

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

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

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

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### IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Scheme (Main or Extra)	Main
Project reference	IWT 135
Project title	Combating IWT: Strengthening Partnerships and Promoting Resiliency of Local Communities
Country/ies	Nepal
Lead Organisation	Zoological Society of London
Project partner(s)	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Himalayan Nature (HN)
IWTCF grant value	£585,096.00
Start/end dates of project	From 01/08/2024 to 31/03/2027
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	Dr. Bhagawan Raj Dahal
Project website/blog/social media	
Report author(s) and date	<b>Maheshwor Basnet (ZSL)</b> , Arjun Bhusal (ZSL), Asmita Pandey (ZSL), Bishal Koirala (Himalayan Nature)

### 1. Project summary

Nepal's geographic location nestled between China and India, two major demand markets for wildlife products further exacerbates its role as a strategic conduit for the smuggling of wildlife and wildlife derivatives (*Annex 4.1.1, 4.1.2*). Despite substantial conservation efforts and legal frameworks, enforcement challenges remain significant in Nepal. Factors such as porous borders, limited institutional capacity and socio-economic pressures contribute to Nepal's ongoing vulnerability to illegal wildlife trade (IWT). Transnational criminal networks exploit these weaknesses, using Nepalese territory to traffic wildlife sourced both domestically and from neighbouring countries (*Annex 4.1.3, 4.1.4*).

The Tribeni area, located within the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL), is one of the most ecologically significant transboundary regions in Nepal, supporting a diverse array of high-value wildlife species, including tigers, rhinoceroses, gharials, and elephants. Tribeni's ecological importance is heightened by its strategic position along vital wildlife corridors that connect Nepal's protected area, Chitwan National Park (CNP) with those in neighbouring countries such as India. These corridors are essential for the free movement of wildlife, enabling species to migrate, breed, and maintain genetic diversity across a broader landscape. However, the same features also make it vulnerable to exploitation by poachers and traffickers. As a result, Tribeni has emerged as a critical node in the regional IWT network, where the convergence of wildlife corridors and smuggling routes facilitates the illegal trade which was also identified by the previous project on IWT (IWT 099). Impoverished and indigenous communities motivated with income associated with such crime often underestimate the risk involved and scale of sanction for such offence (Poudel, Potter, &

Phelps, 2020). Thus, the lack of diversified livelihood options and awareness of the implications of IWT are major drivers of IWT that need addressing. This is especially relevant for our project communities living in and around the buffer zone of protected areas. The identification of these issues was guided by the field assessments, crime data analysis, and collaboration with local stakeholders, which highlighted Tribeni's strategic importance and vulnerability. The beneficiaries for the project are the household across four communities of two Buffer Zone Users Committees (BZUCs) of CNP namely Shivapurgadi and Tribeni villages of Tribeni BZUC and Baguban and Tamaspur villages of Daunne Devi BZUC (*Figure 1*). The beneficiaries were identified through well-being ranking (*Annex 4.1.5*) carried out as part of planned baseline survey. The wellbeing helped the project team to identify and prioritise the participation of the most vulnerable and marginalized households across the project sites, considering their financial situation, levels of HWC, and proximity to forests. The project will benefit a total of 450 community people over a three-year period by assisting them to adopt sustainable agricultural practices, improved animal husbandry, agroforestry, eco-tourism and other sustainable livelihood interventions through skills development, market research and material supports.

The anticipated impact of the project includes disrupting the transboundary trafficking networks by strengthening law enforcement, enhancing surveillance, and improving coordination with local and cross-border authorities and increased community stewardship through alternative livelihood opportunities and awareness programs. It also tackles human-wildlife conflict (HWC), which is a major contributor to IWT, particularly in communities like Tribeni where losses of crops and livestock often push locals toward poaching, especially under the influence of traffickers.

## **2. Project stakeholders/ partners**

To ensure effective coordination and implementation of project activities, ZSL Nepal established a two-tiered institutional structure comprising a Project Coordination Committee (PCC) at the central level and a Project Management Unit (PMU) at the park/field level. The PCC, chaired by the Deputy Director General of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), includes section heads from DNPWC and senior representatives from ZSL Nepal, while the PMU is chaired by the Senior Conservation Officer of Chitwan National Park (CNP), with representatives from ZSL Nepal, Himalayan Nature (HN)-implementing partner, and local government as invitees. These bodies have provided strategic direction, oversight, and timely resolution of issues through regular discussions (*Annex 4.2.1, 4.2.2a*). On 30 August 2024, ZSL Nepal conducted a PCC meeting to share information about the project and to get their formal approval to start project implementation (*Annex 4.2.1*) followed by a PMU meeting on 18 September 2024, marking the start of project implementation in the CNP buffer zone (*Annex 4.2.2a*). Further PMU was held at the end of the year one to inform the progress made by the project and guided project to intervene in the issues of Human wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation such as renovation of existing electric fencing and facilitate in strengthening the quick relief mechanism that provide immediate relief to the victim in the occurrence of any incident related to human injury and casualty (*Annex 4.2.2b*). Additionally, meetings with local governments namely Binay-Tribeni Rural Municipality and Madhya Bindu Municipality were held on 16 and 18 September 2024 (*Annex 4.2.3a*), during which ZSL Nepal obtained consent from the respective local government (municipality) to proceed with activities in their areas (*Annex 4.2.3b*).

Following the successful completion of the stakeholder inception process, ZSL convened an inception meeting with the project partner to introduce the project concept, with a focus on the logical framework, key targets, deliverables, safeguarding, financial compliance to be observed through the project and requirements for evidence documentation on 21 October 2024 (*Annex 4.2.4*). Further as part of the broader project familiarization efforts, community-level inception meetings were conducted at the field level on 28 October 2024, 25 and 26 November 2024 (*Annex 4.2.5*). These sessions served to introduce the project to local stakeholders and community, ensuring that community members were informed about the project objectives, planned activities, expected outcomes, and their roles in the implementation process.

## **3. Project progress**

### **3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities**

**Output 1: Nepali law enforcement (LE) agencies' capacity and capabilities to combat IWT strengthened, including improved investigative, enforcement, prosecution, and judicial capacity and capabilities, and human rights during arrest and detention ensured.**

Output 1 aims to build the prosecutorial and judicial capacities of law enforcement agencies (LEA) in Nepal by providing specialized training while ensuring adherence to human rights standards during detention and investigation processes and facilitating experience-sharing initiatives focused on best practices for building successful court cases, thereby reinforcing the overall legal response to IWT in Nepal.

**Activity 1.1 Conduct trainings for law enforcement agencies and other relevant actors on different elements of wildlife crime investigation, trafficking and their role in its prevention.**

To strengthen the capacity of Nepal's Law Enforcement (LE) officers in combating IWT, a comprehensive five-day training was conducted from 9–14 December 2024. Facilitated by 13 national and international experts with substantial experience in wildlife crime enforcement and prosecution, the training covered 23 sessions designed to build both theoretical knowledge and practical skills (*Annex 4.3.1*). Among the 24 participants, 16.7% were women, and 41.7% were mid-career professionals actively engaged in enforcement and management roles. The training was planned through collaborative consultations with the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) and the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN), ensuring alignment on goals and content (*Annex 4.3.2, 4.3.3*).

Key components included mock crime scene exercises led by WCCB India and local experts, providing participants with hands-on experience in evidence collection and case preparation, in line with legal protocols (*Annex 4.3.1*). A specialized session on trophy identification held at the Chitwan National Park introduced participants to forensic techniques for classifying wildlife contraband, supported by practical demonstrations from forensic experts (*Annex 4.3.4*). Participants also developed and presented mock cases, receiving direct feedback from district attorneys, judges, park authorities, and WCCB focal points, enhancing their understanding of judicial processes and prosecution standards. The program yielded an impressive 86% increase in average scores from pre- to post-training assessments, reflecting a substantial knowledge gain (*Annex 4.3.5a, 4.3.5b*). Discussions during the training surfaced several systemic enforcement challenges, including the absence of provincial forensic labs, limited resources, evolving IWT routes, lack of awareness among customs officials, and inconsistent case handling across regions. A draft protocol for forensic sample submission was also introduced, with the need for formal endorsement emphasized to support nationwide implementation. Participants evaluated the program as a vital step toward building a stronger enforcement network in IWT-prone regions. The training laid a solid foundation for future capacity building, particularly in emerging areas such as cybercrime and financial investigations related to wildlife crime.

**Activity 1.3 Facilitate to conduct workshop for LE officers on upholding human rights during arrest and detention.**

Recognizing the importance of respecting and protecting human rights during law enforcement operations, a specialized workshop was organized on 13 December 2024 to promote the integration of human rights principles into conservation-related practices which was attended by the 39 LE officials (38 Male, 1 Female) (*Annex 4.4.1, 4.4.3*). The event specifically aimed at strengthening the knowledge and application of these principles among key stakeholders, including conservation officers, criminal investigators, prosecutors, security forces (Nepal Police, Nepal Army, Armed Police Force, Armed Forest Guards) and wildlife protection personnel. Key areas of focus included international treaties and conventions, relevant Nepalese legal provisions, and international human rights standards. Participants gained valuable insights into the protection of human rights during investigation and prosecution, supported by key Supreme Court decisions (*Annex 4.4.2*). Discussions emphasized the importance of adopting a stronger rights-based approach in both conservation policymaking and field operations.

**Output 2: Increased coordination between enforcement agencies at district, province, national and transnational level has created an integrated approach to combat wildlife crime.**

Output 2 seeks to map and analyze the supply chain of illicit wildlife commodities, promote information sharing platform, cross-border cooperation and the initiative to build an integrated enforcement framework that enhances the effectiveness of efforts to detect, prevent, and prosecute wildlife crimes.

