in December 2023 - January 2024 with CIB Pillar-4 (the dedicated pillar of CIB for wildlife crime investigation and control) to develop the CPP model which integrates IWT issues in the existing mechanism of the CPP programme. Community Police teams exist in each of Nepal Police's offices at different levels (central, district, province) and Annex 4.11 shows the flow diagram of communication and coordination to enable this integration, in order to reach the transportation sector. This then resulted in strong engagement with the transportation sector.

In Year 2, further documentation will be developed showing the integration of IWT into CPP through this route.

2.2 Capacitate 1500 individuals who are transportation workers, public vehicle owners and members of transportation associations on IWT and its legal provisions and exploitation of the transportation sector by wildlife traders.

WWF Nepal and CIB jointly developed a detailed training session plan (in Nepali, Annex 4.12) and content in January 2024 for sensitisation of transportation workers, public vehicle owners and members of transportation associations on IWT and its legal provisions and exploitation of the transportation sector by wildlife traders. Based on this, a total of 545 transportation personnel were sensitised through 10 events in 10 transit locations (Annex 4.13) of Bagmati Province during February-March 2024. The training focused on an introduction to the CPP and wildlife crime, local IWT scenario, legal provision regarding involvement in IWT, risks to the transportation sector of getting exploited by IWP traders and the role of the transportation sector in controlling wildlife crime. The pre- and post- training surveys (questionnaire, Annex 4.14) were conducted to measure level of knowledge and awareness among transportation workers before and after the training.

2.3 Develop digital message on IWT scenario, provision of law and punishment and display the message through CIB and WWF Nepal's webpage and its social media and police offices of 10 transit locations.

The consultant has been identified and briefed for developing digital video messages on IWT scenario, provision of law and punishment. The messages will be developed as a final product in 1st Quarter of Year 2 to be displayed through CIB and WWF Nepal webpage and its social media and police offices of 10 transit locations.

The following activities took place to support the achievement of output 3.

3.1 Develop a training curriculum on nature and the nexus of illegal wildlife trade and its control mechanisms including human rights for Bagmati province

A consultancy was awarded in January 2024 for developing a training curriculum for Nepal Police and Armed Police Force in Bagmati province on nature and the nexus of illegal wildlife trade and its control mechanisms including human rights. The developed curriculum (Annex 4.15) has been reviewed by experts and is in the process of being finalised for printing.

3.2 Provide training to 390 officials of Nepal Police and Armed Police Force, Nepal on nature and the nexus of IWT and its control mechanisms in 100 police posts along 5 major routes.

Based on the curriculum developed in Activity 3.1, 3 days training was provided by CIB to 120 Nepal Police Officials (Annex 4.15, Annex 4.13) deployed at major routes of 4 districts (Sindhuli, Makawanpur, Chitwan and Dhading) in Bagmati province in March 2024. The pre- and post- test (Annex 4.17) was conducted before and after the training to Nepal Police Participants.

3.3 Provide training to senior officials of Nepal Police at district level on nature and the nexus of IWT and its control mechanisms.

One day orientation on nature and the nexus of IWT and its control mechanisms was conducted by CIB to sensitise 100 senior officials of Nepal Police (Annex 4.13) at district level in Sindhuli, Makawanpur, Chitwan, Nuwakot and Dhading in Bagmati province in February 2024. The training session plan and content was jointly developed by WWF Nepal and CIB. Attendance details (participants lists) can be provided if required.

3.4 Develop an identification manual of wildlife parts and products to be used by the officials of Nepal Police and Armed Police Force, Nepal at 100 police posts along the border and main routes of Bagmati province.

A consultancy was awarded for developing an identification manual of wildlife parts and products in February 2024. A draft has been submitted which needs further review for finalisation. The final copy of manual is planned to be disseminated to 100 police posts along the border and main routes of Bagmati province in Year 2.

3.5 Develop a digital app based on identification manual (Software development).

The digital identification manual drafted in Activity 3.4 will be used in the digital app. 125 android mobile phones (please refer to the asset list which will accompany the Financial Report) required for running the app were purchased in March 2024. The software will be developed in quarter 1 of year 2 and the android mobile phones will be handed over to 100 police posts along the border and main routes of Bagmati province.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Overall, the project progress has been on track and the project is likely to achieve all 3 outputs as defined. Please redact the text shaded with grey highlighting below.

Output 1: By 2026, 100 youth in five targeted communities have increased knowledge, capacity and skills to advocate against IWT and pursue employment opportunities.

30 CBAPU youth (which includes 5 CBAPU coordinators from the 5 project areas) from five targeted BZUCs were trained for six days (Annex 4.18) to become CCs.

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To support the youth employment initiative outlined in the project, a rapid survey within the private sector, a thorough assessment of suitable institutions and training centres and a consultative meeting with 40 stakeholders, including representatives from hotels, resorts, hotel associations, restaurant associations, and nature guide associations based in Chitwan were conducted. The insights obtained in the first year will be critical in determining the most demanded skills and training options for the Conservation Champions and Youth Champions.

This project is reaching 30 CCs and 75 YCs, which means that this project will benefit 105 youth (as opposed to 100 youth specified in our plans for this project). The reason is that whilst selecting the CCs, it became clear that it was important to include the CBAPU coordinators of these 5 BZUC areas, in order to gain their support and engagement for smooth implementation of this project.

Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) surveys along with wellbeing surveys of the 105 youths have been conducted to establish the baseline. This was collected using an app and as a dashboard using [Solstice](#). Further detailed analysis is in progress to inform actions under the project. Similar surveys will be conducted by the end of the project to measure the change in their wellbeing, as well as their knowledge, capacity and skills to advocate against IWT.

In Years 2 and 3, the planned activities will be implemented to achieve this output of increased knowledge, capacity and skills of youth in the 5 selected BZUC areas to advocate against IWT and pursue employment opportunities.

Output 2: By 2026, 1,500 transportation personnel have increased knowledge of wildlife crime, and reduced their direct involvement in transporting illegal wildlife parts and

derivations, with increased willingness to combat wildlife trafficking through Community Police Partnership programme.

A model of CPP (Annex 4.11) was developed with CIB. The model was effective while conducting sensitisation events to 545 transportation personnel (Annex 4.13) from 10 transit locations, increasing their knowledge of wildlife crime, and building their trust with Nepal Police on combating IWT. The participants have expressed their willingness to support and report to the police any IWT related information (through the pre- and post- survey, as well as verbally during the training events).

The pre- and post- test survey (Annex 4.14) showed an increase in knowledge of participants by 13.4% (out of total maximum score of 3/3, average pre-test score was 2.39 and post-test score was 2.79).

In Years 2 and 3 further outreach to the transportation sector is planned.

Output 3: By 2026, increased knowledge and capacity of law enforcement officials (Nepal Police/APF) to identify illegal wildlife parts and products (through the implementation of a national training curriculum and digital identification manual) disrupts five major illegal wildlife trade routes in Bagmati province, with commitments by CIB Police for wider adoption and rollout of the curriculum and digital ID manual.

Increasing the knowledge and capacity of law enforcement officials has started as planned.

A training curriculum (Annex 4.15) was developed for capacitating Nepal Police and APF personnel deployed at police posts along major IWT routes in Bagmati Province. Based on the curriculum, sessions were planned and 4 training events were conducted involving 120 police personnel (Annex 4.13) from different police posts along different routes of Bagmati province. The sessions included information about biodiversity conservation in Nepal, human-wildlife conflict and its management, identification of major species and their parts in trade, legal provisions and institutional mechanism of wildlife crime control in Nepal, role of Nepal police in wildlife crime investigation and control, modus operandii used by traders, major IWT routes, transits and points in Nepal, procedural steps to follow by Nepal Police during wildlife crime investigation and control, human rights protection during wildlife crime control, importance of digital forensics in wildlife crime investigation and some practical sessions of documentation of crime scene of wildlife.

The pre- and post- test survey showed an increase in knowledge of participants by 16.3% (out of total maximum score of 11/11 correct answers, the average pre-test score was 6.64 and post-test score was 8.44). (Annex 4.17)

This provides the foundations for increasing the capacity and knowledge of law enforcement officials at key locations to disrupt the IWT routes. In Years 2 and 3, further trainings will be provided as planned. Given that this output and curriculum / training plans have been co-developed with Nepal Police, the wider adoption and roll out of the curriculum and the digital ID manual remains feasible.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Outcome: 50% reduction in trafficking of illegal wildlife parts, through five routes in Bagmati Province, Nepal, through enhanced youth employment opportunities and improved capacity of transportation workers and police personnel.

