Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Main & Extra: Annual Report

IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Scheme (Main or Extra)	Main
Project reference	**IWT130**
Project title	**Protecting yellow-naped parrot through situational crime prevention in Ometepe, Nicaragua**
Country/ies	Nicaragua
Lead Organisation	Fauna & Flora International
Project partner(s)	Biometepe R.L.
IWTCF grant value	£357,308.00
Start/end dates of project	August 2024 - March 2027
Reporting period (e.g. April 2024-Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	August 2024 - March 2025 Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Angelica Valdivia
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.fauna-flora.org/
Report author(s) and date	Fauna & Flora - Rich Howorth, Katherine Barrios, Jorge Lezama, Osmar Sandino, Andrea Pizarro, Henry Duffy; Biometepe – Emerson Urtecho; Consultant - Sarah Gluszek. 30 April 2025

1. Project summary

This project addresses the illegal extraction of the critically endangered yellow-naped parrot (YNP) (*Amazona auropalliata)* from Nicaragua's Ometepe Island as the primary threat to the survival of the species in the region. The parrots are poached primarily to supply the domestic and international pet trade. Ometepe Island supports an estimated 30% of the global population of YNP which corresponds to over 1,000 individuals. Direct extraction (nest raiding) represents the most acute and unmitigated activity in the trade chain. From 2020-2022 an average of 12% of the monitored nests were impacted, every nest contains 1 to 4 chicks, meaning that poaching or disturbance potentially affects the survival of dozens of individual parrots each season, significantly threatening the recruitment of new individuals into the wild population and undermining long-term species recovery efforts, as well as the recovering local eco-tourism sector and other ecosystem services

By the project end in 2027, applying activities informed by Situational Crime Prevention (SCP), we aim to reduce nest raiding to less than 5% of the monitored areas as a result of increased surveillance by cameras, and regular patrols to deter potential poachers, enabling more YNP chicks to survive and successfully fledge. Likewise, we will increase the perceived risk and effort associated with poaching through strengthened law enforcement, specifically at transit and exit points. Finally, we will co-create activities with target groups to identify possible alternatives to reduce the nest raiding. Our aim is that SCP-derived solutions will create deterrents and

effectively reduce illegal trade of YNP in Ometepe, without exposing local communities to the harm frequently associated with adopting a reactive, punitive approach. In turn, this will contribute to reducing poverty, illegal extraction and prevent the loss of highly threatened biodiversity.

Our work focuses on six communities where active nesting sites are present: We will work alongside Local Enforcement Authorities (LEAs) at check points and exit ports of the island *to promote best practices and standard procedures during seizures and monitoring.*

Fauna & Flora and Biometepe have been addressing YNP poaching during the past decade, and carrying out annual censuses of local YNP populations since 2018 to monitor trends. This project builds upon the previous IWTEV005 IWTCF Evidence grant in 2023, which focused on understanding the IWT context in Ometepe and used the SCP toolkit to outline a crime script of YNP poaching and design preventative interventions.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

This project was developed from the previous enabling evidence project through joint planning with the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA), the local municipal authorities of Ometepe Island, as well as with the National Police and the central government, as well as with our key project local partner Biometepe, a community-based cooperative that acts as the principal co-implementer of the project.

Beyond Fauna & Flora's internal project steering group (which meets monthly), an external project Steering Committee has been formed to meet twice-yearly between Fauna & Flora and Biometepe and national/local government representatives (including MARENA) to ensure effective communication and adaptive project management. One meeting has been held to date, in October 2024, with a second one planned for May 2025.

Fauna & Flora and Biometepe work especially closely together on this project, meeting at least twice per month to coordinate implementation of activities, underpinned by a sub-grant agreement signed at the beginning of this project in August 2024. Most of the field activities, as well as YNP biological monitoring, are implemented by the Biometepe technical specialists, with support and follow-up by the Fauna & Flora team of specialists who receive their support in the overall monitoring and evaluation of project interventions.

MARENA is the national government institution in charge of managing the conservation of natural resources, with whom Fauna & Flora has recently developed a new formal Partnership Alliance. During the first year, MARENA participated in two specific sessions that presented the project and methodology. It has also led local community patrols in coordination with the National Police, Biometepe and community institutions to reduce environmental incidents, mainly the extraction of YNP.

On Ometepe island we mainly work under this project with the local government municipality of Altagracia where the YNP forest populations are situated. During Year 1 of the project, the mayors' offices (mainly Altagracia) actively participated in the planning and execution of project activities, coordinated and planned with the Wildlife and Flora Directorate, specialists and representatives of other government institutions, activities such as: project presentations, first aid training with the municipal environmental unit, community fairs and patrols.

The National Police (mainly the delegation of the municipality of Altagracia), is one of the key actors for the development of the project and in general to safeguard the natural resources of Ometepe Island. Its main role in the project is to lead community patrols for biodiversity conservation in conjunction with MARENA, the municipalities, Biometepe and Fauna & Flora. Through the captain, the National Police are aware of the implementation and scope of the project activities, and it is expected that for Year 2 they will be further involved in project execution.

Other local stakeholders involved in the project include the six communities where the YNP populations are located. They have been engaged so far through surveys or perception interviews, as well as through participation of people in focus groups to start to co-design

alternative activities for people involved in YNP extraction. Also, through volunteers who participate and support project activities such as interviews, patrols, community fairs, and training. Fauna & Flora has developed a complaints and suggestions mechanism (Annex 4b), through which communities can communicate issues and ideas to the project.

We have also benefited from the expert support of the IWT consultant Sarah Gluszek, who provides technical advice to ensure that project activities are aligned with criminological theories behind SCP and participates in the internal project steering group.

We consider that Fauna & Flora's extensive and strong working relationship with our local delivery partner Biometepe has enabled successful execution and progress to be made on project activities through effective coordination and planning work.

The main project challenge has been arranging the necessary approvals from the relevant government institutions within the originally planned timescale, which despite their previous involvement these have been delayed due to the entirely new process required to sign a Partnership Alliance with MARENA. We have hence been only partially able in Year 1 to take forward the whole breadth of the project, focussing where we can on local-level coordination with organisations as the fundamental means of project execution.

Fauna & Flora has worked with local partner Biometepe since 2018 through a range of projects to develop awareness-raising activities at the community and institutional level on the importance of conserving the biodiversity of Ometepe Island. Economic poverty in local communities is recognised by all as a key driver of utilisation (including some illegal use) of biodiversity resources, hence the importance of compelling communication on the conservation of biodiversity and the need to provide sustainable livelihoods for local people.

We have also involved different stakeholders including tourism businesses and public transport bodies by levering Biometepe's 2024 awareness campaign, where posters were distributed. Eight social media posts were posted on Biometepe's Facebook and Instagram accounts. These materials were developed to inform the audience about the importance of YNP protection, to increase support for their conservation. The campaign will be reinforced in Year 2 of the project (under activity 3.5), using similar messages but targeting the focus groups participants and their family.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1 Implementation of nest surveillance programme, supported by collaborative patrols, increases the perceived risks associated with engaging in poaching YNP eggs or chicks from nests.

1.1 Identify priority locations (nesting trees vulnerable to poaching) for installation of cameras in collaboration with MARENA (Y1)
In Y1, we field-mapped the YNP sites vulnerable to poaching between December 2024-January 2025. Nest sites were considered vulnerable if they had been previously poached from, were located in frequently visited areas or were near settlements. From this, 37 trees with potentially vulnerable nests were identified, later reduced to 31 confirmed active nests, in the four southern project areas of the first nesting season (February to May (Annex 4c).

1.2 Procure, install, monitor and maintain cameras on 40 YNP nesting trees (Y1)
A total of 40 trail cameras of model Blaze Video #A280W (five of which were co-financed by the Loro Parque Foundation, through a separate grant to Biometepe), were purchased. 31 cameras were installed in February-March 2025 at the confirmed nest sites, and nine more were installed in other potential vulnerable locations, across 16 private land holdings with the specific prior informed consent sign-off of the owners. (Annex 4d and 4e).

1.3 Create and install signage at key access points to raise awareness of cameras and inform local community of ongoing surveillance to deter the illegal activity (Y1)

Community meetings with private landowners were held in January-February 2025, with the participation of 30 community members (21 men, 9 women) from three communities (Las Cuchillas, La Palma, Balgue). The meetings aimed to inform community members about the objective of placing the cameras, the installation process and the safeguarding/complaints mechanism in case needed. As a result of their involvement, the participants gave their consent to the installation of the cameras (see 1.2). Additionally, 11 camera-awareness signs were erected in key forest entry locations in March 2025, informing people about the presence of the cameras; the signs also included contact details as part of the safeguarding mechanism (Annex 4a)

1.4 Process, store and analyse camera footage to track frequency, and spatial and temporal patterns, of nest poaching, following agreed data management and privacy protocols (Y1-3)
Biometepe's technical team have been visiting the camera locations on a weekly basis to download (without reviewing) the images, which are then stored securely on a Biometepe computer and external hard drive with restricted access. They are shared with the MEL specialist of Fauna & Flora for future analysis. Currently, more than 50,000 video files have been downloaded. Sensitive images (with human presence) will be processed separately following the sensitive data management protocol that has been developed (Annex 4f).