**Activity 2.1 Study, identify and reflect the supply chain of illegal wildlife commodities in five SAWEN member countries**

To conduct the supply chain of IWT in five SAWEN countries, multi-disciplinary approach combining both qualitative and quantitative data collection tools and data mining strategies covering ecology, social sciences, decision science and economics were used. A stakeholder consultation was conducted using an online questionnaire targeting representatives from forest departments, law enforcement agencies, customs officials, wildlife conservation organizations, and local communities in Nepal, India, and Bangladesh. The SAWEN Secretariat facilitated outreach to identified respondents to ensure timely survey completion. The survey addressed multiple dimensions of IWT, including its key drivers, enforcement challenges, and potential mitigation strategies. As scheduled, the final report will be shared among national and international stakeholders to reflect the supply chain of IWT in Year 2 (*Annex 4.5.1, 4.5.2*) (*Report available upon request*).

**Activity 2.4 Facilitate annual information sharing workshop through WCCB among central level LE agencies and park authorities tackling against the illicit wildlife trafficking.**

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance inter-agency coordination in combating illicit wildlife trafficking, an annual information-sharing workshop was successfully facilitated under the leadership of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) on 28 March 2025. The workshop brought together 59 key stakeholders from central-level law enforcement agencies including Nepal Police, post office, Aviation authority, Armed Police Force, Nepal Army, Customs Department, and the National Investigation Department as well as representatives from the DNPWC (*Annex 4.6.1*). The event provided a structured platform for reviewing recent trends in wildlife crime, sharing intelligence and case studies, and identifying systemic challenges in enforcement and prosecution. The workshop reaffirmed the institutional framework, roles, and responsibilities of key agencies engaged in wildlife crime control as outlined in the Wildlife Crime Control Regulation, 2024. It emphasized the operational structure of National Wildlife Crime Control Coordination Committee (NWCCCC), Central Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (CWCCB), newly formed Province Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (PWCCB), Wildlife Crime Control Bureau at district level. These provincial units have been provisioned under Nepal's new federal governance system to strengthen regional coordination, enforcement, and intelligence sharing.

Additionally, the workshop highlighted the importance of mobilizing and strengthening WCCB units at the province and district levels. To this end, a resolution was adopted to establish functional networks of newly established provincial and district-level WCCBs that are aligned with the central strategy and supported through capacity-building initiatives.

**Activity 2.6 Support Park to deploy spy cameras in wildlife crime hotspots with information/database hosted by JOC and shared with WCCB**

As a part of the project efforts to combat IWT by enhancing real time monitoring capabilities of the Chitwan National Park (CNP), 20 set of GSM-enabled camera (Spy camera) were procured and handed over to the CNP which were strategically deployed at IWT sensitive zones within CNP and its buffer zone (*Annex 4.7.1*) from December 2024. These locations were identified through threat assessments as historical poaching and human movement areas and intelligence gathered from local enforcement units and community-based networks. The operation was carried out in close coordination with the Joint Operations Centre (JOC) of CNP, which serves as the central hub for monitoring and information relay and action to any identified threat. To further strengthen field-level response and situational awareness, the JOC was equipped with essential gear, including GPS, high resolution binoculars, water bottle, sleeping bag and LCD screen. The discreet nature of the spy cameras has allowed enforcement personnel to document unauthorized movements and potential poaching incidents without compromising operational secrecy. During these four months of deployment, ten images indicating potential illegal activities was shared by JOC to WCCB out of which one image is still under investigation (*Annex 4.7.2, 4.7.3*). Besides, minor offence images have also been received that included collection of firewood, fodder and grazing (*Annex 4.7.2*). The deployment also supports ongoing data collection for long-term analysis of wildlife crime trends and the effectiveness of surveillance interventions.

**Activity 2.7 Share the information hosted by JOC to WCCB (semi-annually)**

This year ZSL supported the systematic sharing of data from GSM enabled camera deployed for identifying illegal activities that are covertly and strategically deployed in the IWT sensitive area within CNP and its

buffer zone. Since, CNP area falls in Chitwan and Makwanpur district, two sharing meetings were organized at respective WCCB on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 30 March 2025 (*Annex 4.8.1*).

Information collected from GSM-enabled cameras such as movement patterns, unauthorized human presence was compiled, analyzed, and shared with WCCB of the respective districts. During the information-sharing event with the WCCB, the 24/7 functionality of the JOC was highlighted as a key asset in strengthening the response to the wildlife crime. The insights derived from these camera feeds are instrumental in shaping proactive enforcement strategies. They help in identifying and prioritizing high-risk zones, refining patrol planning, and fostering timely inter-agency coordination.

**Activity 2.8 Establish intelligence sharing mechanism between CBAPU members and Park authority (communication system set up, quarterly meetings/ connect to JOC).**

Community Based Anti-Poaching Unit (CBAPU) are voluntary community-based organizations, working in frontline with LE officers in reduction of wildlife related crime and management of human-wildlife conflict. Being the community-based organization, CBAPU can gather intel which could be instrumental for concern agencies to tackle illegal wildlife trade incidences. With the goal of establishing intelligence sharing mechanism, we conducted two meeting between national park officers and CBAPU members, one in each Tribeni BZUC and Daunedevi BZUC. In meeting with CBAPU of Tribeni BZUC, 11 CBAPU members, 1 park official and 1 BZUC member were present. While in meeting with CBAPU of Daunedevi BZUC, 16 CBAPU members, 4 park officials and 2 BZUC representatives were present (*Annex 4.9.1, 4.9.2, 4.9.3*). During meetings, discussions was made on potential use of digital information sharing mechanisms including messaging apps on rapid information sharing of IWT and HWC related information. Both parties agreed to initiate the digital information sharing through creating group on WhatsApp, a free messaging app, that enables users to share text, photo, video or voice messages. Group will be formally established in next meeting, after taking permission from CNP.

**Activity 2.9 Initiate community level information sharing mechanism between Nepal and India through common digital platform (information received from community will feed to WCCB both countries via WCCB Nepal/Park warden)**

With the goal of initiating community level information sharing mechanisms through common digital platform between Nepal and India, we conducted meetings with park officials and community-based conservation organization members of Chitwan National Park of Nepal and Valmiki Tiger Reserve of India on 2 February 2025 (*Annex 4.10.2*). Total of 28 participants (27 males, 1 female) attended the workshop, representing the National Park, BZUC, BZCFs, and Nepal Police from Nepal, as well as Valmiki Tiger Reserve and the Eco-Development Committee from India (*Annex 4.10.1*). Officials of both sides discussed on transboundary issues they are facing and potential of using community-based mechanisms in information sharing. They agreed to form a WhatsApp group of community members and park officials of both sides. For that, they will finalize the target community individuals initially, get permission from respective sides and form social media group in next meeting that is scheduled as agreed every quarter.

**Output 3: Community resilience to human-wildlife conflict (HWC) has been strengthened and human-wildlife coexistence (HWCx) promoted, fostering site-based stewardship and reducing a driver of IWT in three key villages within the Chitwan-Parsa complex**

Through the Output 3, we aim to reduce Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) by investing in community-led stewardship models that ensure sustainable coexistence between people and wildlife.

**Activity 3.1. Produce HWC hotspot maps and validate through community and stakeholders' workshops.**

Hotspot mapping helps to identify patterns in the types of conflicts such as crop damage, livestock predation, or human casualties, which vary by species and location. It also reveals the underlying factors driving the conflict, such as habitat loss, population pressures, or inadequate infrastructure. With such information, conservation strategies can be tailored to the specific needs of each area, whether through physical barriers like fencing, alternative livelihood programs, or community-based management, thus ZSL produced a hotspot map of the project site (*Annex 4.11.1*). During the four community consultations (*Annex 4.11.2*) and three key informant interviews, wild boar was ranked the most problematic wildlife after which nilgai (locally known as Ghodros) was ranked the second most problematic animals. The Rhesus Macaque was ranked third and the extent of their problem extends from farms and villages in the fringes of forest to the bazar areas mainly in Tribeni Bazar. Besides these animals people also reported that porcupines and peacocks are also causing crop damage. In case of livestock depredation, leopard is the major problem causing wildlife while tiger has been reported to kill the domesticated animals occasionally. In addition, jackals and other small wild cats are also reported to kill mainly the chickens and ducks.

Most of the participants also reported the seasonal variation in HWC incidents. While the wild pig causes problems mainly in rainy season, blue bull (nilgai) and monkey create nuisances year-round. Leopard

causes problems mainly in the winter season. Participants explicitly suggested mesh wire fencing around the village and farms. Construction of predator proof corral was also suggested. Local community members suggested the promotion of alternative income generation activities such as skilled based jobs would reduce the local's dependency on forest and help reduce HWC (*Full report available upon request*).

**Activity 3.2 Assess the capacity of the communities on animal behaviour, including avoidance strategies specifically targeting the identified vulnerable groups.**

Conflicts, particularly in areas bordering protected wildlife habitats, can escalate when local communities lack awareness of animal behaviour or strategies to minimize encounters with potentially dangerous wildlife. Vulnerable groups, including women, children, elderly, and marginalized communities, are often disproportionately affected by human-wildlife conflicts and require targeted strategies to ensure their safety. It is crucial for people to understand animal behaviour, as many attacks occur due to a lack of knowledge about how wildlife interacts with humans. Hence to evaluate the knowledge, awareness, and preparedness of community members especially within identified vulnerable groups regarding animal behaviour and effective avoidance strategies, a study was conducted in November 2024 (*Annex 4.12*). The

**Box:1 A Close Encounter with a Rhino: A Lesson from the Schoolyard**

I recall an incident from when I was in 7th or 8th grade. A rhino came into the school yard, and we tried to chase it away. Rhinos are large animals, and I thought a tractor needed space to turn. From 200 meters away, the rhino turned around as we approached. We were on the riverbank and couldn't escape. We lay down flat on the ground, 16 of us. One of our friends, who was wearing a white shirt, took off his shirt and threw it away. The white shirt was trampled by the rhino and torn apart. Thankfully, nothing else happened to us. It is important to note that rhinos seem to be drawn to white clothing at night and red clothing during the day, so one should be careful about what to wear when going into the forest.

findings are intended to guide the development of targeted interventions that enhance community safety and resilience in areas prone to human-wildlife interactions (*Full report available upon request*). The study revealed that the community people use tin cans, shouts, and lights to scare away animals that come into the fields. Although they have tried to scare away wild animals that come into the fields by bursting firecrackers, the army has stopped bursting firecrackers to scare away wild animals after one of the residents of Shivapurgadhi was caught by the army while bursting firecrackers to scare away nilgai (Blue bull) that came into the fields. People lack awareness that Rhinos are known to attack people wearing white clothes at night and red clothes during the day. Additionally, some locals resort to setting traps and using poison, although such practices have decreased due to stricter enforcement by the park authorities. People are also not much aware of the common signs and marks left by the wild animals such as footprints, scratch marks, dung or territorial demarcation by the animals.