During year 1 of the project, we have made good progress on establishing relevant IWT and socio-economic (wellbeing) baselines to monitor the project's outcome. The outcome indicators remain relevant for measuring the intended outcome, as they monitor wellbeing of the targeted communities and IWT trends.

We are still on track to achieve the project's outcome and have provided specific updates on the outcome indicators below:

Outcome Indicators

O 1. By Year 3, decrease by 50% in the number of local community members arrested for poaching or IWT from the 5 targeted areas

Baseline: Number of people arrested in poaching and IWT from 5 BZUCs: Baseline for the 3 year period 2020-2022 = 44 people arrested in poaching and IWT from the 5 target BZUC areas (Annex 4.19). A 3 year period was taken as the baseline, which will then be compared with the 3 year project period 2023 - 2025.

O 2. By Year 2, seizure of wildlife parts increased by 20 % along the main routes of IWT in Bagmati province (in comparison to baseline 2022, to be created in Year 1:) By Year 3, seizures decreased in comparison to Year 2 versus the same LEA effort applied.

Baseline: Number of seizure of wildlife parts in April 2022 - March 2023 = 31 (Annex 4.20)

Year 1 progress: In Nepal, the government level data including IWT related data are maintained Fiscal year wise (July - June). So, for year 1, the data will be available only in July 2024 which will cover the period of April 2023-March 2024. So, the year 1 progress will be updated in July.

O.3 By Year 2, arrests of wildlife criminals increased by 20% along the main routes of IWT in Bagmati Province (in comparison with baseline 2022). By Year 3, arrests decreased in comparison to Year 2 with the same LEA effort applied.

Baseline: Number of arrests of wildlife criminals in 2022 = 67 (Annex 4.20)

Year 1 progress: In Nepal, the government level data including IWT related data are maintained Fiscal year wise (July - June). So, for year 1, the data will be available only in July 2024 which will cover the period of April 2023-March 2024. So, the year 1 progress will be updated in July.

O.4 By year 3, well-being (financial, safety, security) of 25 Conservation Champions and 75 members of the target local communities increased in 5 targeted buffer zone user committees Baseline (Year 1): The data can be viewed on the Solstice dashboard: [Wellbeing surveys](#) of the 105 youth. Key finds are:

- Average annual income = 35,737 NPR per person (216 GBP) (average of 1,786 NPR for women, 68,517 NPR for men)
- Safety & Security: Overall, 8% of respondents reported fearing for their safety and security as a result of IWT activity in their area (7.1% female, 10.7% male). 13% think locals have been involved in IWT in the last year (19.% female, 25% male), and 25% are concerned for the safety of their families from poachers/traders (34% female, 15.4% male). While 17.3% of men feel intimidated by Law Enforcement Agencies against 1.9% of women.

Year 1 progress: Wellbeing survey conducted. Further deep dives of the data will be undertaken to better understand these findings, and especially in relation to gender differences.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

The risk register has been reviewed and is included as Annex 5.

Outcome Assumptions

Assumption 1: The Government of Nepal remains committed to tackling IWT (following on from 'zero poaching' and recent wildlife population achievements).

Comments: This assumption holds true. Enforcement actions continue to be taken in a timely manner, and the MOU between WWF Nepal and the CIB has been approved for 2 years. IWT continues to be discussed within Central level WCCB Meetings and WCCB District Unit meetings in order to tackle IWT.

Assumption 2: Investigation and prosecution stakeholders in Bagmati province are motivated and capacitated to respond effectively to IWT arrests and seizures, based on previous and ongoing capacity building and NGO support. This will result in wildlife criminals being imprisoned / fined which will deter wildlife traffickers and poachers.

Comments: This assumption holds true. In 2023, a rhino poaching case where 2 rhinos were found dead in pits that had been dug, was responded to by the Nepal Police very swiftly, and poachers were arrested, demonstrating their motivation to respond effectively. This was reported in Kantipur (Nepal's leading daily newspaper).

Assumption 3: Investigation and prosecution stakeholders in Bagmati province are motivated and capacitated to respond effectively to IWT arrests and seizures, based on previous and ongoing capacity building and NGO support. This will result in wildlife criminals being imprisoned / fined which will deter wildlife traffickers and poachers.

Comments: This assumption still stands. The rhino case described above demonstrates this.

Assumption 4: The short-medium term impacts of Covid-19 on project stakeholders will not affect project delivery - this will be monitored and the project adapted accordingly ; stabilisation in the spread of Covid-19.

Comments: This assumption holds true. The spread of covid has stabilised and has not impacted implementation.

Assumption 5: Improved capacity of law enforcement agencies will increase the seizure/arrests initially but then decrease as the traders are deterred from using these routes.

Comments: This assumption still stands, although we acknowledge that the dynamics of IWT are unpredictable. We are monitoring IWT throughout Nepal to identify signs of IWT routes being displaced to other areas.

Output 1 Assumptions

Assumption 6: Youth participants have time and capacity to invest in campaign implementation.

Comments: This assumption holds true, and there is a lot of excitement around the first campaign, which has been planned by them.

Assumption 7: Communities are willing to participate in behaviour centred design activities.

Comments: This assumption holds true. A lot of people participated in the events and were excited to be able to participate.

Assumption 8: Core youth participants have the skills and means through which to engage broader swathes of their peers in campaign initiatives.

Comments: This assumption holds true. The youth participants received the 'Train the trainer' sessions, and their individual roles are clearly defined based on strength of individuals; each has different level of skills / knowledge but they learn from one another.

Assumption 9: Community members and other stakeholders are willing to engage with youth.

Comments: This assumption holds true. We have experienced constructive dialogues between youth and NP staff, BZUC Chairpersons, who have attended project activities with a positive attitude. Local government is also working with them to conduct some activities.

Assumption 10: At least 70 % youth provided with skill-based training are successful to earn substantial income to sustain their livelihood.

Comments: This assumption still stands, as there is demand from local companies for such skilled employees, as identified in the meetings held in activity 1.5.

Output 2 Assumptions

Assumption 11: IWT issues are internalised in the existing Community Police Partnership programme.

Comments: This assumption has been evidenced as IWT has become part of their CPP in the 10 transits. The CPP Unit at District Police Office along with traffic police officers (main contacts in the CCP in the 10 transits) have already committed to next year's plan. Central CIB communicates with district officers, so this has been internalised at different levels. The MOU forms the backbone.

Assumption 12: Nepal Police and transportation workers have mutual understanding and trust.

Comments: This assumption still stands. No conflicts were observed during the events, or reported outside of these events.

Assumption 13: 50% of the visitors in the police office of transit locations receive messages displayed on digital display.

Comments: This assumption still stands, and this activity will start in Year 2.

Assumption 14: Sensitisation of transportation workers through CPP programme, raising their understanding of the risks and consequences of transporting illegal wildlife products, and of the improved law enforcement and identification of IWT, will lead to changes in their attitudes and behaviours towards IWT (to be assessed through surveys)

Comments: This assumption still stands. The participants of the training events for transportation workers expressed their willingness to support and report to the police any IWT related information (through the pre- and post- surveys, as well as verbally during the training events).

Output 3 Assumptions

Assumption 15: CIB Police, Nepal remains committed and motivated to address IWT.

Comments: This assumption holds true. CIB signed a renewed 2 year MOU with WWF Nepal, and Nepal Police has invested a lot of time into these activities.

Assumption 16: Identification of wildlife parts and products by the Nepal Police is a key gap in IWT law enforcement capabilities, with low cost and scalable solutions, which will result in seizures and arrests of wildlife traffickers.

Comments: This assumption holds true. Police officers who participated in the training raised concerns about their own capability to identify wildlife parts and products.

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

The project's intended impact is: Reduction in illegal wildlife trade in Bagmati province, contributing to improved biodiversity and wellbeing of communities living in wildlife poaching and trafficking hotspots .

Impact will be measured at the end of the project, as a comparison to the baselines on IWT and social wellbeing aspects determined during year 1.

In Year 1, the project has been laying the foundations to contribute towards achieving the **higher level impact on IWT**, through the 2 year MOU with CIB, and we are piloting new approaches which, when implemented and rolled out, will have a greater impact on IWT. For example, the new model for CPP now includes IWT in engagement with the transport sector, and we are working with CBAPUs to help find ways to support champions to continue their good work locally through improving employment prospects.

Human development / wellbeing impact: This project aims to contribute to improving the wellbeing of communities living in wildlife poaching and trafficking hotspots in Bagmati Province. We are doing this through our work with CCs and YCs - building their employment skills in relation to the local employment needs, resulting in greater income and wellbeing in the BZUC areas we are working. This is a model (connecting champions to improved employment opportunities) which is building on the CBAPU model in Nepal. However, our experience and feedback from CBAPUs and BZUCs has been that there is a greater chance of young people getting involved in poaching or leaving these areas for employment overseas, if the young people are not able to find employment locally. This is concerning for the sustainability and longevity of wildlife conservation and protection.