1.5 Maintain patrol programme across YNP habitat areas by Biometepe & community leaders with support from MARENA (Y1-3)
During Year 1 we have maintained the weekly patrol programme across 1700 hectares of Maderas Volcano National Park that we have been patrolling since 2020 (included in Annex 4h).

1.6. Expand monthly patrols with MARENA and national police to include visits to six communities to raise awareness of wildlife legislation/risks associated with poaching (Y1-3)
In project Year 1 (August 24-March 25), a total of 40 joint patrols were carried out with MARENA, the Police, Biometepe and community members (image 1): 22 under this project funding, and a further 18 with additional funding.
~35 people (26 men 74%, 9 women, 26%) have been involved from the different bodies. The patrol effort was calculated as 320 hours (8 hr/patrol) of joint patrols (Annex 4h).
Additionally, 55 shorter patrols (c.3 hr/patrol) were carried out by 15 community members (10 men, 5 women) during their daily movements, where they look and report on any suspicious activities, as well as check the cameras and the nest activities. These patrols comprised c. 165 hours carried out by community members only during the nesting season.
The patrols have covered a total of 2,159 ha of protected forest areas in the 6 focal communities (), increasing by 459 ha (27%) the number of patrolled hectares from the baseline of 1700 ha of forest (Annex 4g).

1.7. Conduct interviews with at least 100 community members to monitor and evaluate changes in awareness, perceptions of illegal activity. and perceptions of the project's intervention (Y2 and Y3)
The community questionnaires were designed using Survey123, being piloted with 12 people in November 2024 and then carried out in February 2025 in the 6 targeted rural communities (plus some urban areas) of Ometepe (images 2-3). The interviewer team was made up of 4 Biometepe staff members, 10 young community volunteers, and 2 students from Universidad Antonio de Valdivieso (UNIAV). The team were given training on using Survey123 and an induction on the IWT project and SCP to better understand the rationale behind the survey questions.
A total of 133 interviews were conducted (61 men (46%); 72 women (54%). The interviews will be assessed overall to provide baselines for Output 1.2, with more in-depth analysis planned for Y2 by the project partners to better understand the perception of risk of extraction of YNP chicks by the community members.

Output 2 Improved law enforcement capacity leads to greater likelihood of detection of YNP chick trafficking at exit ports, thus increasing the effort required to engage in IWT.

2.1 Conduct competency assessment with port authorities and police to understand IWT enforcement and monitoring capacity/training needs at four priority ports and road checkpoints (Y1)
A competency assessment was developed in Y1 to assess the capacity and training needs of authorities (Annex 4i), however it was not possible to conduct this assessment in Y1 due to changes in the legal terms of joint working of NGOs with government institutions. We submitted an application for an association alliance in October 2024, but we did not receive a final formal response with signature until March 2025. Therefore, the competency assessments will be carried out in Y2.

2.2 Develop best practice guides and deliver training to ≥eight enforcement officers covering: national wildlife trade & CITES legislation, IWT seizure data collection/processing, handling seized goods, data analysis (Y1-Y2)
This activity will be carried out in Y2 and has been submitted to MARENA for approval.

2.3 Provide technical support to trained enforcement officers to collect IWT seizure data; create and promulgate relevant Standardized Operating Procedures. (Y2-Y3)
This activity is planned for Years 2-3 of the project.

2.4 Deploy signage at priority ports and road checkpoints highlighting legislation related to illegal wildlife trade to raise awareness among port and road users (Y2)
In Y1, we developed the designs of the signage to be used at priority ports and road checkpoints. We have selected the supplier to produce the signs. The designs are currently being reviewed by MARENA, and pending final authorisation, will be installed in Y2.

2.5 Facilitate biannual meetings between MARENA, national police, navy representatives, Fauna & Flora and Biometepe to review IWT trends and integrate data into management decisions (Y2-Y3)
This activity is planned for Years 2-3 of the project.

2.6 Repeat competency needs assessment of enforcement officers to evaluate impact of training and changes in competency levels (Y3)
This activity is planned for Year 3 of the project.

Output 3. Individuals involved in illegally taking YNP chicks and eggs from nests are less provoked to engage in IWT as a result of inclusively designed community activities, complemented by targeted messaging.

3.1 Conduct focus group discussions with target audience (young males) to further explore the motivations driving tree-climbing to poach YNP, and co-design ideas for alternative activities. (Y1).
In February 2025, 18 men were identified to participate in the project activities, focusing on people that are known to have knowledge about the threat to YNP. We conducted two assessments through preliminary focus groups session, to better define our target audience by gaining more insights and evidence to support upcoming activity. The sessions were held in Balgue and La Palma. During the sessions we explored the community willingness towards changing behaviours and attitude. We held open debates on the reasons that lead them to make the decision to extract wild species, especially YNP chicks. Finally, working group sessions were held where the participants made a list of environmental problems, in which the extraction of parrot chicks stood out as a particular problem (annex 4j).

3.2 Hold workshop with community leaders and Biometepe to share evidence from previous IWTEV005 evidence grant and activity 3.1 to co-develop activities for pilot testing. (Y1)
A workshop was held In Santa Cruz community in February 2025 with the 22 participants from activity 3.1. During this workshop we shared evidence from the previous project as well as explained the objectives of the current project. We resumed the working groups process, using creative methodologies such as "Global Café", to share ideas that could reduce the previously identified local environmental problems and the drivers for extraction of the YNP (annex 4k). These sessions have confirmed that it is young adult males climbing trees for nest raiding, with diverse motivations including extra income due to unemployment and social inequalities, as well as for leisure activities and to please family members to be explored.

3.3 Pilot agreed test activities (e.g. climbing competitions, sports events, eco-tourist guide training) with ≥20 young males. Evaluate impact on attitudes and behaviours associated with poaching (Y2)
This activity is planned for Year 2 of the project.

3.4 Apply findings from pilot to develop strategy for scaling up activity among wider group of individuals at risk from IWT participation (Y3)
This activity is planned for Year 3 of the project.

3.5 Deliver complementary YNP conservation-focused messaging aimed at the same target group and their households, disseminated through social media and in-person sports events(Y2/3)
Although this activity is planned to be carried out in Years 2-3, Biometepe maintains an active YNP campaign on its social networks. During Year 1 eight communications were issued (social media posts, and participation in local radio programmes) with messages of biodiversity conservation aimed at the general public inside and outside Ometepe. Example posts are at:
Biometepe Facebook
Biometepe Instagram

Output 4 Situational Crime Prevention approach to reducing illegal YNP trade is supported by dissemination of project learning to municipal and national-level authorities and research bodies.

Activity 4.1 Hold regional and national events to disseminate project findings, involving local partner Anahuac in Rivas municipality, local and national environmental authorities, national universities and police (Y3)
This activity is planned for Year 3 of the project.

4.2 Create and disseminate case study in the use of SCP to implement deterrents to illegal wildlife trade of YNP in Nicaragua, through online publication and webinars (Y3)
This activity is planned to be carried out in Year 3 of the project.

4.3. Train two postgraduate students in SCP approaches, crime scripting and social science techniques; support students to conduct research and learning activities linked to project (Y2-Y3)
A university thesis study entitled "Perception of communities on YNP extraction" has been coordinated with the Antonio de Valdivieso University (UNIAV), to be done by two undergraduate students (not postgraduate) as the most relevant researchers who also participated in activity 1.7.

M&E activities linked to project outcome indicators:

0.1 Conduct annual census of free-flying YNP population in Ometepe (Y1,2,3)
The annual YNP population census was carried out in August-September 2024 – obtaining an overall result of 1,502 parrots flying free (annex 4l).

0.2 Monitor levels of nesting poaching by triangulating data from physical nest inspections and analysis of camera trap images) (Y1, Y2, Y3)
Monitoring using both inspections and camera traps is under way to be able to establish nest poaching levels.

0.3 Evaluate changes in individual perceptions of YNP nest poaching intensity through interview programme across 6 communities (Y2 and Y3)
Changes in perceptions will be assessed in Years 2 and 3, relative to the baseline established in Year 1 under Activity 1.7.

Project management activities:

X.1 Establish Project Steering Committee (mid-point Y1), hold ≥twice yearly meetings (Y1-Y3) (Fauna & Flora, Biometepe, government representatives including MARENA) to ensure effective communication and adaptive project management.
During Y1 one steering committee meeting was held between Fauna & Flora and Biometepe and representatives of local authorities (MARENA, Mayors, National Police, Intur) in October 2024 (image 4). During this we presented the project objectives and activities, as well as the SCP methodology aim. Follow-up committee meetings are expected to be held twice a year (with the timings being subject to change due to modifications in government structure). Additionally, internal project steering sessions of Fauna & Flora (Nicaragua and UK team staff) have been established, meeting on a monthly basis to plan and evaluate the progress of the project.

X.2 Create grievance mechanism (mid-point Y1), managed by nominated and trained staff within Fauna & Flora, for project stakeholders to have concerns documented and addressed.
The grievance mechanism has been established and is actively managed by fauna & Flora trained staff (Annex 4b).