**Activity 3.3 Carry out community workshops in the identified conflict hotspots to provide knowledge on animal behaviour, including avoidance strategies specifically targeting the identified vulnerable groups**

With the aim of enhancing the knowledge of local people on human-wildlife conflict mitigation and avoidance strategies, two one-day workshops were conducted in Binaya Tribeni-6, Tribeni village of Tribeni settlement, and Sahumara village of Shivapurgadhi settlement in Tribeni BZUC of CNP on 7 and 15 December 2024, respectively (*Annex 4.13.1, 4.13.2*). Total of 109 community members (48% women, 72% indigenous and disadvantage group) were sensitized about behaviour of wild animals that pose threats to humans and are frequently observed in the villages, such as tigers, bears, rhinoceroses, leopards, and crocodiles, common signs and marks left by these animals, such as footprints, scratch marks, dung, or territorial markings, to help recognize their presence in the vicinity, avoidance strategies to follow when encountering these animals and safety ways to prevent the possible encounter while going in to the forest. Additionally, participants received awareness session on snake bites, including first aid procedures, dos and don'ts in case of a bite, common myths, and how to distinguish between venomous and non-venomous snakes. This component was particularly crucial for the project communities, as the site lies in Nepal's lowland region an area where venomous snakes are commonly found, and their bites pose significant threat due to limited treatment facility.

**Activity 3.4 Facilitate to institutionalise effective equitable HWC mitigation committee from existing CBAPU of BZUCs/CFUG to manage all HWC mitigation activities to ensure long-term sustainability of interventions**

This year, the project established HWC mitigation committees at the BZUC level within the project area specifically in Tribeni BZUC on December 13, 2024, and in Dauune Devi BZUC on January 9, 2025 (*Annex 4.14.1*). Each committee consists of 11 members including representatives from the buffer zone community forests (BZCF), the respective BZUC, and the Community-Based Anti-Poaching Unit (CBAPU) (*Annex*

4.14.2, 4.14.3). These committees were formed to create dedicated groups of community members who will take the lead in addressing local HWC issues by developing and implementing site-specific mitigation plans over the long term. As the project enters its second year, these committees will be gradually equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively carry out their mitigation strategies.

**Activity 3.5 Facilitate the HWC committees to develop HWC plan and obtain local agreement on locally appropriate HWC mitigation measures utilising current and traditional knowledge.**

Understanding the local context of HWC, the extent of conflict, locally conflict-causing wild animals, traditional HWC mitigation methods, conflict hotspots, local needs and potential mitigation strategies is important for adopting successful HWC mitigation strategies and maintaining coexistence between humans and wildlife. With this objective, locally tailored HWC mitigation plans have been developed for the Tribeni BZUC and Daunne Devi BZUC. In February 2025, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were held with key stakeholders, including park authorities, BZUCs, BZCFs, CBAPUs, local government representatives, the HWC sub-committee formed under the project, and community members (*Annex 4.15.2*). that explored the severity of conflicts, primary conflict-causing site-specific species, traditional mitigation approaches, shortcomings in past efforts, and possible new strategies. Drawing from these consultations and a review of relevant literature, a three-year HWC mitigation plan has been developed (*Annex 4.15.1*). The plan incorporates both species-specific interventions targeting key conflict-causing wildlife and broader strategies for managing human-wildlife conflict locally. Moving into the next year, efforts will focus on securing endorsement of the plan by the respective BZUCs, ensuring that it continues to support communities in addressing HWC challenges even beyond the project's duration.

**Activity 3.7 Support Predator Proof Coral (PPC) as pre-empted HWC mitigation measure**

In Year 1, 52 PPCs (34% belonging to women headed households and 96% belonging to indigenous and marginalized group) have been constructed at the project sites (10 PPC in Shivapurgadhi and 16 in Tribeni of Tribeni BZUC, and 26 in Baguban of Daunne Devi BZUC) (*Annex 4.16.2*) to protect livestock from wild animal attacks, reducing the likelihood of retaliatory killings. Beneficiaries were selected in consultation with local user committees, prioritizing economically disadvantaged, indigenous, and marginalized families, particularly those affected by human-wildlife conflict (*Annex 4.16.3*). All PPCs were constructed using standardized designs and dimensions (4m x 2.5m x 2.5m), under the technical supervision of a qualified engineer to ensure quality and durability. Of the total construction cost, the project contributed 52%, while the remaining 48% in average was contributed by the beneficiary themselves through in-kind support such as raw materials and labor. Regular field monitoring and site visits were conducted at all stages i.e., before, during, and after the construction to ensure proper implementation. Each PPC (4m x 2.5m x 2.5m) (*Annex 4.16.1*) has the capacity to securely house up to 18 goats, collectively rearing 373 goats by these households. With the establishment of PPCs, an estimated NPR 3,730,000 (£21,686) worth of livestock has been safeguarded from potential predation providing a significant contribution to the economic security of the rural communities thereby enabling a step towards coexistence.

Further, the project supported the maintenance of 10.2 kilometer (km) of electric fencing in Baguban (2.7 km) and Tamashpur (7.5 km). Extreme flood in September 2024 (after the project funding) destroyed the existing electric fencing of Baguban and Tamaspur. Since then, locals were facing intense crop raids from herbivores like One Horned Rhinoceros, Wild Boar, and deer species. Considering the urgency of situation, project supported maintenance of electric fencing of both settlements Baguban (2.7 km) and Tamashpur (7.5 km), showcasing the practice of adaptive management and accountability to the community needs (*Annex 4.16.4*) benefitting agricultural crops of 670 HHs. Moreover, NPR 200,000 was allocated to the Quick Relief Fund at Daunne Devi BZUC to ensure continued emergency support for HWC-affected households (*Annex 4.16.5*).

**Activity 3.9 Facilitate and support HWC learning centres within BZUC/BZCF structure (materials, drop-in sessions)**

In March 2025, a HWC Learning Center in the previously unused hall of the Tribeni BZUC was established (*Annex 4.17.1*). The hall was renovated and transformed into an interactive education hub which now houses a rich collection of materials, including books and brochures on HWC mitigation strategies, wildlife conservation, and relevant laws and policies for combating IWT, information on offences on IWT, mounted posters and slim light boards with illustrated guidance (*Annex 4.17.2*). Just 3 km from the core area of CNP and a gate way to the Tribeni dham (Gajendra Moksha dham), an important spiritual and pilgrimage site deeply revered by local and tourists especially from neighbouring India, offers a strategic location for such a learning hub. As the first initiative of its kind in the area, the center addresses a critical gap in education and outreach on IWT and wildlife conservation. The initiative has been warmly welcomed by key stakeholders, including Chitwan National Park, the BZUC, Buffer Zone Community Forests (BZCFs), Community-Based Anti-Poaching Units (CBAPUs), and local government bodies.



**Activity 3.10 Install information boards in public areas as schools, community centre, border crossings to create mass awareness on HWC and its mitigation, IWT and its implication**

This year, project installed information boards in entrance of two target communities: Baguban and Tamaspur (*Annex 4.18*). The information boards consisted of the strong conservation message, along with legal provisions and mechanisms against IWT. The information conveyed reinforces the message that illegal wildlife trade is a serious crime with legal consequences. Moreover, board serves as a continuous visual reminder for local communities highlighting the project's effort to curb wildlife trafficking in one of the Nepal's most active borders.

**Activity 3.11 Develop IEC material such as Audio visual, radio jingles, leaflets on HWC and its mitigation measures using local dialects**

In addition to the installation of hoarding board, audio visual IEC material such as animation video on compensation claim related to HWC and radio jingle highlighting key messages on wildlife crime and IWT were developed to further strengthen the project's outreach effort. The radio jingle will be aired 10 times a day via local FM radio station, Radio Kawasoti 102.6 Megahertz, that has covers 12 districts in Nepal and has about 80 thousand daily listeners (*Annex 4.19.1, 4.19.2*). Similarly, the animation video will be played at the community level outreach programmes serving as an engaging and accessible tool to educate local residents about the compensation claim process related to HWC. In addition to those activities, project contributed on mass dissemination of IWT reduction related messages to in 'Rhino Goldcup Football Competition', a local sporting event (*Annex 4.19.3*).

**Activity 3.12 Promotion of Renewal energy- e stoves to reduce wildlife- people encounter (assessment of current status/assessment of dependency).**

In the project communities, households rely heavily on forest resources particularly fuelwood for daily cooking needs. This unsustainable dependence contributes to habitat degradation, reduces food availability for wildlife, and increases the likelihood of human-wildlife encounters. To address this pressing issue and reduce pressure on forest ecosystems, the project provided energy-efficient electric stoves (e-stoves) and compatible cooking utensils to 80 households across four target communities (20 households per community, 85% of these beneficiaries belong to indigenous and marginalized groups) (*Annex 4.20.1, 4.20.2*). Beneficiaries were selected through a participatory process involving the respective BZUCs and BZCFs, using the project's wellbeing ranking index, a tool designed to prioritize households that are highly forest-dependent, economically vulnerable, and socially marginalized (*Annex 4.20.3*).