We will be learning from this project experience and seeking ways for this approach to be taken up further based on the findings of this project. The project has established the baseline for wellbeing, which will again be analysed in Year 3.

The wellbeing survey of the 105 CC and YCs has found that their average annual income is 35,737 NPR per person (216 GBP) (average of 1,786 NPR for women, 68,517 NPR for men). In terms of safety and security, overall, 8% of respondents reported fearing for their safety and security as a result of IWT activity in their area (7.1% female, 10.7% male). 13% think locals have been involved in IWT in the last year, and 25% are concerned for the safety of their families from poachers/traders. This project aims to help improve wellbeing with respect to these aspects alongside other measures.

Thematic focus: This project contributes to themes 3 and 4 of the IWT CF:

Under ‘strengthening law enforcement’ (theme 3), this project has been developing and delivering a training curriculum on nature and the nexus of illegal wildlife trade and its control mechanisms including human rights, to improve the capacity of the Nepal Police at police posts along major IWT routes in Bagmati Province. Based on the curriculum, 4 training events (corresponding to major IWT routes in 4 districts - Sindhuli, Makawanpur, Chitwan and Dhading) were conducted by CIB, with support from WWF Nepal, to 120 Nepal Police Officials.

In addition, a one day orientation session on nature and the nexus of IWT and its control mechanisms was conducted by CIB to sensitise 100 senior officials of Nepal Police at district level in Sindhuli, Makawanpur, Chitwan, Nuwakot and Dhading in Bagmati province, based on plans co-developed by CIB and WWF Nepal.

The pre- and post- training surveys show increased knowledge of participants.

Under ‘developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT’ (theme 4), this project is supporting the skill development and training needs for the selected CCs and YCs, based on discussions with these champions, and with local private sector companies and associations, particularly focusing on the tourism and hospitality sector where there are significant opportunities and high demand (e.g. nature guide, hospitality, repair mechanics). An assessment of suitable institutions and training centres was undertaken, based on these insights.

4. Impact on species in focus

In Year 1 of this project, it is too early to indicate any impact that this project is having on species in focus. The baseline data on seizures (Annex 4.19, Annex 4.20) provides evidence of IWT in tiger, leopard, pangolin, rhino, snow leopard, red panda and other species. Knowledge on IWT has improved as a result of the training provided to Nepal Police, CCs and YCs and transportation workers. Along all the 10 transits, we discussed with the transportation sector about trade in these species, species identification, the conservation models and wildlife crime control, which has increased knowledge and awareness and willingness to help tackle IWT. Similarly, the Nepal Police officers engaged in the training sessions in Year 1 have increased their knowledge and awareness of IWT along the priority IWT trade routes (Annex 4.17). With their knowledge and awareness improved, and through expansion of this knowledge and interest through friends, families and colleagues, and their engagement in this project, we expect a greater number of seizures by the police along these routes in Year 2 of this project. As these seizures are publicised, criminals are arrested and prosecuted, and transportation workers refuse to transport IWTs, this will act as a deterrent to IWT traders, with subsequent impacts on poaching.

This project aims to see reduction in Year 3 of the number of seizures and arrests due to reduction in IWT. This will ultimately have an impact on one of the greatest threats to the species in focus in the longer term.

5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

This project recognises the multi-dimensional aspects of poverty and their relation with IWT, which is not solely about lack of money and the need to secure income, but also includes issues

of safety and security, achieving a better life with dignity, social networks and relations, and which recognises the challenges faced by marginalised communities.

In this project, we are piloting a youth employment initiative with the intention of linking champions of wildlife conservation (who raise awareness and advocate against poaching / IWT), who are living in the buffer zones areas which are IWT hotspots, with support for improved employment prospects locally. These champions would then be more likely to remain in their villages (as opposed to going elsewhere to find work) and support their villages to tackle IWT and support conservation, as they improve their income and wellbeing. This project conducted a [wellbeing survey](#) of the CCs and YCs which considered income level as well as perceptions around safety and security in relation to poaching and IWT. This survey will be conducted again at the end of the project (Year 3).

Engaging with hotels, resorts and hotel associations, data on the most sought-after skills for the hospitality industry and essential repair mechanics were gathered. These insights will be used in discussions with the champions to help identify tailored training programmes. In anticipation of the diverse training needs, a thorough assessment of suitable institutions and training centres was undertaken, and emphasis was placed on identifying establishments certified by the Government of Nepal and/or the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT), implementing robust training curricula, and staffed by seasoned trainers / instructors.

A consultative meeting was convened to confirm the most sought-after skills with promising employment prospects within the tourism and hospitality sectors. Attended by over 40 stakeholders, including representatives from hotels, resorts, hotel associations, restaurant associations, and nature guide associations based in Chitwan. Discussions were not only fruitful in pinpointing high-demand skills such as culinary expertise, barista skills, bakery, English language course and nature guiding, but also delved into refining training curricula and highlighting essential aspects to be covered during nature guide trainings. These insights will be critical in determining the top 3-5 training options.

6. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

| | |
|--|---|
| Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ . | 50% |
| 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 . | WWF-UK CEO is female; WWF Nepal Country Rep is male; CIB leader was female when the MOU was signed - now replaced by a male leader; DNPWC has a male leader. Therefore 25% of this project's partners (including WWF-UK) are currently led by women |

| GESI Scale | Description | Put X where you think your project is on the scale |
|------------|-------------|--|
| | | |

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.

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

Based on the initial design and project delivery to date, the project has been classified as 'gender sensitive', based on the following context:

For safeguards, project level screening was conducted for this project, after which mitigation activities were inbuilt in the project implementation. To ensure that grievances are heard, all sub-grantees have created a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) in their committees. All the 5 sub-grantees, Lamichaur BZUC, Panchpandav BZUC, Manahari BZUC, Meghauli BZUC and Mirgakunja BZUC have 1 female and 2 male members in the committees. Although from a different funding source, these sub-grantees and committee members also received GRM training to learn how to address grievances. Further environmental and social safeguards training alongside training on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) was given to all stakeholders, sub-grantees and conservation champions of the project. The training also focused on zero tolerance for sexual abuse and harassment and no child labor policies.

As part of safeguards and inclusive conservation, FPIC was also conducted in two stages. FPIC facilitation was also accompanied by capacity building and collective consent process on FPIC, following the National FPIC implementation guidelines launched in June 2023. First FPIC was facilitated with relevant community leaders, who needed to learn about FPIC processes, so that they could prioritise Indigenous People (IP) communities in the formation of the CCs. The second FPIC process was facilitated with 30 CCs organised before activity implementation. There was participation from both IP communities and local communities for both collective consent from IP communities and capacity building respectively. The first session had 15 participants attending the FPIC session, where 6 participants were from the IP communities, 7 from Brahmin and 2 Chhetri communities. The second session had 30 participants who attended the FPIC session where 12 were from IP communities who shared collective consent. The major recommendations from these processes were 1) to widen the age bracket, if participation of Conservation Champions is challenging; 2) provide additional support for women's participation as needed, and 3) livelihood opportunities should be based on need. The mitigation measures discussed as part of the IPs Planning Framework (IPPF) have been integrated into the project implementation.

Meaningful GESI sensitive implementation has been used for the project, where set beneficiary selection criteria, finalised after discussion with stakeholders, was adopted. Gender disaggregated data has been collected. There is also equitable representation and participation of female and male members as CCs with representation of 40% female. They are inclusive of

the widened age bracket for youth where all CC are below the age of 40. Similarly, out of 75 YCs, 54.7% are female and all below age 30. Major marginalised communities were represented which included Rai, Gurung, Kumal, Magar, Bote, Lama (Tamang) from IPs status, Pariyar from Dalit community and Musahar from other caste minorities.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

As we implement the project, we continually review the assumptions and risks. We will also undertake more detailed discussions regarding the results to understand the situation and whether the project needs any changes. The project's monitoring plan has indicators which will help demonstrate that the outputs and activities will be contributing to the outcome. We had updated the logframe / monitoring plan for this project with our half year report (highlighting the changes). This is the one we are now using. WWF Nepal will conduct a result based monitoring in Year 2 to monitor and track if the project is moving towards its intended outcomes.