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1. Implementation of nest surveillance programme, supported by collaborative patrols, increases the perceived risks associated with engaging in poaching YNP eggs or chicks from nests.

Baseline condition: No trees with camera monitoring surveillance; patrols covering an average of 1,700ha across 6 communities during the nesting seasons.

Current condition/ change recorded to date, and source of evidence:

- 31 trees with known active nests are subject to camera monitoring, plus 9 more at potential nesting sites. (Annex 4a, 4c) (Image 5)
- 22 IWT-funded (and 18 co-financed) joint patrols, plus 55 community short patrols, have been carried out covering 2,159 Ha of YNP habitat (Annex 4h) in the 6 communities.

Likelihood of achieving Output: The nest surveillance programme has been implemented. Joint patrols have been taking place and expanded to new areas, and community members are aware of the presence of the cameras. We expect that the perceived risk of extraction of YNP chicks and eggs due to these activities will thus increase by the end of the project.

Indicator 1.1 By project mid-point, percentage of YNP nesting trees monitored for wildlife crime using camera systems.
(Baseline: 0 trees with camera monitoring; Target: ≥75% of known active nesting trees monitored by cameras by end Y1 (approximately 40 trees).
Cameras are currently monitoring 31 known active nests (100%) and 9 potential nesting sites.
Measurement means, and evidence: Annex 4a. Map of camera locations.

1.2 By project end, ≥50% of surveyed community members (target sample ≥100 people, ≥50% women) perceive increased risk associated with YNP poaching, compared to Y1.
(Baseline: to be established in Y1. Target: ≥50% of respondents by end Y3.)
This information is to be confirmed following the survey analysis being carried out in Y2 (Q1).
Measurement means, and evidence: In-person community interview data of 133 people from February 2025 represents the baseline dataset, to monitor against in future project years.

1.3 Across Y1-Y3 of the project, patrols by Biometepe and community members during YNP nesting season, cover an average of ≥1,700ha and conduct monthly community engagement activities.
(Baseline: Average of 1,700ha patrol coverage across 6 communities during nesting season (average 2020-2022), no current community engagement activities. Target: ≥1,700ha covered by patrols in each nesting season, with community engagement activities reported at least monthly.)
Currently a total of 2,159 ha of YNP habitat is being monitored across 6 communities by Biometepe's technical team along with 15 community members participation.
Measurement means, and evidence: Patrols register (Annex 4i).

Output 2. Improved law enforcement capacity leads to greater likelihood of detection of YNP chick trafficking at exit ports, thus increasing the effort required to engage in IWT.

Baseline condition: No dedicated specific capacity exists of law enforcement in Ometepe to detect YNP trafficking from exit ports.
Current condition/ change recorded to date, and source of evidence: No change yet from baseline, as activity under this Output has been delayed whilst the new official 'alliances' applications have had to be approved.
Likelihood of achieving Output: The likelihood of this happening is high as the local-level LEAs are supportive of the YNP protection activities. The successful signature of the alliance between MARENA and Fauna & Flora underpins this activity (pending their final approval).

Indicator 2.1 By end of Y1, best practice guidance on detection and seizure of IWT products relevant to Ometepe (inc. YNP) is published in English and Spanish languages and available to law enforcement.
(Baseline: No best practice guide exists. Target: >1 guide published and endorsed by end Y1.)
Due to the government re-structure since August 2024 this output has been delayed to Y2.

2.2 By the end of Y1, ≥8 law enforcement personnel, working at four priority ports/checkpoints in Ometepe Island, undergo training in wildlife legislation, detection and seizure management.
(Baseline: No training delivered to law enforcement in Ometepe. Target: ≥8 staff trained by Y1 (of whom ≥25% women)).
Due to the government re-structure since August 2024 this output has been delayed to Y2.

2.3 By Y2, four priority checkpoints (ferry ports, Moyogalpa & San Jose, and road intersections, Santa Cruz & El Quino) on Ometepe are recording and detecting illegal wildlife products/shipments.
(Baseline: 0 illegal wildlife products reported (2023). Target: Increase in number of cases reported by Y3.)
These actions have not yet been put in place, as they are planned from Year 2.

2.4 By project end, number of IWT cases for yellow-naped parrot and other threatened species handed to police for investigation from checkpoints increases compared to Y1.
(Baseline: No cases resulting from checkpoint inspections handed to police. Target: Increase in number of cases reported in Y2 and Y3.)
We have not been able to receive any information from police checkpoints, due to the delay from the government re-structure, and are now aiming to achieve this in Y2.

Measurement means, and evidence: Not available yet.

Output 3. Individuals involved in illegally taking YNP chicks and eggs from nests are less provoked to engage in IWT as a result of inclusively designed community activities, complemented by targeted messaging

Baseline condition: No reduced provocation to participate in IWT activities of YNP.
Current condition/ change recorded to date, and source of evidence: No change yet from baseline, as pilot community alternative activities and targeted messaging under this Output are scheduled from Year 2. Assessments with potential focus groups have however commenced (activity 3.1).
Likelihood of achieving Output: Likely, once implementation proceeds from Year 2.

Indicator 3.1 By end of Y2, ≥20 individuals from target group (young males 14-22) participate in pilot testing of co-designed activities.
(Baseline: No pilot activity available.Target: ≥20 people involved in new pilot activity during Y2.)
Pilot activities have not yet been fully designed nor carried out, as they are to be implemented during Year 2, following the initial community engagement that has taken place in Year 1.

3.2 At end of Y2, ≥50% of pilot participants state willingness to continue participation after pilot and indicate reduced motivation to engage in YNP nest poaching.
(Baseline: To be established in Y2, at start of pilot activity. Target: ≥50% report positive changes against metrics of positive change.)
This output indicator is subject to the activities under 3.1 being implemented during Year 2.

3.3 In Y2 and Y3, Ometepe-based social media channels disseminates YNP conservation messaging, which is also promoted via community sports events.
(Baseline: No campaigns related to YNP conservation via Ometepe-linked social media or sports events. Target: ≥1 social media campaign delivered, reaching ≥2,000 people, with ≥1 sports event carrying YNP conservation message annually.)
No specific implementation has taken place as yet, as this is planned for Years 2-3.

Output 4. Situational Crime Prevention approach to reducing illegal YNP trade is supported by dissemination of project learning to municipal and national-level authorities and research bodies.

Baseline condition: No knowledge of SCP (prior introduction to the concept in the pilot project) amongst municipal and national-level authorities and research bodies in Nicaragua.
Current condition/ change recorded to date, and source of evidence: No change yet from baseline.
Likelihood of achieving Output: Likely, based upon the delivery planned for the final Year 3.

Indicator 4.1 By end of Y3, ≥1 descriptive case study published and disseminated documenting the use of SCP for YNP conservation in Nicaragua**.**
(Baseline: 0 case studies exist for SCP in Nicaragua: Target: One case study published and disseminated in English and Spanish, via relevant online platforms.)
No case study published yet, which is scheduled for the end of project Year 3.

4.2 By project end, ≥36 decision makers from key institutions working on wildlife trade (MARENA, national police, Universidad Nacional Agraria) attend project briefing events in Ometepe, Rivas and Managua
(Baseline: 0 individuals engaged outside Ometepe. Target: ≥36 (≥12 women).
No final project briefing events yet held for decision makers, as these are scheduled for the end of project Year 3.

4.3 By project end, ≥100 people representing conservation organisations, policymakers, practitioners and donors attend webinars on the use of SCP to prevent YNP poaching in Nicaragua.
(Baseline: 0 people reached, 0 webinars held on Nicaragua SCP. Target: ≥100 online attendees at ≥2 webinars by end Y3.)
No SCP YNP webinars yet held for interested parties, as these are scheduled for the end of project Year 3.

4.4 By project end, ≥2 postgraduate students from Universidad Nacional Agraria receive training in SCP and related social science methods.
(Baseline: 0 students trained on SCP approach. Target: ≥2 students (≥1 woman)).
2 undergraduate students from UNIAV university (1 man and 1 woman) have been selected, participated in the study, and have received initial training on SCP in Year 1.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Project Outcome: By 2027, evidence-based crime prevention actions reduce threats to Critically Endangered yellow-naped parrots (YNP) from illegal poaching and trade on Ometepe Island.

Likelihood of achieving Outcome by EOP: we consider it likely that the planned outputs can be realised by creating the enabling conditions such that IWT threats to YNP are reduced as a result of this project.

We consider the indicators below to be adequate for measuring the intended Outcome because population census combined with reduced recorded incidence and perception of poaching would demonstrate that the threat has been reduced as a result of the project SCP-informed interventions.

Indicator 0.1 By project end, conservation status of YNP on Ometepe Island remains stable or improving.

Baseline condition: 959 individuals counted in annual census (five-year average 2018-2022)

Current condition/progress to date, 1,502 individuals counted most recently in 2024 (versus a target of ≥959 annual average across the project years), a positive overall population trend across the island of Ometepe's occupied areas – with a recorded increase of 8.6% from the previous season in 2023 (1383 individuals) and similar increase of 9.2% from 2022 (1267 individuals). Whilst noting that their distribution is uneven across the areas, with varying population sizes and individual trends.