Following the selection of beneficiaries, a field assessment was carried out to validate household eligibility and examine infrastructure readiness, particularly the availability of safe electrical wiring necessary for operating the infrared e-stoves (*Annex 4.20.4*). The assessment revealed that 63 out of 80 households lacked adequate wiring, posing a significant barrier to the effective use of the provided technology. To ensure full functionality and equitable access, the project covered the cost of installing proper electrical wiring for these households. Furthermore, the field data underscored the intervention's potential impact: the selected households were collectively collecting approximately 11.4 tonnes of firewood each month solely for cooking. By introducing renewable energy solutions, the project is expected to significantly reduce fuelwood consumption in year ahead, thereby helping conserve wildlife habitats, lowering HWC risk and also helping to minimize the indoor air pollution ultimately safeguarding environmental and human health.

**Activity 3.13 Community level awareness programme on Illicit wildlife crime, trade and HWC and mitigation measures**

During the reporting period, two community level awareness programmes were carried out on 8 and 30 December 2024 benefitting 88 community members from Baguban and Tamaspur (32% women and 95% indigenous and marginalized group) (*Annex 4.21.1*). The event intended to empower local communities of Baguban and Tamaspur and stakeholders with knowledge of legal frameworks, practical mitigation strategies, and sustainable livelihood alternatives to foster coexistence and reduce conflicts. Additionally, the programs also provided information on laws and policies related to IWT, reporting mechanisms, major traded species, HWC mitigation, animal behavior and safety measures, recent updates on HWC relief guidelines and claim procedures, as well as venomous snake identification, and snakebite prevention and management.

**Output 4 Proven livelihood schemes have been implemented in three communities breaking the cycle of poverty and reducing community members' vulnerability to exploitation by poachers and illegal wildlife traders.**

Output 4 supports indigenous and marginalized community members of the project site in building resilient livelihoods by reducing their reliance on unsustainable practices and adding additional income stream to their household. This is achieved through the establishment of community banking schemes that provide



access to soft loans for initiating income-generating activities, capacity-building training to manage these activities effectively, and mechanisms to address grievances related to project implementation.

#### **Activity 4.1 Support communities to establish community banking cooperatives to promote alternative livelihood and community wellbeing**

This year, four community banking cooperatives were formed one in each project community. The community banking formation meetings were conducted on 8 January 2025 in Baguban, on 11 January 2025 in Tamaspur, on 19 January 2025 in Shivpurgadhi and on 26 January 2025 in Tribeni (*Annex 4.22.1*). Community banking in Baguban involved 100 members (58% women, 88% indigenous and marginalized group), 101 members (68% women, 98% indigenous and marginalized group) in Tamaspur, 84 members (74% women, 72% indigenous and marginalized group) in the Shivapurgadhi and 115 members (73% women and 83% indigenous and marginalized group) in the Tribeni, making a total of 400 member (64% women, 86% indigenous and marginalized group) across four newly established community banking cooperative (*Annex 4.22.2*). Member selection was informed by the wellbeing ranking scores carried out by the project and endorsed by the respective Buffer Zone User Committees BZUCs in each community. The newly formed community banking cooperatives have been named as i) Baguban: Baguban Alternative Livelihood Group (ALG), ii) Shivapurgadhi: Renamed as Sahumara Prasaiya ALG, iii) Tribeni: Tribeni ALG and iv) Tamaspur: Tamaspur ALG.

The cooperatives' bylaws were developed in alignment with the Livelihood Group Formation and Mobilization Guideline 2081 B.S., issued by Binay Tribeni Rural Municipality, thereby ensuring legal recognition at the local level (*Annex 4.22.3*). ZSL supported in drafting this guideline, drawing on experiences from the ongoing ZSL project in the Western Terai landscape, funded through DI Extra (*DAREX008*). Of the four cooperatives, three have been formally registered under this local government guideline while one group was registered under the cooperative of Daunne devi BZUC in Tamaspur as all the beneficiary in Tamaspur was already a member of local cooperative who plays crucial role in managing the products to the market. Upon the registration, these groups have the obtained permanent account number (PAN) required to open the bank account.

#### **Activity 4.2 Institutional support for 4 community banks (set up and training on cooperative management, financial literacy)**

To strengthen the capacity of executive members and ensure effective fund mobilization within the ALGs, three two-day financial literacy trainings were carried out on 3 and 4 February 2025, Baguban, for the Baguban ALG, on 1 and 2 March 2025 targeting members of both Tribeni and Sahumara Prasaiya ALG and lastly on 8 and 9 March 2025 for Tamaspur ALG. Total of 56 members attended the session (41% women and 82% belonging to indigenous and marginalized group) (*Annex 4.23.1*). The orientation highlighted the concept of revolving funds, managing saving and loan distribution effectively. As we progress to the second year, the project will continue to backstop these ALG by providing intensive training on cooperative management and also carry out on site coaching to enable the members to swiftly carry out the community banking operation. Apart from the orientation, these ALGs were supported with 300 nos. of plastic chairs, each ALG receiving 75 pieces. Additionally, each ALG received an office table and a metal bookshelf for proper document management. Other essential office materials, including office stamps, whiteboard, punching machine, staplers, savings and credit books, meeting minutes registers were also provided (*Annex 4.23.2*).

#### **Activity 4.3 Provide Seed fund support to cooperative to the community banks**

Following the establishment and operationalization of bank accounts for all four ALGs, a total seed fund of NPR 3,840,000 (£22,325) was disbursed NPR 960,000 (£5,581.39) allocated to each ALG. Disbursements were made on the following dates: (*Annex 4.24.1, 4.24.2*). Among these, Baguban ALG has already initiated a savings scheme, collecting NPR 100 per member, and by the reporting period, had accumulated an additional NPR 30,000 (£174.40) through member contributions as a savings. Additional NPR 75,000 (£436) to each four ALG (*Annex 4.24.3*) making a total of NPR 10,35,000 (£ 6017.4). With fund mobilization scheduled to begin in the second year, the capital base of each ALG is expected to grow significantly through a combination of interest earned from soft loans and ongoing member savings.

#### **Activity 4.6 Build capacity for target community members in identified sustainable and successful livelihoods. (basic level trainings).**

Before initiating the training sessions, a livelihood ranking exercise was conducted with community members to identify the most viable livelihood options for each location. Using a livelihood matrix, communities selected their preferred options based on feasibility and local context. As a result, four tailored training sessions were conducted one in each community aligned with their chosen livelihoods.

Three-day basic level goat farming training in Tamaspur was provided to 25 members of Tamaspur ALG (60% women, 96% indigenous and marginalized group) from 5-7 January 2025 (*Annex 4.25.1a, 4.25.1b*).

Following the training, participants were also supported with one goat kid to each participant and one improved Sirohi breed male goat to be used as a seed male for breed improvement in the community (*Annex 4.25.1.c*). Likewise, three-day basic level pig farming training was provided to 26 ALG members (77% women, all belonging to indigenous and marginalized group) of Baguban ALG from 5-7 January 2025. Following the training, participants were also supported with one piglet to each participant (*Annex 4.25.2a, 4.25.2b, 4.25.2c*). Lastly, vegetable farming training was provided to 35 members of Sahumara Prasaiya ALG (54% women, 66% indigenous and marginalized group) and 28 members of Tribeni ALG (36% women, 86% indigenous and marginalized group) and 12-14 February 2025 and 15-17 February 2025 respectively. Each participant was supported improved seeds of various locally suitable vegetables such as tomato, chilly, bitter gourd, pumpkin, long bean, cauli flower, leafy vegetables in both the trainings (*Annex 4.25.3a, 4.25.3b*). Despite the project team's efforts to accommodate participants' time constraints, all the training event faced delay to start the training day. Hence, the training content focused on important and relevant topics rather than covering everything in detail. To gauge the understanding of the participants, pre and post-test was taken in all the trainings. Post test results indicated that the participants have grasped the content that was intended to deliver via training. Goat farming training saw 52% increase in the participants' understanding about goat farming, while Pig farming depicted 40% increase and 20% increase in Shivapurgadi and 29 % increase in Tribeni in the knowledge of improved vegetable practices (*Annex 4.25.4.*).

#### **Activity 4.9 Intensive training on identified livelihood schemes: Eco-tourism/Nature guide training/ livestock /commercial farming/ hospitality management.**

Two five-day intensive trainings on improved animal husbandry (livestock rearing) were conducted from 8-12 February 2025, in Tamaspur, and from 11-15 February 2025, in Shivapurgadhi. Total of 52 members (78% women, 86% indigenous and marginalized group), 27 members from Sahumara Prasaiya ALG (81% women, 85% indigenous and marginalized group) and 25 members of Tamashpur ALG (76% women, 88% indigenous and marginalized group) were benefitted from the training program (*Annex 4.26.1, 4.26.2, 4.26.3, 4.26.4*). The training provided information and skills on innovative livestock rearing practices for enhanced income generation. Following the training, each participant of Tamaspur were supported with improved piglet breed and the each of the trainee in Shivapurgadhi were supported with improved Sirohi crossed female seed goat (*Annex 4.26.1.*). In addition, a veterinary package containing nutrients and common medicines were also distributed to 80 livestock-rearing individuals (*Annex 4.26.3*). Pre and post-training assessments were conducted to measure the effectiveness of the training. Results indicated that participants demonstrated a strong understanding of the content delivered 30 % increase (*Annex 4.25.4*) and expressed confidence in applying the skills learned to their income-generating activities. The resource person for the training were the in-charge and technician of Livestock Development Branch at the Madhyabindu Municipality Office, Veterinary Officer and technician of Bardaghat Municipality, Veterinary Officer and technician of Susta Rural Municipality. Utilizing the resource person who are available at the project sites especially from the local government enhances cost-effectiveness while also increasing the project's visibility and strengthening relationships with local government stakeholders.