All the project interventions data are maintained in WWF Nepal's online database system, and the results are shared with WWF-UK and relevant data shared with project partners through meetings and workshops. The monitoring information is shared with DNPWC, CIB and BZUCs through formal and informal communication channels. At site level, WWF Nepal's Programme Associate based in the project site closely coordinates with the partners to ensure that the project Output 1 activities are being implemented effectively and efficiently, through regular meetings and interactions. At central level, WWF Nepal's Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit coordinates closely and regularly with CIB Pillar 4 for Output 2 and 3 interventions and overall IWT control work in Nepal.

WWF Nepal, WWF-UK and the WWF Tiger Trade Lead have monthly meetings to track progress and discuss challenges. The project team reviews the Theory of Change (including how outputs and activities will contribute to the project outcome) every 6 months, together with WWF's Tiger Trade Lead who is engaged in this project.

We had also matched the project indicators to the BCF standard indicators, and reported on this with the project's half year report. However, on reflection, we would like to highlight that indicator O2 (which is monitoring the number of seizure of wildlife parts along the main routes of IWT in Bagmati province, annually), is not the same as Standard Indicator IWTCF-B07 (number of illegal wildlife products/shipments detected), as previously reported. We think that the number of seizures is more meaningful for this project to monitor than the number of IWPs, and so we propose to keep this indicator and not monitor the number of IWPs (the challenge is illustrated by pangolin - many kilograms of scales are trafficked in one seizure). This project is primarily interested in the trend in the number of seizures and arrests, because the theory of change is that if the police are able to better identify parts, local communities continue to inform and campaign for wildlife protection, and transportation workers are collaborating better and providing information to police, or refusing to carry items, then these will deter wildlife traffickers and close down options for them to traffick IWPs. We have the data on the IWPs seized (Annex 4.19, Annex 4.20) and continue to analyse trends in products and scale of IWT on an ongoing basis to inform our strategies within WWF.

8. Lessons learnt

Several lessons learnt have been identified and shared during the first year of the project, which we have used for adaptive management across this project and beyond.

The engagement of key stakeholders and their interest in the project has been very positive. The only aspect that didn't work as well as expected is the timing of the signing of the WWF Nepal - Nepal CIB Police MOU. This is a significant and essential foundation for our work, and it needed signing by the highest authorities. It caused some delays in the timings of some of the project activities, but in the month of March, there was an intense period of activity, which was already lined up, ready to start as soon as the MOU was approved.

Specific lessons include:

Activity 1.1: We acknowledge the risk of drop out when developing this project, and so far, one male had to drop out due to job opportunities abroad - we were able to replace that CCs with one of the YCs, and we had time to onboard that person. We then recruited a new YC. The risk of dropout seems higher amongst the men as they tend to go abroad to work, whereas females stay in the villages; we found that female participation in our project areas is very high and they are looking forward to the opportunities that this project aims to provide. For CBAPU anti-poaching activities, we find mostly men participate (the activity type and time requirement attracts comparatively more men), and so it is interesting that this approach is appealing more to women, and helping women to engage and benefit. A social network and relationships are being established through this approach, and the CC and YCs are working well together.

Activity 1.2: This training event was fruitful and we feel that a refresher training may be helpful to the CCs in years 2 and 3. We will therefore build this into our activity plans.

Activity 1.5: At the beginning of the stakeholder interactions there were high expectations and so to manage this, we deliberately clarified the purpose at the start of these discussions and this resulted in constructive dialogue between stakeholders.

Activity 2.1: In order to have greatest participation for the training for transportation workers, it was important for us to adjust the proposed timings of the training events to times and locations which suit them best (to areas where numerous transport workers gathered for some time, such as near border areas, and shifting from afternoon to morning, based on the feedback from transport police / transportation workers). For further trainings we will therefore plan, based on discussions with traffic police and based on these learnings, to conduct the trainings in areas where transportation workers are available (waiting) for 2-3 hours. Now that we have the MOU approved with the CIB, we will have more time to plan year 2 activities accordingly.

Activity 2.2: Police invited transportation workers, and in some cases, more participants attended than we expected. However, the team was prepared and had enough brochures, leaflets and manuals etc for all the participants. We learnt this after the first session.

Activity 3.2 / 3.3: Before providing training to junior staff, it was important to first provide training and info to senior staff to get their buy-in and encourage participation - this enabled a positive enabling environment for the junior staff. Most senior officials also attended the district level activity 3.3 - this was carried out before activity 3.2.

We will be submitting a change request to take these lessons into account in Year 2.

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

This is the first annual report for this project. However, through the half year report, we had included responses to questions and feedback received on being awarded this project funding. At the same time, we also made some changes to the logframe and referenced the standard indicators as relevant.

10. Risk Management

No additional risks have arisen in Year 1 of this project.

The updated risk assessment can be found in Annex 5. No significant changes have been made, and the risk levels have not increased. However, there are two adaptations below, which slightly reduced these risks:

- Regarding training of the youth and conservation champions, these were non-residential trainings (as opposed to residential trainings as first envisaged), which reduced safeguarding risks. The training events (TOT) did include safeguarding orientation.
- In relation to the risk of BZUCs having insufficient capacity, the CC trained the YC (instead of the BZUCs conducting the training), so this risk was reduced and the capacity of BZUCs wasn't a problem.

11. Sustainability and legacy

This project has been promoted through WWF-UK's website and through banners and other items used in this project's activities in Nepal. Interest has been generated by and through the stakeholders involved. Here are some examples:

- We received and continue to receive a lot of interest from youth engaged in the BZUC areas (in the CBAPUs) to take part in the YC and CC programmes.
- The interest of, and meetings with the tourism related sectors locally indicates that there are jobs available if there are local people who have the relevant skills / training. Making these connections and learning from this project will help find ways to maintain these linkages and we need to seek ways to explore how these linkages and skills based trainings can be built upon to support other youth in the buffer zones.
- For activity 2.2, Nepal Police had invited transportation workers, and in some cases, more participants attended than we had expected. This is a good indication of the interest amongst this sector. In discussions with transportation workers at the training events, some information was provided to the Police regarding IWT activity. This indicates that targeting transportation workers in this project can help to tackle IWT.

Regarding this project's intended legacy, the plans are still valid. For example:

- The CPP approach has now included IWT in their agenda for the first time in Nepal in the project transit locations of Bagmati Province - this pilot project will help to institutionalise this approach as a new avenue to tackling IWT. This should be sustained and then expanded based on the experience through this project.
- The trainings undertaken with the Nepal Police, transportation workers and CCs have pre- and post- training surveys, which will be used to evidence increasing capacity resulting from this project. We have anecdotal evidence that some of those transportation workers trained are informing colleagues, friends, families.
- LEAs capacity will be improved and the IWP ID app and manual, and curriculum will be embedded for sustained benefits.

12. IWT Challenge Fund identity

In this first year, WWF-UK has established a webpage for this project: [Illegal Wildlife Trade in Nepal | WWF](#)

In Nepal, the IWT CF logo was used in training banners, certificates for CC and YC trainings, and on bags, water bottles and notebooks which were provided to 120 Nepal Police participants of the 3 day training, along with training and session facilitators (Annex 4.21). Photos from the various activities undertaken in this project are available on request.

13. Safeguarding

| | |
|---|---|
| Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months? | No |
| Have any concerns been reported in the past 12 months | No concerns have been raised about this project |
| Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point? | <p>Yes (Bivishika Bhandari- WWF Nepal's ESSF and GESI specialist was engaged in the project but has left the organisation since 6th April 2024), Doma Tshering Sherpa (Senior Program Officer- Inclusive Conservation) has taken on this responsibility [REDACTED] supported by WWF-UK's safeguarding lead Clare Crawford.</p> |
| Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months? | No As Doma has only recently joined the organisation, she will receive training in the next 12 months. |
| What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding? | <p>Past: 92 % [12] Planned: 8 % [1]</p> |
| <p>Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months?</p> <p>WWF-Nepal's MoU with the National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities, focusing on collaboration to uplift Indigenous community voices by promoting a rights-based approach to conservation, had led to the development and launch of the National FPIC Implementation Guidelines 2023 for biodiversity conservation, which are being disseminated and applied within this project. Cross-learning and joint capacity building has been conducted with several national and international organisations and has covered topics that include inclusive conservation, child welfare and FPIC.</p> | |
| <p>Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify.</p> <p>Safeguarding / ESSF sensitisation will again be included in trainings with project partners and training beneficiaries in Year 2.</p> | |
| <p>Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and number of participants.</p> <p>In Year 1, the trainings with Champions / youths and the transportation sector, and Police included safeguarding sensitisation sessions. E.g. human rights protection training.</p> | |

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

No

14. Project expenditure

- Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2023-March 2024)


Please note, Figures in Table 1 below are indicative figures only

| Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report | 2023/24 Grant (£) | 2023/24 Total actual IWT Costs (£) DRAFT | Variance % | Comments (please explain significant variances) |
|---|-------------------|--|------------|---|
| Staff costs (see below) | | | | |
| Consultancy costs | | | | Underspend for consultant costs for training curriculum development and review (Activity 3.1) and consultant costs to develop identification manual of wildlife parts (Activity 3.4). In both cases, these activities were initiated in Year 1, but final design, layout and review of products to be produced not fully completed within Year 1. |
| Overhead Costs | | | | |
| Travel and subsistence | | | | |
| Operating Costs | | | | |
| Capital items (see below) | | | | |
| Others (see below) | | | | |
| TOTAL | 132,394 | 132,394 | 0% | |

The figure in the first column of Table 2 below (secured to date) is an indicative figure only. We are still in the process of finalising the financial reports from partners.