Source of evidence for change: Annual census of 2024 (Annex 4l).

Indicator 0.2 By project end, reduction in % of nests poached, compared to 2020-2022 average poaching levels.

Baseline condition: 12% average of monitored nests poached (chicks or eggs removed) in 2020-2022

Current condition/progress to date: Data is not yet complete for the ongoing nesting season of 2025; the data for 2022-2023 (pre-project) poaching was 14% (versus a target of <5% of monitored nests poached)

Source of evidence for change: camera monitoring data (2025 - not yet available); Fauna & Flora report to MARENA (2022-2023) (Annex 4m)

Indicator 0.3 By project end, local communities perceive reduction in the number of people extracting YNP compared to 2023.

Baseline condition: 2023 – 70% of respondents (n=20; ≥30% women) report knowing people extracting YNP.

Current condition/progress to date: To be confirmed following community survey analysis in Y2 (versus a target of 50% respondents (n=100; ≥30% women) or fewer report knowing people extracting YNP by Y3)

Sources of evidence for change: Community survey baseline Y1 (results awaited)

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Outcome Level Assumptions

Assumption O.1: *Nicaragua experiences relative political stability and security throughout the life of the project.* The political situation in Nicaragua is currently stable, however a new re-structure in the Government-NGO collaboration processes have been introduced since August 2024, requiring significant new work for lead partner staff and causing some delays in implementation.

O.2: *Covid-19, wildfires, hurricane events, and/or other unforeseen externalities do not significantly disrupt implementation of activities.* No other external events or natural conditions have impacted on the project, other than new collaboration procedures causing some delays.

0.3 *Authorities and communities remain willing to participate.* The institutions are collaborative in their participation in the activities planned within the 'alliances' established; community participation is effective and active so far.

0.4 *Poaching and trade trends within the YNP monitoring sample are representative of trends across all YNP nests/nesting areas in Ometepe.* We believe the YNP project monitoring sample of 6 community areas to be broadly representative of the rest of Ometepe island (26 communities total), although we lack information on poaching trends in the core zone are unknown.

0.5 *The project successfully integrates gender considerations in its design, such that neither women nor men experience any barriers to participation.* Gender participation for equality has been designed in and is subject to proactive management, such that there is equal participation of the sexes from target communities in most of the activities, however, focus groups are targeted to men as the people involved in climbing and nest raiding activities.

Output Level Assumptions

Assumption 1.1: *Current, positive attitudes towards the implementation of crime prevention strategies locally are maintained at local and national levels*. There is a positive attitude from local authorities and community members towards the implementation of these situational prevention activities. At national level we are developing the new 'alliances' – pending for MARENA's approval of a work plan to continue engagement – to build on their original project endorsement.

1.2 *Camera systems are suitable and durable in the terrain, and cameras are not subject to vandalism or theft.* The camera trap system functioned correctly in Y1 since its installation in February-March 2025, and there were no signs of vandalism or theft.

1.3 *Local communities and visitors to the area will be informed of the presence of cameras through signage at key access points.* Prominent signs have been installed at strategic points of privately owned forest areas to advise of the presence of cameras and during community meetings information on the presence of the cameras has been reinforced (Annex 4a).

1.4 *Data will be stored with restricted access and password protected following strict data management protocols as agreed among partners.* Access to the information generated by the camera traps is restricted, based upon the provisions of the data management protocol.

1.5 *Imagery from cameras will obfuscate the location to avoid providing information to poachers.* The current cameras installed are strategically placed to prevent potential nest-looters being able to determine their location.

1.6 *Images of people will be removed from the dataset, or appropriately anonymised by masking or blurring faces.* This provision is included in the data management protocol, but has not yet been enacted given the early stage currently of the data review process.

1.7 *There are sufficient resources and funding allocated by government authorities to support community patrols*. This assumption is not currently valid, as there are not enough funds from the authorities for the patrols - all joint patrols (40) have been carried out with funds from Biometepe and Fauna & Flora (through ongoing projects funding).

1.8 *Community interview samples are large enough to be representative of overall trends.* A large sample size of >100 people (133) has been included in the baseline survey and so is considered to be sufficiently representative.

Assumption 2.1: *Government authorities remain willing to participate and to allocate adequate funding and human resources.* The authorities at the local level continue to be willing to participate and coordinate activities and at the national level we have a signed Partnership Alliance which supports the joint work and the next activities to be executed (pending confirmation of the plan).

2.2 *Effective exit screening and signage will deter crime due to the perception of increased effort and increased risk of being detected/caught.* This assumption is considered still valid, although exit point measures have not as yet been implemented.

2.3 *Illegal wildlife trade is not displaced to other transportation routes.* This assumption remains valid, as there are currently no reports of alternative routes.

2.4 *There is effective coordination among different law enforcement agencies.* The different LEAs all come under the same "System of Production, Consumption and Trade" public framework through which their work is coordinated and communicated internally reasonably efficiently, and this has been demonstrated by regular joint patrols taking place.

2.5 *More effective law enforcement will, in time, increase the risk of being caught and may deter some poaching from taking place in the first place. This is expected to influence seizure numbers over time, but likely not during the life of this project*. This assumption is still under evaluation, and has not been tested yet as these measures have not yet been implemented nor seizure data is yet available.

2.6 *Official reports on IWT seizures owned by National Police are shared with partners, and data is only shared and used for its intended purpose.* T This assumption is still under evaluation, and has not been tested yet as these measures have not yet been implemented.

2.7 *Corruption does not undermine the ability of law enforcement officers to record data accurately or influence officers to engage in IWT.* This assumption is still under evaluation as such information is not yet available.

Assumption 3.1: *Members of target group are receptive and interested to participate in focus groups, workshops and ensuing pilot test*. Based upon Year 1 activities there is clearly interest from the members of the community to participate in the different activities such as workshops, focus groups and pilot tests of alternative activities.

3.2 *Follow up funding to scale-up pilot in line with agreed strategy is secured by either Fauna & Flora or Biometepe by project end.* This assumption is believed to remain valid, given for example Biometepe successfully securing project co-funding from another source, and will be a focus of work in Year 3.

Assumption 4.1: *Staff turnover among project partners remains low, enabling knowledge to be retained throughout the project and beyond.* This assumption remains valid, with no changes in project partner personnel during the Year 1 period.

4.2 *Other conservation actors remain interested to learn and engage with IWT prevention strategies*. This assumption is believed to remain valid, although has not been tested yet as we have not engaged with wider conservation actors within this project.

4.3 *Interest in employing SCP to prevent IWT exists and grows in Nicaragua*. This assumption is believed to remain valid, which we will assess over the next two years of the project.

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

The project desired Impact is: "Yellow-naped parrot populations in Nicaragua are secure, protected by targeted, inclusive, evidence-based crime prevention actions that deter IWT, complement existing law enforcement efforts, and contribute to poverty reduction."

The project is contributing to tackling IWT by raising the profile of the YNP species locally and beyond, highlighting the threats that it faces and the specific project interventions being undertaken to address the threats contribute to a higher-level impact on wildlife trade. The project's contributions include community forest patrols (Annex 4i) and installation of camera monitoring (Annex 4a) as a deterrent to nest raiding activity affecting key YNP populations on Ometepe Island, thus protecting the species from IWT in the single most important area for YNP in the country, regionally and globally.

The project is contributing to poverty reduction developing engagements with six target local communities, firstly through an extensive set of in-person interviews to establish baseline understanding of their current perspectives and then initiating a process of focus group discussions directed towards community leaders and young adult men contemplated to be the main target demographic. In time this seeks to contribute to reducing poverty in Ometepe by creating new socioeconomic opportunities and skills for participating community members, thus preventing IWT and preventing the loss of highly threatened biodiversity which is crucial to the recovering local eco-tourism sector.

4. Thematic focus

The project remains strongly aligned with two of the four IWT Challenge Fund themes:

- ensuring effective legal frameworks and deterrents
- strengthening law enforcement

We are addressing these through the application of activities informed by situational crime prevention (SCP). This approach broadens law enforcement responses from being reactive to being more proactive, and to focus on preventing illegal trade of YNP.

We are applying three SCP techniques:

1) Increase perceived risk, through camera traps, signage, and patrols in nesting areas
2) Increase effort, by screening exit ports and road checkpoints, making extraction and transport of wildlife poached YNP eggs and chicks more difficult
3) Reduce provocation by engaging at-risk youth/community members in alternative, co-designed activities to nest raiding that offer positive, legal outlets

The first technique improves the effectiveness of deterrents by focusing on increasing the perception of risk, and therefore the perceived certainty of risk, one of the three elements behind deterrence theory. As such, these techniques are strongly aligned with the IWTCF themes of enhancing deterrents and law enforcement.

This approach is innovative in the context of wildlife crime in Latin American countries, as it emphasises proactive disruption and behavioural change over traditional enforcement. This preventive approach has been proven to be more effective in difficult social contexts where lack of resources and other challenges make punitive enforcement more limited.