#### **Act 4.11.1 Establishment of grievance mechanism in the community site**

As part of the FAIRER and project's commitment to ensure transparency, accountability, and community engagement, a series of events were organized in the localities of Baguban, Tamaspur, and Tribeni to introduce and establish a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM). The grievance mechanism is a key tool to address concerns, queries, or complaints raised by the project beneficiaries and local community members in a systematic and timely manner (*Annex 4.27.1*). These events were essential to orient the community on the redressal process, to empower them to actively participate in monitoring and feedback, and to ensure that any concerns related to the project implementation are resolved fairly and effectively. Community members were explained the step-by-step grievance redressal process, including the submission of grievances, review procedures, response timelines, and escalation mechanisms. In each location, a local grievance redress committee/team was established, comprised of representatives from vulnerable groups, women, youth, and traditional/local leaders (*Annex 4.27.2, 4.27.3, 4.27.4*). These teams were oriented on initial grievance intake procedures, maintaining confidentiality, and ensuring non-discrimination in redressal.

#### **Act 4.11.2 Organise workshop with all key stakeholders in the project on expected standard of behaviour of staff and how to report complaints and provide feedback on services, appropriate and proportional to the project activities.**

As part of the project, a series of trainings on Safeguarding and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) were successfully conducted across three project field sites, Tamaspur, Baguban, and Tribeni on 24, 24 and 26 March 2025 (*Annex 4.28.1*). Total of 93 community members were sensitized on PSEAH (64% women, 87% indigenous and marginalized group) (*Annex 4.28.2*). The sessions were organized to sensitize local community members and project beneficiaries on safeguarding

principles and the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment and raise awareness among community about the existing grievance redress mechanism within the project and guide them on how to safely report misconduct or any cases of exploitation and abuse. The sessions were led by the dedicated Safeguarding Officer from the ZSL Nepal with co-facilitation from a representative of the partner organization, Himalayan Nature. Through knowledge sharing and open discussions, the training helped to create a stronger awareness of the importance of preventing exploitation and abuse. The presence of a clear grievance mechanism further empowered community members to act responsibly and seek help when needed. These efforts reinforce the project's commitment to ethical, inclusive, and community-centered conservation practices.

#### **Act 4.11.3 Safeguarding training to all project lead and staffs to ensure adherence to safeguarding and PSEAH standards**

As part of ZSL's commitment to fostering a safe, respectful, and accountable working environment for its staff, partners, and the communities it serves, a two-day residential training on Safeguarding and Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) was conducted in Kathmandu on 18–19 March 2025 (*Annex 4.29.1*). Together 35 participants from ZSL and its partner, attended the program. The training was designed not only to orient participants with the core principles of safeguarding and PSEAH but also to deepen their understanding of how these principles are practically applied particularly within the unique and often complex contexts of wildlife conservation projects (*Annex 4.29.2*). A pre-training assessment was conducted to evaluate participants' baseline knowledge and identify specific learning needs. The insights gathered enabled facilitators to tailor the content and approach to better meet the expectations and learning gaps of the group. A post-training assessment demonstrated significant improvement in both understanding and confidence among participants underscoring the value of such capacity-building initiatives in promoting ethical conduct and ensuring the safety and dignity of all individuals involved in ZSL's work. Group work and role play during the session further enhanced the understanding of PSEAH and its application. Action plan was developed which will be regularly monitored by the project lead in year ahead (*Annex 4.29.3*).

#### **Activity 4.12 Pre and Post survey**

A comprehensive socio-economic survey was conducted in Shivapurgadhi and Tribeni (Tribeni BZUC), and Baguban and Tamaspur (Daunne Devi BZUC) within the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park, covering Wards 1 and 6 of Binayi Tribeni Rural Municipality and Ward 12 of Madhyabindu Municipality, Nawalparasi (Bardghat Susta East) District (*Annex 4.30.1*). Using a structured baseline questionnaire, 270 households were surveyed, 69 in Tamaspur, 70 in Baguban, 83 in Shivapurgadhi, and 51 in Tribeni capturing data on wellbeing, forest dependency, illegal wildlife trade, and HWC. Data was collected electronically via SurveyCTO by seven trained local youth, following FPIC and ethical standards. Findings showed 48.2% of Daunne Devi and 53% of Tribeni respondents experienced HWC (*Annex 4.30.2*), mainly from wild boars, deer, and monkeys; leopard predation was higher in Tribeni, while tiger incidents were more frequent in Daunne Devi. Over 60% in Daunne Devi perceived an increase in HWC, while more than half in Tribeni perceived a decline. The average Wellbeing Index was 0.308, higher in Daunne Devi (0.33) than in Tribeni (0.29), with Shivapurgadhi scoring lowest. Kruskal-Wallis and Wilcoxon Rank Sum Tests (R v4.3.0) revealed significant differences in wellbeing and forest dependency among groups. Over 70% of households lived within 500 meters of the forest and depended on it for fuelwood and fodder. Although microfinance groups were present, many-faced barriers to loans and institutional support due to need of collateral. Focus Group Discussions, Key Informant Interviews, and GIS mapping (ArcGIS 10.8, Google Earth overlays) were used for triangulation and baseline establishment (*Full report available upon request*). With this the logframe has been completed by providing the value of the current situation of the project site (*Annex 1 and 2*) to measure the achievement of the project.

### **3.2 Progress towards project Outputs**

#### **Output 1: Nepali law enforcement (LE) agencies' capacity and capabilities to combat IWT strengthened, including improved investigative, enforcement, prosecution, and judicial capacity and capabilities, and human rights during arrest and detention ensured.**

Output 1 focuses on building the investigative and enforcement functions and enhancing the prosecutorial and judicial capacity of Nepal's law enforcement agencies to combat IWT, with a particular emphasis on strengthening the newly formed provincial WCCB units. As of the current reporting period, progress on output **Indicator 1.1** shows that a total of 63 law enforcement officers (*24 LE officers from Act 1.1 and 39 LE officers from Act 1.3*) (*Annex 4.3, 4.4*) including investigation officers, customs officials, border security personnel, attorneys, and judges have been trained in IWT investigation, trafficking, human rights, and their role in wildlife crime prevention against the target of 55 LE officers to be trained in Year 1 indicating the project is on track. Under **Output Indicator 1.2**, national law enforcement agencies such as the Nepal Army, WCCB, and DNPWC demonstrated an 86% improvement in post-training evaluations of the wildlife

crime investigation training (*Annex 4.3.5a, 4.3.5b*), reflecting a significant gain in knowledge and skills among mid-career professionals. This suggests a strong potential for these officers to effectively apply their learning within their respective organizations when required to respond to wildlife crime incidents. A formal follow-up mechanism will be developed to verify and track longer term application of these skills in field settings, keeping the project well aligned with its second and third-year target (**Indicator 1.3**). Progress under Output 1 was measured using standardized activity tracking templates that record participant information for each event (disaggregated by gender, age group, stakeholder group) alongside pre- and post-training assessments administered at the beginning and end of training sessions to quantify knowledge gain and skill development.

**Output 2: Increased coordination between enforcement agencies at district, province, national and transnational level has created an integrated approach to combat wildlife crime.**

Output 2 acknowledges that illegal wildlife trade (IWT) is a complex, transboundary issue involving multiple actors and jurisdictions. Accordingly, it emphasizes the need to strengthen coordination among enforcement agencies at local, provincial, and regional levels to establish a cohesive, multi-agency response. In Y2, the mapping of IWT supply chains across five SAWEN member countries (*Act 2.1, Annex 4.5*) provided critical insights into trafficking routes, source and transit areas, and key actors involved, forming the basis for a shared regional understanding and directly contributing to **Indicator 2.1** Annual information-sharing workshops (*Act 2.4, Annex 4.6*), facilitated by Central WCCB in March 2025 with 59 decision-makers, advanced **Indicators 2.3 and 2.4** by harmonizing approaches and formalizing a resolution to operationalize provincial and district-level WCCBs. Additionally, the establishment of a localized communication channel, a WhatsApp group for sharing IWT and HWC-related intelligence, further supported **Indicator 2.4** and will be formalized in the upcoming transboundary meeting (*Act 2.8, 2.9, Annex 4.9, 4.10*).

In parallel, the deployment of 20 GSM-enabled spy cameras (*Act 2.6*) in high-risk zones of Chitwan National Park significantly enhanced real-time surveillance capabilities, yielding 10 actionable illegal activity images within four months and contributing to **Indicator 2.5** (*Annex 4.7.3*). Progress on this activity was systematically documented through monthly technical reports submitted by Chitwan National Park (*Annex 4.7.2, 4.7.3*), which included data logs, incident reports, and analysis of camera feeds, thereby informing adaptive patrolling strategies. Furthermore, semi-annual data-sharing meetings (*Act 2.7, Annex 4.8.1*) between the JOC and WCCBs in Chitwan and Makwanpur districts facilitated the efficient analysis and dissemination of surveillance insights, such as movement patterns and unauthorized entries, directly contributing to the achievement of **Indicator 2.2**.