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

| | Secured to date | Expected by end of project | Sources |
|--|-----------------|----------------------------|---------|
| | | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)</p> |  | <p>WWF UK - Partnership Programme, IUCN/WWF Germany, WWF Canada, WWF Switzerland, WWF US - Countering Wildlife Trafficking (INL), WWF Germany, WWF US IPA- GEF Program Oversight, WWF US- GEF Target 3, MFA/WWF Finland</p> |
| <p>Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)</p> | | |

15. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Please do not publish the arrest and seizure data (Annex 4.21 and 4.22) as these contain confidential and sensitive information.

WWF Nepal has identified 3 additional vulnerable border areas regarding IWT which are important connections to India and China (2 in the south and one in the north), and has started to implement additional activities using other funds, in order to address these concerns. Funds have been leveraged (from WWF-UK partnership) to enable wildlife crime control orientation trainings to be provided to Nepal Police officials deployed in the southern border areas: one in Triveni (border point to the west of CNP which connects the route to Bagmati province via Gaidakot) & one in Thori (border point which is located between Parsa National Park and CNP & connects the route to Bagmati Province via Madi. WWF Nepal is also assessing the Illegal wildlife trade route which connects Charikot with the northern border point (Ronjiya Dolakha) - interactions with local stakeholders of Dolakha are underway regarding measures needed to control IWT.

These activities support this project’s impact statement: Reduction in illegal wildlife trade in Bagmati province, contributing to improved biodiversity and wellbeing of communities living in wildlife poaching and trafficking hotspots.

16. 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 to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

Year 1 has initiated activities which will result in some significant achievements. These will be communicated externally in Years 2 and 3, including the Community Police Partnership, stories from the Youth and Conservation Champions (videos, photos) and the campaigns that they conduct through this project.

- **Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2023-2024**

| Project summary | Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024 | Actions required/planned for next period |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Impact: Reduction in illegal wildlife trade in Bagmati province, contributing to improved biodiversity and wellbeing of communities living in wildlife poaching and trafficking hotspots.</p> | <p>Baseline data has been collected, impact will be determined by the end of the project upon comparison of the data and results. Evaluation will be done at the end of the project.</p> | |
| <p>Outcome: 50% reduction in trafficking of illegal wildlife parts, through five routes in Bagmati Province, Nepal, through enhanced youth employment opportunities and improved capacity of transportation workers and police personnel.</p> | | |
| <p>Outcome indicator 0.1. By Year 3, decrease by 50% in the number of local community members arrested for poaching or IWT from the 5 targeted areas (Baseline: number of people arrested in poaching and IWT from 5 BZUCs in 2022, to be created in Year 1: 2020-2022 = 44)</p> | <p>The baseline data for the 3 year period shows that 44 people from the 5 BZUC areas were arrested over a 3 year period before the project started. This will again be analysed for the 3 year period of the project, in Year 3 (reported in Half Year Report).</p> <p>Evidence is provided in Annex 4.19 (confidential data)</p> | |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Outcome indicator 0.2. By Year 2, seizure of wildlife parts increased by 20 % along the main routes of IWT in Bagmati province (in comparison to baseline 2022, to be created in Year 1:) By Year 3, seizures decreased in comparison to Year 2 versus the same LEA effort applied.</p> | <p>The baseline data for April 2022 to March 2023 is 31 seizure events. Year 1 data from April 2023 to March 2024 will be available in July 2024.</p> <p>Evidence is provided in Annex 4.20 (confidential data)</p> | <p>Year 1 data will be analysed in July 2024</p> |
| <p>Outcome indicator 0.3. By Year 2, arrests of wildlife criminals increased by 20% along the main routes of IWT in Bagmati Province (in comparison with baseline 2022). By Year 3, arrests decreased in comparison to Year 2 with the same LEA effort applied.</p> | <p>The baseline data for April 2022 to March 2023 is 67 people arrested. Year 1 data from April 2023 to March 2024 will be available in July 2024.</p> <p>Evidence is provided in Annex 4.20</p> | <p>Year 1 data will be analysed in July 2024</p> |
| <p>Outcome indicator 0.4. By year 3, well-being (financial, safety, security) of 25 Conservation Champions and 75 members of the target local communities increased in 5 targeted buffer zone user committees (Baseline: to be created in Year 1)</p> | <p>Baseline information was collected through the wellbeing survey (2023). A few headline findings (which this project aims to influence) are:</p> <p>Average annual income = 35,737 NPR per person (216 GBP) (average of 1,786 NPR for women, 68,517 NPR for men)</p> <p>Safety & Security: Overall, 8% of respondents reported fearing for their safety and security as a result of IWT activity in their area (7.1% female, 10.7% male). 13% think locals have been involved in IWT in</p> | |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | <p>the last year (19.% female, 25% male), and 25% are concerned for the safety of their families from poachers/traders (34% female, 15.4% male). While 9.5% feel intimidated by Law Enforcement Agencies (1.9% female, 17.3% male).</p> <p>Evidence is provided in the project dashboard using the Solstice platform: https://share.solstice.world/v3/dashboard_link/96b97a5165024bc4bd32f21c3d3e8a6a?share=9b34dbd2c79f43fdbab0f226853d46fc</p> <p>The project team will be analysing the wellbeing findings in more detail in Q1 Year 2, to help understand the situation and how this project may help improve wellbeing.</p> | |
| <p>Output 1. By 2026, 100 youth in five targeted communities have increased knowledge, capacity and skills to advocate against IWT and pursue employment opportunities.</p> | | |
| <p>Output indicator 1.1. By Year 3, 100 youth (25 Conservation Champions and 75 youth of the target local communities- at least 40 % of which will be women) have increased knowledge, change in attitude and practice on IWT issues (baseline = to be created in Year 1; data to be disaggregated by gender).</p> | <p>Thirty members of the CBAPU received "Conservation Champions" training (Annex 4.18).</p> <p>Following their onboarding, 75 youth participated in a three-day training led by CCs.</p> | <p>Based on the knowledge gaps they identified during implementation in Year 1, the Conservation Champions will get</p> |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | <p>Evidence regarding Knowledge, Attitude and Practice is provided in the project dashboard: https://share.solstice.world/v3/dashboard_link/96b97a5165024bc4bd32f21c3d3e8a6a?share=9b34dbd2c79f43fdbab0f226853d46fc</p> <p>Baseline (2023): Knowledge: 16.7% good (9.7% female, 23% male), 38.5% fair (39.1 female, 37.96 male), 43.6% poor (50.7% female, 38.9% male)</p> <p>Attitudes: 55.26% (54.55% female, 55.96% male) are supportive of action to tackle IWT to a great extent; 26.1% to some extent (25.97% female, 26.18% male); 18% not at all (19.32% female, 17.08% male)</p> <p>Practices: 16.1% support action to tackle IWT to a great extent (11.23% female, 18.03% male); 21.4% to some extent (19.5% female, 23.2% male) ; 62.4% not at all (68.2% female, 56.9% male)</p> | <p>refresher training in Year 2.</p> <p>Every month, CCs and YCs will get together to plan and evaluate campaign activities, as well as to share and learn from one another.</p> |
| <p>Output indicator 1.2. By Year 3, 80% change in knowledge on penalty and legal consequences of IWT and attitude towards IWT of the targeted local communities of 432 buffer zone user groups (baseline to be determined through pre survey).</p> | <p>Ten community awareness initiatives, including those for marginalised and Indigenous populations, have been completed, reaching out to 492 community members.</p> | <p>45 community events targeting stakeholders identified in the campaign plan will be</p> |