While the implementation of the techniques is still ongoing and under evaluation, we are already observing early signs of impact. Key achievements this year have included the use of practical, low-cost intervention, such as visible surveillance and community involvement, to shift perceptions, increase deterrents, and build long-term YNP population resilience. We have established an enabling environment with Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) through the signing of legal “alliances” that will lead to capacity strengthening, enforcing security, promoting best practices and standard screening protocols at extraction points. Finally, regular community meetings have been held to ensure relevance, feasibility and shared ownership of the SCP-derived activities.

5. Impact on species in focus

The impact of the YNP population will be measured and understood once the census is carried out between July and October 2025, then populations trends can be analysed and understood to measure the impact of the project implementation. Likewise, analysis from the camera images will improve the understanding of the ecology and nesting behaviour of the local YNP populations.

6. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The project works in and with six communities where active YNP nesting sites are present. Specifically we have proposed to take a gendered approach to community engagement focusing on young adult men in these communities, as the demographic group understood to be responsible for climbing trees to extract YNP chicks and eggs from occupied nest sites. The project aims to engage ≥20 individuals from this target group in participatory co-design of activities for pilot testing (Output indicator 3.1) by the end of Year 2, with the aim that more than half of the pilot participants then state their willingness to continue their participation and indicate reduced motivation to engage in YNP nest poaching (Output indicator 3.2).

By co-designing these pilot activities, such as climbing competitions, sports events, or eco-tourist guide training, we will seek for them to be relevant and attractive. Furthermore, by empowering participating young men we seek for them to develop greater individual agency and control over their lives and status within the communities, who themselves will own the solutions to take forward.

Depending on the activities and their outcomes from Year 2, there could also be scaling potential and possible future direct livelihood benefits as trained local guardians linked to wildlife conservation and research of this iconic species and an associated eco-tourism industry, which is a significant opportunity on the island of Ometepe that is now growing again following previous political unrest and the impacts of the Covid-19 global pandemic. Beyond the immediate local communities, Biometepe partner staff and volunteers could also benefit directly from multi-faceted poverty reduction through increased individual security for their roles as IWT threats are reduced in impact.

In the project’s focus upon strengthening law enforcement, we need to be conscious of any potential negative impacts on local poverty furthermore, hence the chosen approach of SCP-derived solutions to create deterrents and effectively reduce illegal trade of YNP in Ometepe, without exposing local communities to the harm frequently associated with adopting a reactive, solely law enforcement-based approach.

To date in Year 1 the project has held initial focus group meetings in 6 target communities with community leaders and young people (18 young men), in order to start to understand YNP IWT

links in each one and identify individual extractors motivations to be able to co-develop potential alternative activities to reduce IWT and poverty pressures.

7. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

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

This project was designed based on an analysis of the local dynamics of YNP capture and trade carried out in 2023, which revealed the group most likely to engage in YNP capture are young males in rural areas who capture the birds for an additional income. Furthermore, our research indicated that approximately 30% of the people interviewed were unaware that capturing and selling YNP constitutes a crime according to national legislation, as keeping parrots is a local custom. There is otherwise little information on gender dynamics in YNP capture and trade in Nicaragua. With this information, the project was designed to follow a situational crime prevention approach which aim to make capturing YNP less appealing. This approach was chosen because it considers the GESI context and poses fewer social risks as it focuses on the situation where crimes are committed, by any person, rather than targeting specific individuals.

The project further considers the GESI context in its design and implementation by taking into account the gender roles and norms, as well as social marginalisation, that lead perpetrators including young men to engage in criminal activities in the area. The project is designed to gain further insights on these topics to co-design activities with focal group participants in the area that might provide alternatives to YNP capture. These insights have been gathered from both men and women to ensure that the designed activities do not increase inequality between young men and young women. Through these activities, the project aims to address local attitudes and customs that lead to YNP capture, while also increasing participation and inclusion of marginalised young rural and low-income men and women within the project. These activities will be further co-designed and developed in Year 2 of the project.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

An internal M&E Plan was drawn up at the start of the project, which is managed by Fauna & Flora's MEL specialist in Nicaragua in concert with relevant colleagues as well as Biometepe partner staff. Indicators of achievements are measured as set out in the project's log frame

matrix. All indicators that are relevant to date have been the subject of data collection. No changes have been necessary at this stage.

A specific data management protocol has been elaborated to cover the camera images generated, including standardised protocols for the collection of field data on YNP by Biometepe partner staff using the Survey123 software platform, which is transmitted to Fauna & Flora automatically for checking. Potential improvements to address include the data acquisition intervals of the cameras, as they generate a large amount of data and easily saturate the memories and drain the batteries very quickly.

Coordination exists through which reporting of information from Biometepe to Fauna & Flora is constantly reviewed, verifying the databases and identifying any errors to correct, for example of installed camera locations. Monitoring and activity participation visits are carried out together with the partner and this data is continuously shared and refined with the team by means of access to the databases.

Social data are analysed by Fauna & Flora and subsequently by university partner UNIAV, specifically in Y1 this focused on the baseline community perception survey, which was recorded using Survey123 in the community interviews which are then backed up in databases.

9. Lessons learnt

The project has enjoyed various instances of successful working during this first year, including:

- The coordination and involvement of institutions at the local level - comprising the national police, MARENA and local government authorities in key activities such as forest patrols to reduce the YNP poaching and protect their habitat
- the willing collaboration of private landowners to allow installation of signs and camera traps with the aim of deterring the extraction of YNP chicks
- the participation of young people and community leaders in focus groups, with the aim of in-depth understanding of the motivations that lead to YNP extraction in different communities, and proposals for new activities to reduce the pressure on the species
- the effectiveness of the community surveys that enabled us to acquire information on the perceptions of local people on this subject area

In contrast, issues faced have included:

- Delays in securing permits and approvals from government institutions, impacting upon our ability to carry out some planned activities such as institutional sessions with the authorities to discuss issues affecting the species, also delaying the capacity-building workshops and surveys of the institutions' skills and knowledge base.
- Furthermore, the delay in the initial start date of the project meant that there wasn’t time to work in the northern population areas for the separate nesting season there, hence we have not yet carried out camera trap monitoring there and instead focussed on the current nesting season within communities of the Volcan Maderas National Park.
- The amount of camera image/video files generated already is challenging to handle and analyse, and so the process will be validated and improved as necessary for more effective information management. We have already concluded that some camera recording settings should be modified in future, such as video intervals in order to use the battery and storage space more efficiently.

The first two issues above were both external issues beyond the project’s control, hence there aren’t any more changes that we would make to address these. The general lesson to draw from this is that processes with government institutions take longer than expected, and can change rapidly. In the case of our project, there was a 4-month delay to the project start from the UK Government, and then almost immediately a change in the Nicaraguan government NGO laws requiring an association alliance to be submitted – that then took almost 5 months to receive a response.

More specifically, in future we will seek to plan as many activities as possible that are based upon local-level agreements to be able to execute the different activities.
We do not presently propose to formally change the project work plan or submit a change request however, whilst we are currently awaiting new approval from MARENA covering planned activities delayed from Year 1 together with those to be carried out in Year 2.

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

Not applicable (Year 1 of the project).

11. Risk Management

Whilst not a completely new risk, the likelihood of a principal risk being realised, relating to government controls, emerged as an issue soon after the start of the project in August 2024, with new legislation introduced for NGOs operations. Significant time was thus subsequently invested in applying to establish new formal signed 'alliances' with relevant government entities (principally MARENA) to enable project activities to be delivered. The alliance with MARENA was successfully signed in March 2025, with an associated detailed action plan now developed for their approval. This has however delayed implementation of various project activities, especially those involving collaboration with public authorities under Output 2 and re-covening the external steering group.

A copy of our updated risk register is provided.

12. Scalability and durability

During this first (partial) year we have placed strong emphasis on scalability, institutional adoption, and community ownership. Key stakeholders, including national law enforcement agencies, local authorities, academia and community leaders, have been actively engaged through regular meetings, joint activities, and the signing of formal alliances. These efforts have raised awareness of both the benefits and feasibility of adopting situational crime prevention (SCP), particularly in socially complex contexts where traditional enforcement may be limited. By demonstrating that low-cost, proactive interventions, such as visible surveillance, signage, and youth engagement, can reduce opportunities and motivations for illegal behaviour, we are making the model appealing and replicable for LEAs at the local and regional level. We are also gaining the buy-in of community members that acknowledge that simple deterrents can reduce extraction while avoiding unfair prosecutions in a society full of needs and lack of resources, alongside the risk of corruption. Early indications of attitude and behaviour change have included the active participation of the community members in the meetings held, suggesting a growing sense of local ownership of the project. We are focused on strengthening institutional capacity, embedding SCP into operational procedures, and supporting policy alignment to create an enabling environment for long-term adoption. Likewise, working hand in hand with local partners such as BIOMETEPE, who have long term and permanent presence in the area, gaining their trust and buy-in in the adoption of the methodology will promote continuity and regular implementation.