**Output 3: Community resilience to human-wildlife conflict (HWC) has been strengthened and human-wildlife coexistence (HWCx) promoted, fostering site-based stewardship and reducing a driver of IWT in three key villages within the Chitwan-Parsa complex**

Four detailed HWC hotspot maps were produced and validated through extensive community and stakeholder consultations (*Act 3.1, Annex 4.11.1, 4.11.2*), fulfilling the first part of **Indicator 3.1**. Complementing this, two locally tailored HWC mitigation plans were developed for Tribeni and Daunne Devi BZUCs through participatory assessments, addressing site-specific conflict dynamics and completing the second part of **Indicator 3.1** (*Act 3.5, Annex 4.15*). To institutionalize these efforts, two HWC mitigation committees were formally established in Tribeni and Daunne Devi BZUCs, achieving **Indicator 3.2** (*Act 3.4, Annex 4.14*). Under pre-emptive mitigation efforts (**Indicator 3.3**), 52 PPCs were constructed, and 80 electric stoves were distributed to reduce forest dependency, supporting a total of 132 households and nearing the Year 2 milestone by the end of Year 1 (*Annex 4.16, 4.20*). A dedicated HWC Learning Centre was established within Tribeni BZUC (*Act 3.10, Annex 4.17*), enhancing awareness and education efforts. Additionally, 10.2 km of electric fencing was maintained in Daunne Devi BZUC, protecting agricultural land belonging to 670 households. The establishment of a Quick Relief Fund in Daunne Devi BZUC provides immediate financial support for urgent healthcare needs, helping mitigate the impacts of injuries and trauma, and fostering community trust in conservation initiatives. Mass awareness activities also exceeded targets: *Activities 3.3 and 3.15* directly benefited 197 community members, while public information boards, radio jingles, and animation videos (*Act 3.10, 3.11*) have continuously raised awareness, reaching broader audiences through local radio broadcasts.

**Output 4: Proven livelihood schemes have been implemented in three communities breaking the cycle of poverty and reducing community members' vulnerability to exploitation by poachers and illegal wildlife traders.**

Substantial progress has been achieved under Output 4 with the successful establishment and operationalization of four women-led community banking cooperatives namely, Baguban ALG, Tamaspur ALG, Sahumara Prasaiya ALG, and Tribeni ALG, meeting **Indicator 4.1**. These ALGs collectively engage 400 members (64% women, 86% indigenous and marginalized groups), exceeding the target, and were formed through inclusive wellbeing-ranking processes endorsed by local BZUCs (*Act 4.1, Annex 4.22*). All

four ALGs have received legal recognition, with three registered under the local guideline issued by Binay Tribeni Rural Municipality and one under Daunne Devi BZUC's cooperative due to pre-existing affiliations (*Annex 4.22.3*). **Indicator 4.2** is well underway, with four sustainable livelihood options identified (goat, pig, and vegetable farming, and livestock rearing), selected through participatory livelihood ranking exercises, and tailored training provided in all four communities (*Act 4.6, Act 4.9, Annex 4.25, Annex 4.26*). Total of 166 members of four ALGs (67% women, 86% indigenous and marginalized group), 114 received basic level trainings as per Activity 4.6 (57% women, 87% indigenous and marginalized group) (*Annex 4.25.1d, Annex 4.25.2d, Annex 4.25.3b*), and 52 members of ALG received intensive training as per Activity 4.9 (78% women, 86% indigenous and marginalized group) (*Annex 4.26.4*). These efforts directly contribute to **Indicator 4.3**, as over 166 households have begun applying new skills and knowledge from the trainings to enhance their household-level livelihoods thus fully achieving the Year 1 target (50 HHs) and laying the groundwork for scaling up in Year 2. Progress under Output 4 was measured using standardized activity tracking templates that record participant information for each event (disaggregated by gender, age group, stakeholder group) alongside pre- and post-training assessments administered at the beginning and end of training sessions to quantify knowledge gain and skill development (*Annex 4.25.4*).

### 3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

**Outcome: Reduced IWT involving key threatened species in Chitwan-Parsa complex through enhanced and collaborative judicial law enforcement, judicial system, proven diversified livelihoods schemes such as community banking and reduced human wildlife conflict.**

In its first year, the project has made a solid contribution in setting the stage for long-term impact. The project laid a strong foundation by establishing all outcome-level baselines to measure its impact at the end. To understand the scale and nature of wildlife crime in the Chitwan-Parsa Complex data from the relevant LE agencies were analyzed also taking into account of secondary information as generated from reports, records and documents of DFOs, WCCB, DNPWC and PAs. Data spans fiscal years 2075/76 to 2080/81, along with partial data from the current fiscal year 2081/82. Baseline value is presented in table below:

*Table 1: Baseline value for Outcome indicator*

<b>Outcome Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>0.1</b>	7 IWT cases shared	8	Increase intelligence-sharing across platforms
<b>0.2</b>	20 prosecutions	+8	Secure more successful prosecutions of serious offences
<b>0.3</b>	265 arrests	+30	Strengthen enforcement actions
<b>0.4</b>	50.5% (138/273)	20% decrease (40.6%)	Community members reporting HWC
<b>0.5</b>	0.31	10% increase for 80%HH (0.34)	Wellbeing index (income data limited)

While the project is in its early phase to measure its result against the outcome indicator, the factor for achieving these outcome indicators by the end of the project, lies in the preparatory and continued effort taken by the project during Year 1. Especially, building the capacity of 63 LE officers (*Act 1.1, Act 1.3*) in wildlife crime investigations supports Indicator 0.2 and 0.3. As such, out of 12 cases identified for IWT cases (83% belonging to indigenous and marginalized group who are engaged in IWT), three serious offences including unauthorized entry while armed and possession of wildlife derivatives e.g; dried meat of endangered deer species (*Source: (Act 1.1, Act 1.3, Act 2.6)*). Additional 12 arrest have been recorded out which 9 cases (83%) belonging to indigenous and marginalized group belonged to the wildlife crime. (*Source: (Act 1.1, Act 1.3, Act 2.6)*).

Similarly, the intelligence sharing platform such as annual WCCB meeting (*Act 2.4, Act 2.7, Act 2.8, Act 2.9*) will play a significant role in achieving outcome indicator 0.1. Interventions such as development of HWC mitigation plan led by the HWC mitigation committee supporting to implement the mitigation strategies in more planned way (*Act 3.4, Act 3.5*), construction of PPC, maintenance of electric fencing (*Act 3.7*), and awareness raising events and material (*Act 3.3, Act 3.10, Act 3.11 and Act 3.12*) are contributing to achieve outcome indicator 0.4. Further, the activities carried out under output 4 is strengthening the project assertion of achieving the outcome indicator 0.5. This initial momentum positions the project for sustained success in the years to come.

### 3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

**Outcome: Reduced IWT involving key threatened species in Chitwan-Parsa complex through enhanced and collaborative law enforcement, judicial systems, proven diversified livelihoods schemes such as community banking and reduced human-wildlife conflict.**

**Assumption 1:** Law enforcement (LE) and other agencies continue sharing data on arrests and prosecution.

**Comments:** Data is being shared hence being able to set baseline values and achievement in Year 1.

**Assumption 2:** Local communities are supportive of conservation and are keen to diversify their income generation.

**Comments:** Communities actively taking part in activities.

**Assumption 3:** WCCB structure is established at federal level by the project starting period.

**Comments:** WCCB Federal structure is established.

**Assumption 4:** Avenues exist for improving law enforcement agencies' response to IWT and that those agencies remain supportive of conservation initiatives.

**Comments:** Still holds true.

**Assumption 5:** HWC is a potential driver of IWT in the region.

**Comments:** HWC is prevalent in the community.

**Output 1: Nepali law enforcement (LE) agencies' capacity and capabilities to combat IWT strengthened, including improved investigative, enforcement, prosecution, and judicial capacity and capabilities, and human rights during arrest and detention ensured.**

**Assumption 6:** LE and other agencies and their staff are cooperative, available, and receptive to trainings on IWT and human rights issues.

**Comments:** Still holds true.

**Assumption 7:** WCCB, District Forest Office (DFO), National parks are willing to share their database

**Comments:** Data was shared during the baseline data collection on wildlife related crime in the region.

**Output 2: Increased coordination between enforcement agencies at district, province, national and transnational level has created an integrated approach to combat wildlife crime.**

**Assumption 8:** LE and other key agencies from local to regional level including local communities are open to improved coordination and collaboration and are comfortable with sharing of intelligence and information for a collaborative approach to combat IWT.

**Comments:** Still holds true

**Assumption 9:** LE and other key stakeholders are open to partnerships.

**Comments:** Still holds true

**Assumption 10:** Willingness to share intelligence reports.

**Comments:** Still holds true

**Assumption 11:** Agreement to endorse proven and innovative IWT tackling tools/approach by relevant authorities

**Comments:** Still holds true

**Output 3: Community resilience to human-wildlife conflict (HWC) has been strengthened and human-wildlife coexistence (HWCx) promoted, fostering site-based stewardship and reducing a driver of IWT in three key villages within the Chitwan-Parsa complex**

**Assumption 12:** HWC is a driver of IWT in the region and reducing HWC will help reduce IWT.

**Comments:** Still holds true

**Assumption 13:** Local communities welcome the idea of reduced HWC and better HWCx.

**Comments:** HWC committee and HWC mitigation plan developed in consultation.

**Assumption 14:** Active participation from the targeted HHs.

**Comments:** Still holds true

**Assumption 15:** Community centres or local government facilitate location for HWCx centres.

**Comments:** Still holds true

**Assumption 16:** Access to electricity in all participating HHs.

**Comments:** Still holds true

**Assumption 17:** IWT strategy developed with innovative and proven approaches from ongoing IWT project (IWT099).

**Comments:** Still holds true

**Output 4: Proven livelihood schemes have been implemented in three communities breaking the cycle of poverty and reducing community members' vulnerability to exploitation by poachers and illegal wildlife traders**

**Assumption 18:** Community members agree to be members of community banks with declaration signed to not engage in an IWT related activities and actively participate to combat IWT in the region.

**Comments:** Still holds true

**Assumption 19:** Government of Nepal publishes and endorses a directive for wildlife farming (boar/deer).

**Comments:** Directive of wildlife farming has been published.

**Assumption 20:** Participants of training agree to become part of special committee to respond or communicate IWT activities in their area.

**Comments:** Still holds true, agreed to set up online communication channel.

**Assumption 22:** Community members actively take part in organised training and are motivated to be economically resilient.