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| | <p>Baseline (2023) on knowledge on penalty and legal consequences of IWT: 22.3% good (22.1% female, 22.4% male); 49.1% fair (42.6% female, 53.3% male); 28.6% poor (35.3% female, 24.3% male)</p> <p>Attitudes:37.5% are supportive of action to tackle IWT to a great extent (31.82% female, 14.12% male); 37.5% to some extent (39.04% female, 36.62% male); 24.9% not at all (28.74% female, 21.92% male)</p> <p>Evidence is provided in the project dashboard: https://share.solstice.world/v3/dashboard_link/96b97a5165024bc4bd32f21c3d3e8a6a?share=9b34dbd2c79f43fdbab0f226853d46fc</p> | <p>implemented by the CCs and YCs.</p> |
| <p>Output indicator 1.3. By Year 2, 100 youth (25 Conservation Champions and 75 youth of the target local communities- at least 40 % of which will be women) - are provided with employment oriented skills, with over 80% successfully completing the training and receiving certificates. (Baseline = 0 in Year 1).etc.</p> | <p>105 youth are engaged as CCs or YCs - we included 5 more than planned, as it was felt that the CBAPU coordinators should be included to ensure buy-in and support now and into the future.</p> <p>50.48% of 105 youth are female.</p> <p>Evidence is provided in Annex 4.4</p> <p>A consultative meeting was convened to confirm the most sought-after skills with promising</p> | <p>Based on insights obtained in the first year, skill based training for the Conservation Champions have been planned for Year 2.</p> |

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| | employment prospects within the tourism and hospitality sectors. | |
| Output indicator 1.4. By Year 3, at least 70 % of the 100 youth (25 Conservation Champions and 75 members of the target local communities) are employed and remunerated. | This will be assessed at the end of the project. Year 1 involved selecting and training of CCs and YCs, and planning campaigns and skills-based trainings relating to local employment options. | In Year 2 skills-based trainings will be conducted. Once the skill-based training has been provided, the employment status of these champions will be tracked through a tracer study. |
| Output indicator 1.5. By Year 3, project results, lessons and recommendations related to poverty reduction (related to employability and life skills) are advocated for and shared with relevant governments. | Wellbeing surveys have captured income information, as well as other wellbeing aspects which relate to the multi-dimensional aspects of poverty. | In Year 2, the project team will analyse the wellbeing survey information in more depth, and the project will start sharing findings and exploring ways of adapting, expanding and sustaining these approaches and benefits. |
| <p>Output 2. By 2026, 1,500 transportation personnel have increased knowledge of wildlife crime, and reduces their direct involvement in transporting illegal wildlife parts and derivations, with increased willingness to combat wildlife trafficking through Community Police Partnership programme.</p> | | |

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| <p>Output indicator 2.1. By Year 1, IWT issues are integrated in the existing Community Police Partnership programme in 10 transit locations (Baseline = IWT is not part of CPP programmes).</p> | <p>IWT is now part of CPP programme model - this is the first example of this in Nepal.</p> <p>Evidence is provided in Annex 4.11</p> | <p>Model will be updated as needed based on feedback and experience of Year 1</p> |
| <p>Output indicator 2.2. By Year 3, 60% of 1,500 transportation workers have increased knowledge on wildlife, legal consequences and risks of getting engaged in wildlife crime. By Year 2, 1,000 transportation workers. (Baseline = 0 transportation workers engaged, No IWT cases reported by transportation workers in 2022. Baseline to be determined through pre-training survey).</p> | <p>545 transportation personnel sensitised.</p> <p>Evidence is provided in Annex 4.13 (participants)</p> <p>Pre- and post- training surveys (Annex 4.14) show that the knowledge of these 545 participants on these issues was an average of 79.8% before the training and 93.3% after the training.</p> | <p>10 events planned for year 2. Target for year 2 is 500 more transportation workers. Content, session plan, venue will be modified based on feedback and experience of year 1.</p> |
| <p>Output indicator 2.3. By Year 3, increase in willingness of 1,500 transportation workers to assist Nepal Police in curbing IWT versus baseline survey.</p> | <p>During Pre- training test, 81 % of the participants stated that they have reported a suspect's bag or baggage to the nearest police station or post. The post- training test showed that 96.8 % were willing to report. This shows an increase of 15.8% increase in willingness after training.</p> <p>Evidence is provided in Annex 4.14</p> | <p>as above</p> |

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| Output indicator 2.4. By Year 3, increase in number of reports to Nepal Police by transportation workers (Baseline = 0 reports from transportation workers in 2022). | No reports as yet. This data will be reported in Year 2 | This data will be reported in Year 2 |
| Output indicator 2.5. By Year 2, at least 100,000 general public receive the video message on IWT through WWF, CIB website, social media and digital display boards in Nepal Police Office. | Digital message development process is ongoing. | Digital messages will be finalised and displayed through WWF, CIB website, social media and digital display boards in Nepal Police Office. |
| Output indicator 2.6. By Year 3, recommendations made to CIB on integration of IWT into the Community Police Partnership programme in other provinces of Nepal, based on the experience of this project (Baseline = IWT is not part of any CPP programmes in Nepal). | Nothing was planned for Year 1 | The CPP experiences will be reviewed to help inform recommendations |
| Output 3. By 2026, increased knowledge and capacity of law enforcement officials (Nepal Police/APF) to identify illegal wildlife parts and products (through the implementation of a national training curriculum and digital identification manual) disrupts five major illegal wildlife trade routes in Bagmati province, with commitments by CIB Police for wider adoption and rollout of the curriculum and digital ID manual. | | |
| Output indicator 3.1. By Year 1, training curriculum on IWP identification and IWT modus operandi for Nepal Police | Training curriculum on IWP identification and IWT modus operandi for Nepal Police and | Curriculum will be updated and improved based on |

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| <p>and Armed Police Force agencies developed. (Baseline: training curriculum includes wildlife conservation, but only 1 hour on IWP identification).</p> | <p>Armed Police Force agencies developed.</p> <p>Evidence is provided in Annex 4.15</p> | <p>comment reviews by experts</p> |
| <p>Output indicator 3.2. By Year 3, 390 police officials, at 90 police posts (Nepal Police) along 5 trade routes and at 10 border posts (APF), within Bagmati Province demonstrate increased knowledge and capacity on identification of wildlife parts, modus operandi of IWT traders and legal process / response to IWT. By Year 1, 120 trained; By Year 2, 270 more trained (baseline to be determined through pre survey).</p> | <p>Training provided to 120 Nepal Police Officials deployed at districts along major IWT routes of Bagmati province. The pre- and post- training survey showed an increase in knowledge of participants by 16.3% (out of total score of 11, average pre- training test score was 6.64 and post- training test score was 8.44).</p> <p>Training provided to 100 senior Nepal Police Officials deployed in 5 districts of Bagmati province</p> <p>Evidence is provided in Annex 4.13 and 4.17</p> | <p>Training will be provided to another 180 Nepal Police officials deployed at remaining districts along major IWT routes of Bagmati province as well as 90 APF Officials deployed at international border points in Bagmati province</p> <p>Training will be provided to 160 senior Nepal Police officials deployed at remaining 8 districts of Bagmati province</p> |
| <p>Output indicator 3.3. By Year 3, adoption of the training curriculum by Nepal Police and APF nationally and plan for implementation across all regional police forces in Nepal.</p> | <p>Nothing was planned for Year 1.</p> | <p>Planned for Year 3</p> |

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| <p>Output indicator 3.4. By Year 1, digital ID manual developed, trialled and adopted by 90 police posts (Nepal Police) along 5 trade routes and at 10 border posts (APF) within Bagmati Province.</p> | <p>Identification manual of wildlife parts and products is in development - consultant identified.</p> | <p>Digital ID manual app will be developed.</p> |
| <p>Output indicator 3.5. By Year 3, adoption of the digital ID manual by CIB Nepal Police and APF in Bagmati Province and proposal for implementation in other regional police forces in Nepal.</p> | <p>Android phones purchased. Evidence will be in the Assets list to be submitted with the Year 1 financial report.</p> | <p>Android phones will be handed over and digital ID manual app will be used by Police personnel at 100 posts.</p> |