13. IWT Challenge Fund identity

As this project is still in its early stages, broad-scale public promotion of the IWT Challenge Fund has not yet been fully rolled out. The IWT Challenge Fund logo has been included in our internal documentation and presentations shared with key local partners and stakeholders. The UK Government’s support has been acknowledged in meetings with local enforcement authorities and partner organisations. A banner has been produced (image 7), including the

donor fund logo, for display at events, and the visual identity is also included on the advisory signs located within the private land holdings (image 8).

At present, awareness of the IWT Challenge Fund within Nicaragua is relatively limited outside of conservation and enforcement circles. However, as we begin to implement more public-facing components, including educational materials and communications on our social media digital platforms, the visibility of the Fund and understanding of the UK Government's role will increase. We are currently developing social media content that will spotlight project milestones and partner contributions, which we will tag and link back to the IWT Challenge Fund and BCF social media channels to build cross-platform visibility.

14. Safeguarding

15. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2024-March 2025)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	**2024/25 Grant (£)**	**2024/25 Total actual IWT Costs (£)**	**Variance %**	**Comments (please explain significant variances)**
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	**£ 117,674.00**	**£ 117,674.20**		

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			Loro Parque Foundation (to Biometepe)
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			

16. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Not applicable.

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

Not yet applicable.

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2024-2025

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact Yellow-naped parrot populations in Nicaragua are secure, protected by targeted, inclusive, evidence-based crime prevention actions that deter IWT, complement existing law enforcement efforts, and contribute to poverty reduction	Year 1 actions including 40 community forest patrols and installation of 40 cameras for nest monitoring with associated advisory signage (11 locations) is thought to start having a deterrent effect (anecdotally). Initial community engagement carried out should also in time support IWT deterrence, and create new opportunities to contribute to poverty reduction.	
Outcome By 2027, evidence-based crime prevention actions reduce threats to Critically Endangered yellow-naped parrots (YNP) from illegal poaching and trade on Ometepe Island.		
Outcome indicator 0.1 By project end, conservation status of YNP on Ometepe Island remains stable or improving. (Baseline: 959 individuals counted in annual census, five-year average [2018-2022]; Target: ≥959 annual average across project).	The YNP census data for the 2024 season reported a total of 1,502 registered individuals (evidence in 3.3 and Annex 4l).	We will carry out the next annual census of the Ometepe YNP population in July-September 2025, to update the population status of the species.
Outcome indicator 0.2 By project end, reduction in % of nests poached, compared to 2020-2022 average poaching levels. (Baseline: 2020-2022 average 12% of monitored nests are poached (chicks or eggs removed); Target: <5% of monitored nests are poached.)	Update on pre-project poaching level to 14% of monitored nests for 2023-2024 (evidence in 3.3 and Annex 4m).	We will continue to record poaching rates in the subsequent nesting seasons, through a combination of direct nest inspections and camera monitoring detection. We will implement the planned SCP strategies (camera traps, patrols, checkpoints, awareness, etc.) to seek the reduction of YNP extraction and trafficking
Outcome indicator 0.3 By project end, local communities perceive reduction in the number of people extracting YNP compared to 2023. (Baseline (2023): 70% respondents (n=50; ≥30% women) report knowing	Year 1 figures to be determined, following detailed analysis of the community survey carried out (February 2025) (as per section 3.3)	We will analyse the results of the community perception interviews conducted in year 1 during Y2 Q1, which will inform in detail our subsequent actions.

people extracting YNP. Target: 50% respondents (n=100; ≥30% women) or fewer report knowing people extracting YNP (Y3).)		We will involve and inform the communities about the different activities of the project and the results obtained. We will elaborate and develop information and awareness campaigns at the local level, which will play an important role in changing people's perceptions.
Output 1 Implementation of nest surveillance programme, supported by collaborative patrols, increases the perceived risks associated with engaging in poaching YNP eggs or chicks from nests.		
Output indicator 1.1 By project mid-point, percentage of YNP nesting trees monitored for wildlife crime using camera systems. (Baseline: 0 trees with camera monitoring; Target: ≥75% of known active nesting trees monitored by cameras by end Y1 (approximately 40 trees)).	40 trees have had camera traps installed in the project areas where YNP nests have been recorded, with these covering all (100%) of the 31 known active nesting trees (evidence in 3.2 and Annex 4a).	Provide continuity of monitoring of known YNP nests and areas through camera traps during the subsequent nesting seasons. Fully implement the new data management protocol that has been developed.
Output indicator 1.2 By project end, ≥50% of surveyed community members (target sample ≥100 people, ≥50% women) perceive increased risk associated with YNP poaching, compared to Y1. (Baseline: to be established in Y1. Target: ≥50% of respondents by end Y3.)	Baseline for Year 1 to be confirmed from Y2 (Q1) analysis (as per section 3.2).	Carry out full analysis of the Y1 baseline survey. Carry out subsequent annual community perception surveys in Years 2 and 3. Continue to engage community members through meetings and focal group sessions. Carry out environmental education activities. Disseminate informative material (signage, messages on social networks) so that people know the different actions that are carried out for the monitoring and conservation of the YNP

		species in coordination with local authorities under this project.
Output indicator 1.3 Across Y1-Y3 of the project, patrols by Biometepe and community members during YNP nesting season, cover an average of ≥1,700ha and conduct monthly community engagement activities. (Baseline: Average of 1,700ha patrol coverage across 6 communities during nesting season (average 2020-2022), no current community engagement activities. Target: ≥1,700ha covered by patrols in each nesting season, with community engagement activities reported at least monthly.)	A total of 2159 ha of forest of importance for the monitoring and conservation of YNP are monitored by Biometepe, supported by 12 community members in Year 1 (evidence in 3.2 and Annex 4i).	Patrols with institutions and community members (4-6 per month) will continue during the YNP nesting seasons. We will encourage increased community participation in patrols.
Output 2 Improved law enforcement capacity leads to greater likelihood of detection of YNP chick trafficking at exit ports, thus increasing the effort required to engage in IWT.		
Output indicator 2.1. By end of Y1, best practice guidance on detection and seizure of IWT products relevant to Ometepe (inc. YNP) is published in English and Spanish languages and available to law enforcement. (Baseline: No best practice guide exists. Target: >1 guide published and endorsed by end Y1.)	It has not yet been possible to develop, publish and have endorsed a good practice guide, due to the need to obtain official 'alliances' approval from the government.	This activity will be carried out in Year 2 Q1, according to the plan sent to MARENA (which is pending approval). We will have the contributions of expert professors in the field from the National Agrarian University (UNA) in order to strengthen the document. (pending the signing of the Alliance with UNA).
Output indicator 2.2. By the end of Y1, ≥8 law enforcement personnel, working at four priority ports/checkpoints in Ometepe Island, undergo training in wildlife legislation, detection and seizure management. (Baseline: No training delivered to law enforcement in Ometepe. Target: ≥8 staff trained by Y1 (of whom ≥25% women)).	No law enforcement officers have yet been trained, due to the need to first obtain official 'alliances' approval from the government.	This activity will be carried out in Year 2 Q1, according to the plan sent to MARENA (which is pending approval). We will carry out a skills assessment of the staff of the institutions involved in the project to determine the training needs. We will work on developing an appropriate participatory methodology for carrying out these trainings to meet the learning needs of public officials.

Output indicator 2.3. By Y2, four priority checkpoints (ferry ports, Moyogalpa & San Jose, and road intersections, Santa Cruz & El Quino) on Ometepe are recording and detecting illegal wildlife products/shipments. (Baseline: 0 illegal wildlife products reported (2023). Target: Increase in number of cases reported by Y3.)	These actions have not yet been put in place, as they are planned from Year 2.	We will hold a meeting of the external project steering group in Year 2 Q1 on planning and coordination of the checkpoints. We will develop a physical and digital format (using Survey 123) for data collection from the checkpoints. It will be proposed to carry out 2-4 (random) checkpoints per month during the YNP nesting seasons.
Output indicator 2.4. By project end, number of IWT cases for yellow-naped parrot and other threatened species handed to police for investigation from checkpoints increases compared to Y1. (Baseline: No cases resulting from checkpoint inspections handed to police. Target: Increase in number of cases reported in Y2 and Y3.)	Baseline still to be established, as it has not as yet been possible to obtain data from the national police on the seizure of illegal fauna on Ometepe Island.	Through meetings of the project steering group and specific sessions with MARENA and the National Police, we aim to negotiate access to this information in order to determine the impacts of our project interventions. We will strengthen the capacities of public officials through the training of 2.2, which will facilitate the detection of cases of IWT. We will also have the data of the checkpoints to assess, once they begin to be carried out.
Output 3 Individuals involved in illegally taking YNP chicks and eggs from nests are less provoked to engage in IWT as a result of inclusively designed community activities, complemented by targeted messaging.		
Output indicator 3.1. By end of Y2, ≥20 individuals from target group (young males 14-22) participate in pilot testing of co-designed activities. (Baseline: No pilot activity available. Target: ≥20 people involved in new pilot activity during Y2.)	Pilot activities have not yet been designed and carried out as they are to be implemented during Year 2, following initial community engagement in Year 1.	We will continue with community sessions to validate the Crime Script and co-design alternative activities for those potentially involved in YNP extraction (in April-May 2025).