**Comments:** Still holds true

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

**Impact:** A reduction in IWT in the eastern Terai Arc Landscape due to strong, collaborative, transboundary partnerships, robust law enforcement, an effective judicial system, and economically resilient local communities

This is the first year of the project, and so too early to report evidence of the contribution that the project is making towards the impact. While these are long-term, systemic challenges that require sustained and multi-actor efforts, the project is making measurable contributions toward both dimensions through strengthened enforcement, improved inter-agency coordination, enhanced community resilience, and inclusive livelihood development. Under Output 1, the project has significantly strengthened the capacity of Nepali law enforcement (LE) agencies to investigate, prosecute, and prevent IWT. A total of 63 LE officers have been trained including prosecutors, customs, border security, and judiciary personnel (*Act 1.1, Act 1.3*). Through Output 2, the project has improved coordination at district, provincial, national, and transnational levels, creating a more integrated response to wildlife crime (*Act 2.4, Annex 4.6*). Activities such as IWT supply chain mapping across SAWEN countries and multi-agency intelligence-sharing meetings have enhanced operational cohesion. The deployment of GSM-enabled surveillance cameras (*Act 2.6*) and the adoption of resolutions to operationalize local WCCB units show that coordinated intelligence-led responses are increasingly being institutionalized, leading to real-time interventions, 10 illegal activities captured (*Annex 4.7.2, 4.7.3*).

The project is also contributing to multidimensional poverty reduction, particularly by enhancing community resilience, reducing dependency on illegal activities, and supporting alternative livelihoods. Through Output 3, participatory HWC mitigation strategies including predator-proof corrals, maintenance of electric fence (*Act 3.7*), electric stove distribution (*Act 3.14*), have eased financial burden as well as strengthened community safety and coexistence. The formation and operationalization of four women-led community banking cooperatives, engaging over 400 members (64% women, 86% from marginalized groups), has expanded access to financial services and sustainable livelihood options. Total of NPR 3.84 million have been channelized to community members. These groups are now actively engaged in goat, pig, vegetable, and livestock farming, with over 166 households already applying new skills. This work is not only improving income and food security but also reducing community vulnerability to exploitation by IWT networks. These outcomes directly make contribution to the improvements in human wellbeing, particularly among marginalized and high-risk communities, by fostering economic empowerment.

## **4. Thematic focus**

The project contributes to the two of the four themes.

### **i) Strengthening law enforcement**

The project is significantly contributing to the thematic focus of strengthening law enforcement to combat IWT by enhancing the capacity, coordination, and operational effectiveness of Nepali law enforcement agencies. Through Output 1, it has built the investigative, prosecutorial, and judicial capabilities of frontline officers by delivering specialized training programs that covered wildlife crime investigation, evidence handling, case preparation, and human rights standards during arrest and detention, resulting in an 86% improvement in participant knowledge and skills (*Act 1.1*). Human rights integration into law enforcement was strengthened through a dedicated workshop attended by 39 officials, aligning conservation practices with international frameworks like UNDRIP and ILO 169 (*Act 1.3*). Under Output 2, the project promoted multi-level coordination among enforcement bodies by facilitating national workshops, operationalizing newly formed provincial WCCB units, and deploying GSM-enabled spy cameras in high-risk zones of CNP. These cameras enabled real-time monitoring, led to intelligence sharing through JOC, and contributed to the efficient identification and investigation of illegal activities (*Act 2.6*). Together, these efforts are laying the foundation for a more integrated, rights-based, and intelligence-led response to IWT in Nepal.



## ii) Developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT

Through Output 4, the project supported indigenous and marginalized groups who are among the most vulnerable to exploitation by poachers and illegal wildlife traders due to their limited economic opportunities by breaking the cycle of poverty offering viable alternatives livelihood options. Four community banking cooperatives Baguban, Tamaspur, Shivapurgadhi, and Tribeni were established, engaging 400 members, of whom 64% are women and 86% belonging to indigenous and marginalized communities (*Act 4.1, Act 4.2*). These cooperatives, legally recognized at the local level, provide access to soft loans, financial literacy, and cooperative management training, empowering members to launch and manage income-generating activities. Each cooperative received a seed fund of NPR 960,000, along with essential operational support (*Act 4.3*). Based on local priorities identified through participatory livelihood ranking, tailored training was conducted in goat farming, pig farming, and vegetable cultivation, accompanied by livestock, seeds, and veterinary kits (*Act 4.6*).

## 5. Impact on species in focus

While this is the first year of project implementation and therefore too early to report direct evidence of impact on the focal species, the preparatory works are laying the groundwork for long-term conservation outcomes. One of the key approaches has been the formation and support of Alternative Livelihood Groups, which provide income-generating opportunities (*Ind 4.1, Act 4.1*) that reduce dependency on forest resources thereby contributing to improved habitat conditions for the focal species. Additionally, the deployment of spy cameras (*Ind 2.5, Act 2.6*) has enhanced patrolling frequency and coverage, acting as both a deterrent and a tool for monitoring IWT and other threats (*Annex 4.7.2, 4.7.3*). These measures are reinforcing protection in and around key habitats, creating safer and more stable environments for the focus species of the project. As implementation progresses, the project will continue to track and assess ecological indicators to better understand its contribution to the conservation of species in focus.

## 6. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The project is playing a crucial role in reducing poverty by focusing on communities that are disproportionately affected by IWT, particularly indigenous and marginalized groups. These communities often face limited economic opportunities, making them more vulnerable to exploitation by poachers and traffickers.

One of the key strategies for poverty reduction is the formation of community banking cooperatives, established in four project communities: Baguban, Tamaspur, Shivapurgadhi, and Tribeni (*Ind 4.1, Act 4.1, 4.2*). These community banking scheme serve as a vital financial resource for local members, particularly those from indigenous and marginalized backgrounds, who often find difficult to participate in commercial financial institution due to its high interest rates, lack of collateral, and complex procedures. The community banking cooperatives offer an alternative by providing soft loans and financial literacy training, which allows community members to start and manage their own income-generating activities. The soft loans provided by the cooperatives are more affordable than those available from other financial institutions, helping to break the cycle of poverty without further indebting the communities. During Year 1, total of 400 member (64% women, 86% indigenous and marginalized group) across four newly established community banking cooperative has become a member. However, the formal process of lending money will be initiated in Year 2 which will allow the members to diversify their income streams assisting them to alleviate poverty to some extent. The beneficiary selection process of the community banking was informed by wellbeing ranking exercises carried out by the project in collaboration with the BZUCs. These exercises ensured that the most vulnerable individuals those who are most at risk of exploitation due to their socio-economic status are prioritized for support. Beyond financial inclusion, this year the project focused on building sustainable livelihoods by providing targeted training based on community needs and priorities. Through Activity 4.6, a livelihood ranking exercise was conducted, enabling communities to identify and select the most viable livelihood options, such as goat farming in Tamaspur, pig farming in Baguban, and vegetable farming in Shivapurgadhi and Tribeni (*Act 4.6, 4.9*). These options were chosen by the members based on their feasibility, market potential, and alignment with local cultural contexts. Post-training material support was vital (*Act 4.6, 4.9*) in enabling participants to apply their newly acquired knowledge in a practical context, reducing the lag between learning and income generation. It also helped build participants' confidence, increased their sense of ownership, and significantly improved the likelihood of success and sustainability of the livelihood interventions.

## 7. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

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

<b>Not yet sensitive</b>	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
<b>Sensitive</b>	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.	
<b>Empowering</b>	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	<b>X</b>
<b>Transformative</b>	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

The project is making deliberate and impactful contributions to GESI by embedding its principles across all components of design and implementation, with a strong focus on empowering women, indigenous peoples, and marginalized groups vulnerable to poverty and IWT. Of the individuals engaged in project activities, 52% are women and 85% belong to indigenous and/or marginalized groups. Inclusion was prioritized from the outset through wellbeing ranking exercises conducted in each project community to identify the most disadvantaged households, ensuring that project benefits reached those most in need. As a result, 64% of the 400 alternative livelihood group members are women, and 86% belong to indigenous and marginalized communities (*Ind 4.1, Act 4.1, 4.2*).

The project continued to prioritize GESI groups in capacity-building activities benefitting a total of 166 ALG members (67% women, 86% indigenous and marginalized) (*Act 4.6*), along with 52 ALG members (78% women, 86% indigenous and marginalized) (*Act 4.9*). Supporting women and marginalized communities to lead cooperatives, manage finances, and initiate enterprises, the project is contributing to the gradual transformation of traditional gender roles and power dynamics. Further, aligning with ZSL's Fair, Accountable, Inclusive, Respectful, Ethical and Reflective (FAIRER) conservation framework, the project has developed an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), (*documents available upon request*). These guiding documents provide a framework to ensure that the voices of historically underrepresented communities are meaningfully incorporated throughout the project cycle, with proactive measures to prevent harm and promote equitable participation. Both plans will be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect evolving circumstances and community needs. Furthermore, robust grievance mechanisms (*Act 4.11.1, Annex 4.27*) have been established within the community, ensuring that all members have accessible, safe and multiple channels to express concerns regarding the project activities that may impact them developing a mechanism to uphold accountability and promote trust between the project and the communities.

## 8. Monitoring and evaluation

ZSL Nepal has basically two structures of concerned agencies for project implementation; PCC, a central structure of stakeholders responsible for guiding and monitoring project implementation and PMU, a local level structure responsible for implementation of project activities effectively (*Annex 4.2.1, 4.2.2a and 4.2.2b*). Similarly, CNP, in coordination with project partners, buffer zone representatives and local communities, are conducting regular monitoring of the project progress at the site (*Annex 4.2.8*). As this is the first year of the project the project team worked more on preparatory tasks. This year, baseline values were set to start off the project (*Act 4.12*). Moreover, M&E framework have been developed (*available upon request*) to guide the project by showcasing where we stand as we continue to implement activities towards achieving the target. Culminating Year One, ZSL convened an annual review and planning workshop, bringing together HN and other implementing partners to assess achievements, share lessons learned, and collaboratively plan for the upcoming fiscal year (*Annex 4.2.7*).