● **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 |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>Impact: Reduction in illegal wildlife trade in Bagmati province, contributing to improved biodiversity and wellbeing of communities living in wildlife poaching and trafficking hotspots.</p> | | | |
| <p>Outcome: 50% reduction in trafficking of illegal wildlife parts, through five routes in Bagmati Province, Nepal, through enhanced youth employment opportunities and improved capacity of transportation workers and police personnel.</p> | <p>O 1. By Year 3, decrease by 50% in the number of local community members arrested for poaching or IWT from the 5 targeted areas (Baseline: number of people arrested in poaching and IWT from 5 BZUCs in 2022, to be created in Year 1: 2020-2022 = 44)</p> <p>O 2. By Year 2, seizure of wildlife parts increased by 20 % along the main routes of IWT in Bagmati province (in comparison to baseline 2022, to be created in Year 1:); By Year 3, seizures decreased in comparison to Year 2 versus the same LEA effort applied.</p> <p>O.3 By Year 2, arrests of wildlife criminals increased by 20% along the main routes of IWT in Bagmati Province (in comparison with baseline 2022). By Year 3, arrests decreased in comparison to Year 2 with same LEA effort applied.</p> <p>O.4 By year 3, well-being (financial, safety, security) of 25 Conservation Champions and 75 members of the target local communities increased in 5</p> | <p>O.1 Annual report of Chitwan National Park and Parsa National Park</p> <p>O.2 Nepal reports, case filed in Office of the Attorney General, DNPWC (Division Forest Officers for each jurisdictional along these trade routes).</p> <p>O.3 Nepal Police reports, case filed in Office of the Attorney General.</p> <p>O.4 Wellbeing Assessment (Baseline and endline), other relevant wellbeing aspects such as community safety / security.</p> | <p>The Government of Nepal remains committed to tackling IWT (following on from 'zero poaching' and recent wildlife population achievements).</p> <p>Investigation and prosecution stakeholders in Bagmati province are motivated and capacitated to respond effectively to IWT arrests and seizures, based on previous and ongoing capacity building and NGO support. This will result in wildlife criminals being imprisoned / fined which will deter wildlife traffickers and poachers.</p> <p>The short-medium term impacts of Covid-19 on project stakeholders will not affect project delivery - this will be monitored and the project adapted accordingly ; stabilisation in the spread of Covid-19.</p> <p>Improved capacity of law enforcement agencies will increase the seizure/ arrests initially but then decrease as the traders are deterred from using these routes.</p> |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
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| | targeted buffer zone user committees (Baseline: to be created in Year 1) | | |
| <p>Output 1: By 2026, 100 youth in five targeted communities have increased knowledge, capacity and skills to advocate against IWT and pursue employment opportunities.</p> | <p>1.1 By Year 3, 100 youth (25 Conservation Champions and 75 youth of the target local communities- at least 40 % of which will be women) have increased knowledge, change in attitude and practice on IWT issues (baseline = to be created in Year 1; data to be disaggregated by gender).</p> <p>1.2 By Year 3, 80% change in knowledge on penalty and legal consequences of IWT and attitude towards IWT of the targeted local communities of 432 buffer zone user groups (baseline to be determined through pre survey).</p> <p>1.3. By Year 2, 100 youth (25 Conservation Champions and 75 youth of the target local communities- at least 40 % of which will be women) - are provided with employment oriented skills, with over 80% successfully completing the training and receiving certificates. (Baseline = 0 in Year 1).etc.</p> <p>1.4 By Year 3, at least 70 % of the 100 youth (25 Conservation Champions and 75 members of the target local communities) are employed and remunerated.</p> <p>1.5 By Year 3, project results, lessons and recommendations related to poverty reduction (related to</p> | <p>1.1 Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) Assessment</p> <p>1.2 Knowledge, attitude and practice survey (Baseline and endline disaggregated by gender)</p> <p>1.3. Training participant lists, attendance records, etc.</p> <p>1.4 Tracer Study</p> <p>1.5 Learning documentation including life transforming, case studies and recommendations</p> | <p>Youth participants have time and capacity to invest in campaign implementation.</p> <p>Communities are willing to participate in behaviour centred design activities.</p> <p>Core youth participants have the skills and means through which to engage broader swathes of their peers in campaign initiatives.</p> <p>Community members and other stakeholders are willing to engage with youth.</p> <p>At least 70 % youth provided with skill-based training are successful to earn substantial income to sustain their livelihood.</p> |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
|--|---|---|--|
| | employability and life skills) are advocated for and shared with relevant governments | | |
| <p>Output 2: By 2026, 1,500 transportation personnel have increased knowledge of wildlife crime, and reduces their direct involvement in transporting illegal wildlife parts and derivations, with increased willingness to combat wildlife trafficking through Community Police Partnership programme.</p> | <p>2.1 By Year 1, IWT issues are integrated in the existing Community Police Partnership programme in 10 transit locations (Baseline = IWT is not part of CPP programmes).</p> <p>2.2 By Year 3, 60% of 1,500 transportation workers have increased knowledge on wildlife, legal consequences and risks of getting engaged in wildlife crime. By Year 2, 1,000 transportation workers. (Baseline = 0 transportation workers engaged, No IWT cases reported by transportation workers in 2022. Baseline to be determined through pre-training survey).</p> <p>2.3 By Year 3, increase in willingness of 1,500 transportation workers to assist Nepal Police in curbing IWT versus baseline survey.</p> <p>2.4 By Year 3, increase in number of reports to Nepal Police by transportation workers (Baseline = 0 reports from transportation workers in 2022).</p> <p>2.5 By Year 2, at least 100,000 general public receive the video message on IWT through WWF, CIB website, social media and digital display boards in Nepal Police Office.</p> <p>2.6 By Year 3, recommendations made to CIB on integration of IWT into the</p> | <p>2.1 Training manual. CIB reports will tell us how IWT has been integrated into CPP programme.</p> <p>2.2 Report of pre and post training survey .</p> <p>2.3 Report of pre and post willingness survey</p> <p>2.4 Reports from CIB</p> <p>2.5 WWF Nepal Online database, website/social media analytics, Nepal Police Office register / visitor estimates.</p> | <p>IWT issues are internalised in the existing Community Police Partnership programme.</p> <p>Nepal Police and transportation workers have mutual understanding and trust.</p> <p>50% of the visitors in the police office of transit locations receive messages displayed on digital display.</p> <p>Sensitisation of transportation workers through CPP programme, raising their understanding of the risks and consequences of transporting illegal wildlife products, and of the improved law enforcement and identification of IWT, will lead to changes in their attitudes and behaviours towards IWT (to be assessed through surveys)</p> |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
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| | <p>Community Police Partnership programme in other provinces of Nepal, based on the experience of this project (Baseline = IWT is not part of any CPP programmes in Nepal).</p> | <p>2.6 WWF recommendations report to CIB (including proposals for upscaling in other provinces of Nepal).</p> | |
| <p>Output 3: By 2026, increased knowledge and capacity of law enforcement officials (Nepal Police/APF) to identify illegal wildlife parts and products (through the implementation of a national training curriculum and digital identification manual) disrupts five major illegal wildlife trade routes in Bagmati province, with commitments by CIB Police for wider adoption and rollout of the curriculum and digital ID manual.</p> | <p>3.1 By Year 1, training curriculum on IWP identification and IWT modus operandi for Nepal Police and Armed Police Force agencies developed.(Baseline: training curriculum includes wildlife conservation, but only 1 hour on IWP identification)</p> <p>3.2 By Year 3, 390 police officials, at 90 police posts (Nepal Police) along 5 trade routes and at 10 border posts (APF), within Bagmati Province demonstrate increased knowledge and capacity on identification of wildlife parts, modus operandi of IWT traders and legal process / response to IWT. By Year 1, 120 trained; By Year 2, 270 more trained (baseline to be determined through pre survey).</p> <p>3.3 By Year 3, adoption of the training curriculum by Nepal Police and APF nationally and plan for implementation across all regional police forces in Nepal.</p> <p>3.4 By Year 1, digital ID manual developed, trialled and adopted by 90 police posts (Nepal Police) along 5 trade routes and at 10 border posts (APF) within Bagmati Province.</p> | <p>3.1 Training materials/manual</p> <p>3.2 Records of training and training participants; Pre and post test survey / surveys demonstrate acceptable level of knowledge (to be defined in collaboration with Nepal Police and APF).</p> <p>3.3 Minutes from meetings with CIB and APF Nepal; CIB / APF Plan / report on next stages (including plans for additional regional and national deployment of the training curriculum).</p> <p>3.4 Feedback from ID app users on usefulness and effectiveness of the app through sample interviews/surveys; Automated data on ID app installations and usage; Digital ID manual.</p> | <p>CIB Police Nepal remains committed and motivated to address IWT.</p> <p>Identification of wildlife parts and products by the Nepal Police is a key gap in IWT law enforcement capabilities, with low cost and scalable solutions, which will result in seizures and arrests of wildlife traffickers.</p> |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
|---|--|---|-----------------------|
| | 3.5 By Year 3, adoption of the digital ID manual by CIB Nepal Police and APF in Bagmati Province and proposal for implementation in other regional police forces in Nepal. | 3.5 CIB Plan / report on next stages (including plans for additional regional and national deployment of the digital ID manual) | |
| <p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p>Output 1: By 2026, 100 youth in five targeted communities have increased knowledge, capacity and skills to advocate against IWT and pursue employment opportunities</p> <p>Activity 1.1: Train 25 existing, unemployed and highly motivated CBAPU members on IWT issues, risks and consequences to create 'Conservation Champions'.</p> <p>Activity 1.2: Support 25 Conservation Champions to create awareness to 75 youth from targeted 5 buffer zone user committees focusing on IWT issues and wildlife conservation.</p> <p>Activity 1.3: Organise awareness raising programmes led by 25 Conservation Champions by engaging local youth and implement youth-led campaigns within their local communities at buffer zone user group level.</p> <p>Activity 1.4: Conduct review and reflection workshop for conservation champions to reflect on the effectiveness and challenges of awareness raising programme to the larger community.</p> <p>Activity 1.5: Provide certified vocational training related to hospitality / tourism and skilled trades to 100 youth (25 Conservation Champions and 75 youth from targeted communities) with at least 40% girls/women to increase employability.</p> <p>Activity 1.5.1 Interaction meeting between BZUCs and representatives of hotel association, REBAN, and relevant organisations to finalise the most demanded skills and internship/ job shadowing/ placement possibilities.</p> <p>Activity 1.5.2 Nature Guide Advanced Training-25 youths</p> <p>Activity 1.5.3 General Cook / Barista/Bakery and Pastry/BarTending/Spa attendants/Housekeeping/Barber/for 35 youths</p> <p>Activity 1.5.4 Basic Mechanics Training 390 Hrs. (Motorcycle, Plumbing, Electrician, Welder, Agri mechanics, carpentry, marble fitter etc .) for 40 youths</p> <p>Activity 1.5.5 Basic computer and English language course to increase employability of the trained youth (20)</p> <p>Activity 1.6: Support job placement/jobshadowing/ participation in job fairs and basic startup toolkits support to successful youths.</p> <p>Activity 1.6.1 Interaction meeting with hotels, restaurants, travels and tour companies and relevant institute for internship, job shadowing and job placement opportunities</p> <p>Activity 1.6.2 Participation in job fairs</p> <p>Activity 1.6.3 Basic start up tool kit/input support to start self employment</p> <p>Activity 1.7: Share success stories of improved livelihoods of targeted youth, lessons learnt and recommendations with relevant governments (including success stories publications).</p> <p>Output 2: By 2026, 1,500 transportation personnel have increased knowledge of wildlife crime, and reduces their direct involvement in transporting illegal wildlife parts and derivations, with increased willingness to combat wildlife trafficking through Community Police Partnership programme.</p> <p>Activity 2.1: Develop a model on existing community-police (Nepal Police) partnership that also integrates IWT issues along transportation hubs in 10 transit locations.</p> | | | |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
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| <p>Activity 2.2: Provide training to 1500 individuals who are transportation workers, public vehicle owners and members of transportation associations on IWT and its legal provisions and exploitation of the transportation sector by wildlife traders at 10 transits.</p> <p>Activity 2.3: Develop digital message on IWT's scenario, provision of law and punishment and display the message through CIB and WWF Nepal's webpage and its social media and police offices of 10 transit locations.</p> <p>Activity 2.4: Prepare plans to upscale the community-police partnership programme, curriculum manual and digital app in other provinces of Nepal.</p> <p>Output 3: By 2026, increased knowledge and capacity of law enforcement officials (Nepal Police/APF) to identify illegal wildlife parts and products (through the implementation of a national training curriculum and digital identification manual) disrupts five major illegal wildlife trade routes in Bagmati province, with commitments by CIB Police for wider adoption and rollout of the curriculum and digital ID manual.</p> <p>Activity 3.1: Develop a training curriculum on nature and nexus of IWT and its control mechanisms including human rights for Bagmati Province.</p> <p>Activity 3.2: Provide training to 390 officials of Nepal Police and Armed Police Force, Nepal on nature and nexus of IWT and its control mechanisms in 100 police posts along 5 major routes.</p> <p>Activity 3.3: Provide training to senior officials of Nepal Police at district level on nature and nexus of IWT and its control mechanisms to ensure systemic information flow on IWT issues.</p> <p>Activity 3.4: Develop an identification manual of wildlife parts and products to be used by the officials of Nepal Police and Armed Police Force, Nepal at 100 police posts along the border and main routes of Bagmati province.</p> <p>Activity 3.5: Develop a digital app based on identification manual (Software development).</p> <p>Activity 3.6 : Prepare plans to share training curriculum and digital ID manual with other Provinces in Nepal through documentation and workshop.</p> | | | |