		We will determine those to be involved in focus groups, based on the profile or information in the crime script. We will select alternative activities and invite the different key actors for the development of these, depending on their competencies (Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Sports, others). We will develop a plan for the implementation of the pilot activities.
Output indicator 3.2. At end of Y2, ≥50% of pilot participants state willingness to continue participation after pilot and indicate reduced motivation to engage in YNP nest poaching. (Baseline: To be established in Y2, at start of pilot activity. Target: ≥50% report positive changes against metrics of positive change.)	This is subject to the activities under 3.1 being implemented during Year 2.	We will carry out an initial evaluation (July-August 2025) to gauge the interest of the participants of the pilot project (alternative activities). At the end of Year 2 (March 2026) we will carry out an evaluation of the participants to gauge the interest in continuing to participate in the pilot project (alternative activities).
Output indicator 3.3. In Y2 and Y3, Ometepe-based social media channels disseminates YNP conservation messaging, which is also promoted via community sports events. (Baseline: No campaigns related to YNP conservation via Ometepe-linked social media or sports events. Target: ≥1 social media campaign delivered, reaching ≥2,000 people, with ≥1 sports event carrying YNP conservation message annually.)	No implementation as yet, as this is planned for Years 2-3.	We will hire a specialist to develop the branding of the Fauna & Flora YNP conservation campaign under this IWT project. Together with communication specialists, the Biometepe team and Fauna & Flora, we will design specific messages and measurable indicators. We will develop and execute an awareness campaign, mainly through local media.

Output 4 Situational Crime Prevention approach to reducing illegal YNP trade is supported by dissemination of project learning to municipal and national-level authorities and research bodies.		
Output indicator 4.1. By end of Y3, ≥1 descriptive case study published and disseminated documenting the use of SCP for YNP conservation in Nicaragua [IWTCF-D17]. (Baseline: 0 case studies exist for SCP in Nicaragua: Target: One case study published and disseminated in English and Spanish, via relevant online platforms.)	No case study published yet, which is scheduled for the end of project Year 3.	Coordination will be established in mid-Year 2 (September-October) to define the elaboration of the case study. We will draw up a work plan with all those to be involved.
Output indicator 4.2. By project end, ≥36 decision makers from key institutions working on wildlife trade (MARENA, national police, Universidad Nacional Agraria) attend project briefing events in Ometepe, Rivas and Managua (Baseline: 0 individuals engaged outside Ometepe. Target: ≥36 (≥12 women).	No final project briefing events yet held for decision makers, as scheduled for the end of project Year 3.	Activity planned for Year 3.
Output indicator 4.3. By project end, ≥100 people representing conservation organisations, policymakers, practitioners and donors attend webinars on the use of SCP to prevent YNP poaching in Nicaragua. (Baseline: 0 people reached, 0 webinars held on Nicaragua SCP. Target: ≥100 online attendees at ≥2 webinars by end Y3.)	No SCP YNP webinars yet held for interested parties, as scheduled for the end of project Year 3.	At the end of project Year 2 / beginning of Year 3, we will commence planning of the webinars, for different actors at the local, national and international levels to be involved.
Output indicator 4.4. By project end, ≥2 postgraduate students from Universidad Nacional Agraria receive training in SCP and related social science methods. (Baseline: 0 students trained on SCP approach. Target: ≥2 students (≥1 woman)).	2 undergraduate students (1 man, 1 woman – at UNIAV) have received initial training on SCP during Y1.	Follow-up sessions will be held with UNIAV thesis students starting in April 2025. The training of these students in SCP will be continued by the Fauna & Flora team of Nicaragua and the UK IWT specialist.

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe

Note to reviewer: the originally submitted logframe contained standard indicator numbers from the now superseded standard indicator guidance. Therefore, the old standard indicator numbers have been deleted from the project logframe, and the updated standard indicators for the project are set out in Annex 3.

Minor changes are highlighted in red also.

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Yellow-naped parrot populations in Nicaragua are secure, protected by targeted, inclusive, evidence-based crime prevention actions that deter IWT, complement existing law enforcement efforts, and contribute to poverty reduction			
Outcome: By 2027, evidence-based crime prevention actions reduce threats to Critically Endangered yellow-naped parrots (YNP) from illegal poaching and trade on Ometepe Island.	0.1 By project end, conservation status of YNP on Ometepe Island remains stable or improving. (Baseline: 959 individuals counted in annual census, five-year average [2018-2022]; Target: ≥959 annual average across project). 0.2 By project end, reduction in % of nests poached, compared to 2020-2022 average poaching levels. (Baseline: 2020-2022 average 12% of monitored nests are poached (chicks or eggs removed); Target: <5% of monitored nests are poached.) 0.3 By project end, local communities perceive reduction in the number of people extracting YNP compared to 2023. (Baseline (2023): 70% respondents (n=50; ≥30% women) report knowing people extracting YNP.	0.1 Annual population census data. 0.2 Nest monitoring data (Camera trap images and nest inspection records) 0.3 In-person interviews with community members from six communities in Years 2 & 3; (disaggregated by gender, age group, stakeholder type, IWT behaviours).	Nicaragua experiences relative political stability and security throughout the life of the project. Covid-19, wildfires, hurricane events, and/or other unforeseen externalities do not significantly disrupt implementation of activities. Authorities and communities remain willing to participate. Poaching and trade trends within the YNP monitoring sample are representative of trends across all YNP nests/nesting areas in Ometepe. The project successfully integrates gender considerations in its design, such that neither women nor men experience any barriers to participation.

	Target: 50% respondents (n=100; ≥30% women) or fewer report knowing people extracting YNP (Y3).)		
Outputs: 1. Implementation of nest surveillance programme, supported by collaborative patrols, increases the perceived risks associated with engaging in poaching YNP eggs or chicks from nests. *[SCP technique = B7. Make it harder for individuals to feel unnoticed]*[1]	1.1 By project mid-point, percentage of YNP nesting trees monitored for wildlife crime using camera systems. (Baseline: 0 trees with camera monitoring; Target: ≥75% of known active nesting trees monitored by cameras by end Y1 (approximately 40 trees)). 1.2 By project end, ≥50% of surveyed community members (target sample ≥100 people, ≥50% women) perceive increased risk associated with YNP poaching, compared to Y1. (Baseline: to be established in Y1. Target: ≥50% of respondents by end Y3.) 1.3 Across Y1-Y3 of the project, patrols by Biometepe and community members during YNP nesting season, cover an average of ≥1,700ha and conduct monthly community engagement activities. (Baseline: Average of 1,700ha patrol coverage across 6 communities during nesting season (average 2020-2022), no current community engagement activities Target: ≥1,700ha covered by patrols in each nesting season, with community engagement activities reported at least monthly.)	1.1 Map, GPS points and unique identifiers of installed camera systems 1.2 In-person community interview data (disaggregated by age group, gender and stakeholder type) 1.3 Patrol records (average number frequency of patrols per month, frequency of community interactions, engagement activities)	Current, positive attitudes towards the implementation of crime prevention strategies locally are maintained at local and national levels. Camera systems are suitable and durable in the terrain, and cameras are not subject to vandalism or theft. Local communities and visitors to the area will be informed of the presence of cameras through signage at key access points. Data will be stored with restricted access and password protected following strict data management protocols as agreed among partners. Imagery from cameras will obfuscate the location to avoid providing information to poachers. Images of people will be removed from the dataset, or appropriately anonymised by masking or blurring faces. There are sufficient resources and funding allocated by government

			authorities to support community patrols. Community interview samples are large enough to be representative of overall trends.
2. Improved law enforcement capacity leads to greater likelihood of detection of YNP chick trafficking at exit ports, thus increasing the effort required to engage in IWT. *[SCP technique = A3. Screen exits leading away from target species]*	2.1 By end of Y1, best practice guidance on detection and seizure of IWT products relevant to Ometepe (inc. YNP) is published in English and Spanish languages and available to law enforcement. (Baseline: No best practice guide exists. Target: >1 guide published and endorsed by end Y1.) 2.2 By the end of Y1, ≥8 law enforcement personnel, working at four priority ports/checkpoints in Ometepe Island, undergo training in wildlife legislation, detection and seizure management. (Baseline: No training delivered to law enforcement in Ometepe. Target: ≥8 staff trained by Y1 (of whom ≥25% women)). 2.3 By Y2, four priority checkpoints (ferry ports, Moyogalpa & San Jose, and road intersections, Santa Cruz & El Quino) on Ometepe are recording and detecting illegal wildlife products/shipments. (Baseline: 0 illegal wildlife products reported (2023).	2.1 Best practice guidance document (field manual for IWT screening). 2.2 Training attendance list, training materials and report (disaggregated by gender, age group, stakeholder group); training materials e.g. species ID guides, best practices for IWT monitoring 2.3 Quarterly screening and seizure reports from national police, covering two ferry ports and two road intersections	Government authorities remain willing to participate and to allocate adequate funding and human resources. Effective exit screening and signage will deter crime due to the perception of increased effort and increased risk of being detected/caught. Illegal wildlife trade is not displaced to other transportation routes. There is effective coordination among different law enforcement agencies. More effective law enforcement will, in time, increase the risk of being caught and may deter some poaching from taking place in the first place. This is expected to influence seizure numbers over time, but likely not during the life of this project. Official reports on IWT seizures owned by National Police are shared with partners, and data is