- **Annex 3 Standard Indicators**

• **Table 1 Project Standard Indicators**

| IWTCF Indicator number | Name of Indicator | Units | Disaggregation | Year 1 Total | Year 2 Total | Year 3 Total | Total to date | Total planned during the project |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---|
| IWTCF-B10 | Number of arrests (linked to wildlife crime) facilitated by the project.* | Number | Gender | | | | | |
| IWTCF-C01 | Number of people reported with changed behaviour in IWT post-intervention. | Number | Gender | 0 | | | 0 | 105 |
| IWTCF-C05 | Number of people reached with behaviour change messaging (i.e. audience). ** | Number | Gender | 1037 | | | 1037 | 105100 |
| IWTCF-A01 | Number of people who received training in sustainable livelihood skills. | People | Gender | 0 | | | 0 | 100 |
| IWTCF-A13 | Number of households that have experienced an increase in household income as a result of involvement. | Number | Gender | 0 | | | 0 | 70 |
| IWTCF-D17 | Number of case studies published. | Number | None | 0 | | | 0 | 3 |
| IWTCF-B05 | Number of best practice guides and knowledge products (i.e. product identification etc.) published and endorsed. | Number | None | 0 | | | 0 | 1 |

* In relation to indicator IWTCF-B10, this project is monitoring:

- O 1. Number of local community members arrested for poaching or IWT from the 5 targeted areas (Baseline: number of people arrested in poaching and IWT from 5 BZUCs over a 3 year period before the project started 2020-2022 = 44. This will be compared with the 3 year period of this project, in Year 3)

- O 2. Seizure of wildlife parts along the main routes of IWT in Bagmati province (Baseline: April 2022 to March 2023 is 31)
- O.3 Number of arrests of wildlife criminals along the main routes of IWT in Bagmati Province (Baseline: April 2022 to March 2023 is 67 people arrested)

** In relation to indicator IWTCF-C05, this project is monitoring:

- 1.2 Change in knowledge on penalty and legal consequences of IWT and attitude towards IWT of the targeted local communities of 432 buffer zone user groups.
- 2.2 Increased knowledge of 1,500 transportation workers on wildlife, legal consequences and risks of getting engaged in wildlife crime.
- 2.5 Number of general public who receive the video message on IWT through WWF, CIB website, social media and digital display boards in Nepal Police Office.

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

IWT CF Nepal Year 1 report reference / evidence list:

1. Nepal Trip Report, Rebecca May, March 2024
2. Project inception workshop, August 22–23, 2023, Sauraha Chitwan participant list
3. Criteria for selection of Conservation Champions and Youth Champions
4. List of selected Conservation Champions and Youth Champions
5. Campaign Plan by Conservation Champions
6. Number of people reached by the campaigns
7. Review reflection of campaigns conducted by Conservation Champions
8. Survey with the private sector, July 2023
9. Meeting with over 40 stakeholders relating to potential employment possibilities in Chitwan
10. CIB Nepal Police - WWF Nepal MOU
11. CPP model - flow diagram
12. CIB-WWF Nepal training session plan for transportation workers, January 2024
13. Participant list - District level police training, transportation training / sensitisation event and Police orientation training along the route
14. Pre- and post- training survey results (transportation workers training)
15. Draft training curriculum for Nepal Police / Armed Police Force on nature and the nexus of illegal wildlife trade and its control mechanisms including human rights, for Bagmati province
16. Training sessions and participants list, provided by CIB to 120 Nepal Police Officials deployed at major routes of 4 districts (Sindhuli, Makawanpur, Chitwan and Dhading) in Bagmati province, March 2024
17. Pre- and post- training survey results for the training to Nepal Police
18. Conservation Champion training (30 youth, 6 days, 5 BZUCs)
19. [REDACTED]
20. [REDACTED]
21. Photos of logos used on items for the Nepal Police training

Annex 5. Risk Assessment updated 30/04/24 (separate document)

- **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? | Yes |
| Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the subject line. | Yes |
| 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. | No |
| 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. | Yes |
| If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 17)? | N/A |
| Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors | Yes |
| Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully? | Yes |
| Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report. | |