	Target: Increase in number of cases reported by Y3.) 2.4 By project end, number of IWT cases for yellow-naped parrot and other threatened species handed to police for investigation from checkpoints increases compared to Y1. (Baseline: No cases resulting from checkpoint inspections handed to police. Target: Increase in number of cases reported in Y2 and Y3.)	2.4 National police data/reports.	only shared and used for its intended purpose. Corruption does not undermine the ability of law enforcement officers to record data accurately or influence officers to engage in IWT.
3. Individuals involved in illegally taking YNP chicks and eggs from nests are less provoked to engage in IWT as a result of inclusively designed community activities, complemented by targeted messaging *[SCP technique = D19. Neutralise and harness peer pressure]*	3.1 By end of Y2, ≥20 individuals from target group (young males 14-22) participate in pilot testing of co-designed activities. (Baseline: No pilot activity available. Target: ≥20 people involved in new pilot activity during Y2.) 3.2 At end of Y2, ≥50% of pilot participants state willingness to continue participation after pilot and indicate reduced motivation to engage in YNP nest poaching. (Baseline: To be established in Y2, at start of pilot activity. Target: ≥50% report positive changes against metrics of positive change.) 3.3. In Y2 and Y3, Ometepe-based social media channels disseminates YNP conservation messaging, which	3.1. Course attendance records (disaggregated by gender, age group, stakeholder group) 3.2 Paper feedback forms pre- and post- pilot; (disaggregated by gender, age group, stakeholder group)	Members of target group are receptive and interested to participate in focus groups, workshops and ensuing pilot test Follow up funding to scale-up pilot in line with agreed strategy is secured by either Fauna & Flora or Biometepe by project end

	is also promoted via community sports events. (Baseline: No campaigns related to YNP conservation via Ometepe-linked social media or sports events. Target: ≥1 social media campaign delivered, reaching ≥2,000 people, with ≥1 sports event carrying YNP conservation message annually.)	3.3. Dissemination records from social media channel (Facebook). Disaggregated by month/year, tracking number of impressions, reach. Photographic records from community events.	
4. Situational Crime Prevention approach to reducing illegal YNP trade is supported by dissemination of project learning to municipal and national-level authorities and research bodies.	4.1 By end of Y3, ≥1 descriptive case study published and disseminated documenting the use of SCP for YNP conservation in Nicaragua **(**Baseline: 0 case studies exist for SCP in Nicaragua: Target: One case study published and disseminated in English and Spanish, via relevant online platforms.) 4.2 By project end, ≥36 decision makers from key institutions working on wildlife trade (MARENA, national police, Universidad Nacional Agraria) attend project briefing events in Ometepe, Rivas and Managua (Baseline: 0 individuals engaged outside Ometepe. Target: ≥36 (≥12 women). 4.3. By project end, ≥100 people representing conservation organisations, policymakers, practitioners and donors attend webinars on the use of SCP to prevent YNP poaching in Nicaragua. (Baseline: 0 people reached, 0 webinars held on Nicaragua SCP.	4.1 Case study document; dissemination records (number of clicks, downloads). 4.2 Event attendee report (disaggregated by gender, types of decision-makers) 4.3. Webinar viewing data (disaggregated by gender, country, live/catch-up views)	Staff turnover among project partners remains low, enabling knowledge to be retained throughout the project and beyond. Other conservation actors remain interested to learn and engage with IWT prevention strategies. Interest in employing SCP to prevent IWT exists and grows in Nicaragua.

	Target: ≥100 online attendees at ≥2 webinars by end Y3.) 4.4 By project end, ≥2 undergraduate students from Universidad Nacional Agraria receive training in SCP and related social science methods. (Baseline: 0 students trained on SCP approach. Target: ≥2 students (≥1 woman)).	4.4 Research agreements with universities, data, progress reports/updates.	

Activities

Output 1 Implementation of nest surveillance programme, supported by collaborative patrols, increases the perceived risks associated with engaging in poaching YNP eggs or chicks from nests.

1.1 Identify priority locations (nesting trees vulnerable to poaching) for installation of cameras in collaboration with MARENA (Y1)

1.2 Procure, install, monitor and maintain cameras on 40 YNP nesting trees (Y1)

1.3 Create and install signage at key access points to raise awareness of cameras and inform local community of ongoing surveillance to deter the illegal activity (Y1)

1.4 Process, store and analyse camera footage to track frequency, and spatial and temporal patterns, of nest poaching, following agreed data management and privacy protocols (Y1-3)

1.5 Maintain patrol programme across YNP habitat areas by Biometepe & community leaders with support from MARENA (Y1-3)

1.6. Expand monthly patrols with MARENA and national police to include visits to six communities to raise awareness of wildlife legislation/risks associated with poaching (Y1-3)

1.7. Conduct interviews with at least 100 community members to monitor and evaluate changes in awareness, perceptions of illegal activity. and perceptions of the project's intervention (Y2 and Y3)

Output 2 Improved law enforcement capacity leads to greater likelihood of detection of YNP chick trafficking at exit ports, thus increasing the effort required to engage in IWT.

2.1 Conduct competency assessment with port authorities and police to understand IWT enforcement and monitoring capacity/training needs at four priority ports and road checkpoints (Y1)

2.2 Develop best practice guides and deliver training to ≥eight enforcement officers covering: national wildlife trade & CITES legislation, IWT seizure data collection/processing, handling seized goods, data analysis (Y1-Y2)

2.3 Provide technical support to trained enforcement officers to collect IWT seizure data; create and promulgate relevant Standardized Operating Procedures. (Y2-Y3)

2.4 Deploy signage at priority ports and road checkpoints highlighting legislation related to illegal wildlife trade to raise awareness among port and road users (Y2)

2.5 Facilitate biannual meetings between MARENA, national police, navy representatives, Fauna & Flora and Biometepe to review IWT trends and integrate data into management decisions (Y2-Y3)

2.6 Repeat competency needs assessment of enforcement officers to evaluate impact of training and changes in competency levels (Y3)

Output 3. Individuals involved in illegally taking YNP chicks and eggs from nests are less provoked to engage in IWT as a result of inclusively designed community activities, complemented by targeted messaging.

3.1 Conduct focus group discussions with target audience (young males) to further explore the motivations driving tree-climbing to poach YNP, and co-design ideas for alternative activities. (Y1).

3.2 Hold workshop with community leaders and Biometepe to share evidence from previous IWTEV005 evidence grant and activity 3.1 to co-develop activities for pilot testing. (Y1)

3.3 Pilot agreed test activities (e.g. climbing competitions, sports events, eco-tourist guide training) with ≥20 young males. Evaluate impact on attitudes and behaviours associated with poaching (Y2)

3.4 Apply findings from pilot to develop strategy for scaling up activity among wider group of individuals at risk from IWT participation (Y3)

3.5 Deliver complementary YNP conservation-focused messaging aimed at the same target group and their households, disseminated through social media and in-person sports events(Y2/3)

Output 4 Situational Crime Prevention approach to reducing illegal YNP trade is supported by dissemination of project learning to municipal and national-level authorities and research bodies.

Activity 4.1 Hold regional and national events to disseminate project findings, involving local partner Anahuac in Rivas municipality, local and national environmental authorities, national universities and police (Y3)

4.2 Create and disseminate case study in the use of SCP to implement deterrents to illegal wildlife trade of YNP in Nicaragua, through online publication and webinars (Y3)

4.3. Train two undergraduate students in SCP approaches, crime scripting and social science techniques; support students to conduct research and learning activities linked to project (Y2-Y3)

M&E activities linked to project outcome indicators:

Outcome: By 2027, evidence-based crime prevention actions reduce threats to Critically Endangered yellow-naped parrots (YNP) from illegal poaching and trade on Ometepe Island.

0.1 Conduct annual census of free-flying YNP population in Ometepe (Y1,2,3)
0.2 Monitor levels of nesting poaching by triangulating data from physical nest inspections and analysis of camera trap images) (Y1, Y2, Y3)
0.3 Evaluate changes in individual perceptions of YNP nest poaching intensity through interview programme across 6 communities (Y2 and Y3)

Project management activities:

X.1 Establish Project Steering Committee (mid-point Y1), hold ≥twice yearly meetings (Y1-Y3) (Fauna & Flora, Biometepe, government representatives including MARENA) to ensure effective communication and adaptive project management.
X.2 Create grievance mechanism (mid-point Y1), managed by nominated and trained staff within Fauna & Flora, for project stakeholders to have concerns documented and addressed.

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, scheme, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and **deleted the blue guidance text** before submission?	Y
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the subject line.	Y
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please consider the best way to submit. One zipped file, or a download option is recommended. We can work with most online options and will be in touch if we have a problem accessing material. If unsure, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Y
Have you provided an updated risk register? If you have an existing risk register you should provide an updated version alongside your report. If your project was funded prior to this being a requirement, you are encouraged to develop a risk register.	Y
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 17)?	NA
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Y
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Y
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	