ZSL uses web-based systems to track progress and promote interaction between project partners. To effectively monitor the progress of Year One activities and address any implementation challenges in a timely manner, ZSL and HN maintained consistent coordination through frequent virtual meetings (*Annex 4.2.6*). These efforts are supplemented through regular visits by the project lead (*Annex 4.2.9*). Activity-level monitoring focused on disaggregated beneficiary data and output indicators such as law enforcement training (*Ind 1.1*), IWT route identification (*Ind 2.1*), human-wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation (*Ind 3.1–3.4*),

and sustainable livelihoods (*Ind 4.1, 4.2*), using tools like training assessments, feedback forms, and other metrics such as operation of community bank and implementation of pre-emptive measures.

## **9. Lessons learnt**

Operating in a new geographical area, the project team needed significant time to build trust with local communities and stakeholders, crucial for ensuring a shared understanding of project goals. This highlighted the importance of allowing ample time for community engagement in new areas.

Despite funding delays and a slow community integration process, proactive measures, strong planning, and a robust M&E framework ensured smooth workflow and achievement of targets.

Local governments are more supportive when project activities align with their plans, as shown by Binayi Tribeni Rural Municipality's active involvement and formal approval of the Livelihood Group Formation and Mobilization Guideline, 2081. Aligning with local priorities strengthens partnerships, ownership, and sustainability.

Involving local leaders in M&E systems helps institutionalize project interventions and supports sustainability beyond the project's duration.

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

The reviewer's feedback has been addressed during the half yearly report in October 2024 (*Annex 4.31*).

## **11. Risk Management**

No risk has been risen in the past 12 months.

## **12. Scalability and durability**

Our original exit plan emphasized embedding project approaches into local governance structures, building capacity among community institutions, and fostering policy linkages for scalability and durability of the project's interventions. Significant progress has been made on these fronts, including the stakeholders' engagement throughout the project lifecycle, operationalization of JOCs, capacity strengthening of local communities to support income generation and integration of the HWC management approach into local planning discussions. Supporting to the project's sustainability, alternative livelihood groups have been formally registered under the local government's group formation and mobilization guideline, ensuring that they receive official recognition, support, and oversight. This alignment with government policy frameworks strengthens the likelihood of institutional support beyond the project's duration.

Other key strategy to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project's outcomes has been the establishment of community-level WhatsApp groups focused on IWT awareness and response. These digital platforms have proven to be low-cost, user-friendly tools that promote rapid information sharing between community members, local leaders, and enforcement agencies. The continued use of this approach beyond the project period is anticipated, as they are managed locally, require minimal resources, and have already become embedded in community routines making them a durable mechanism for sustained engagement, and coordinated action. Additionally, HWC Mitigation Committee formed consisting of key stakeholders such as local government representatives, wildlife authorities, community leaders, and relevant civil society organizations, plays a pivotal role in overseeing the implementation of HWC strategies that include a clear, actionable framework for local stakeholders, enabling them to take ownership of wildlife conflict management in the long term. This local ownership, combined with specific, species-focused solutions, lays a strong foundation for the continued success of HWC mitigation efforts long after the project's completion. Moving forward, we continue to invest in documenting lessons learned, advocating for policy uptake, and developing partnerships to sustain and scale the project's impact beyond the project timeline.

## **13. IWT Challenge Fund identity**

Throughout the implementation of the project, we have made deliberate and consistent efforts to highlight the vital support provided by the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund (IWT CF) and to acknowledge the UK Government's integral role in enabling our work. To ensure strong project identity and donor visibility, the IWT CF logo has been prominently and appropriately displayed across all major project outputs and communications. This includes technical reports, training manuals, presentation materials, field signage, and community outreach materials (*Annex 4.16.1, Annex 4.17.2, Annex 4.18*), in full compliance with the BCF branding guidelines. Operating in a newly established project area, we have placed particular emphasis on raising awareness among local communities and stakeholders about the IWT CF and the UK Government's support. Orientation sessions, stakeholder meetings, and public engagements have incorporated messaging that clearly links the conservation interventions to their source of funding.

**14. Safeguarding****15. Project expenditure****Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2024-March 2025) (Draft)**

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)				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>201,193.00</b>	<b>201,193.00</b>		

**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 (£)			ZSL/ DNPWC/ HN
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**

This is not applicable to this report.

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

***I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes.***

In the villages of Baguban and Tamaspur, nestled within the project sites, a quiet yet powerful shift is underway. With an eye toward both conservation and poverty reduction, the project has introduced homestead-based pig farming as a nature-friendly, economically viable alternative to traditional livestock practices. Dubbed “Piglets of Hope,” this initiative is quickly proving that pigs could be the viable livelihood option in these communities offering higher returns, lower risk, and reduced pressure on forest ecosystems.

Traditionally, goat farming has been a mainstay in rural Nepal. However, in recent years, local farmers have struggled to compete with advanced Indian goat farming practices, which dominate the market and offer limited opportunities for Nepali farmers to thrive. Economically, pigs offer even greater potential. A single sow can produce up to 10 piglets in one litter, with each piglet costing NPR 6,000–7,000. Mature pig, raised over just eight months, can be sold for NPR 35,000, a significant income stream for smallholder families. Recognizing this challenge and encouraged by the potential, project introduced pig farming as a practical and promising alternative for 51 members of Baguban alternative livelihood group (26 members; 77% women, all belonging to indigenous and marginalized group) and Tamaspur alternative livelihood group (25 members; 76% women, 88% indigenous and marginalized group). Unlike goats, pigs require no grazing, a critical factor in reducing forest degradation and human-wildlife conflict, as pigs are raised within homestead boundaries. This initiative will contribute to reduced habitat disturbance and fewer wildlife encounters, helping both people and nature coexist more peacefully. The response from the communities has been overwhelmingly positive. Participants have expressed excitement about their new ventures. In the coming year, the project will further strengthen this effort by supporting corral construction and genetic improvements to enhance productivity.

More than just a livelihood, “Piglets of Hope” symbolize a growing sense of self-reliance, sustainability, and coexistence. By offering a low-risk, high-reward income option that aligns with conservation goals, we hope pig farming prove to be a game-changer for communities at the frontline of wildlife conservation.

<b>File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)</b>	<b>File Name or File Location</b>	<b>Caption including description, country and credit</b>	<b>Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)</b>	<b>Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)</b>
Image	Piglet distribution	Training Participants with project supported piglets (a) (b)  PC: Arjun Bhusal (ZSL)		Yes

**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
<p><b>Impact</b></p> <p>A reduction in IWT in the eastern Terai Arc Landscape due to strong, collaborative, transboundary partnerships, robust law enforcement, an effective judicial system, and economically resilient local communities</p>	<p>Project has laid strong foundation in Y1 to achieve the intended goal of the project by strengthening the capacity of LE agencies, initiating community based transboundary communication channel as well as established of community managed community banking scheme for livelihood improvement.</p>	
<p><b>Outcome</b></p> <p>Reduced IWT involving key threatened species in Chitwan-Parsa complex through enhanced and collaborative law enforcement, judicial systems, proven diversified livelihoods schemes such as community banking and reduced human-wildlife conflict</p>		
<p><b>Outcome indicator 0.1:</b> 10% increase in IWT cases received and followed up by the end of Y3 as a result of 3 intelligence sharing platforms<sup>1</sup> at local, federal and transnational level; (baseline to be determined by Y1 and 10% will be changed into the appropriate number of case) [IWTCF-B07]</p> <p><b>Baseline: 7 cases</b></p>	<p>10% increase in IWT cases received and followed up by the end of Y3 i.e., additional 8 cases</p>	<p>Continuous capacity building events will be carried out helping to support the efficient case building</p>
<p><b>Outcome indicator 0.2:</b> 8 individuals from the identified hotspots in Gandaki and Bagmati province successfully prosecuted for serious IWT offences by the end of Y3.</p> <p><b>(Baseline: 1 successful prosecution out of 5 IWT arrests in 2018: DNPWC, 2018) [IWTCF-B09]</b></p>	<p>Out of 12 cases identified for IWT cases (83% belonging to indigenous and marginalized group who are engaged in IWT), three serious offences including unauthorized entry while armed and possession of wildlife derivatives e.g; dried meat of endangered deer species (Source: Case file FY081/082, Central WCCB) (Act. 1.1, Act 2.3, Act 2.4, Act 2.6)</p>	<p>Capacitate enforcement agencies and investigation officers</p>
<p><b>Outcome indicator 0.3:</b> 30 arrests (paying due attention to probable cause and due process) linked to wildlife crime and facilitated by the project made in Gandaki and Bagmati province by end of Y3 (8 in Y1; 10 in Y2 and 12 in Y3) [IWTCF-B05]</p> <p><b>Baseline: 265 arrests</b></p>	<p>Additional 12 arrest have been recorded out which 9 cases (83% belonging to indigenous and marginalized group belonged to the wildlife crime. (Source: Case file FY081/082, Central WCCB) (Act. 1.1., Act 2.3, Act 2.4, Act 2.6).</p>	<p>Capacitate enforcement agencies and investigation officers</p>

<sup>1</sup> These capacity building training will have pre-agreement with participants to be part of community response team (a loose network), that will record in collaboration with relevant stakeholders to recurring natural disasters such as forest fires and floods in their surrounding forest and will discourage and share intelligence of IWT activities.

<p><b>Outcome indicator 0.4:</b> 20% decrease in incidences of human wildlife conflict by end of Y3 (baseline to be determined early in Y1 with target % to be changed into numbers) [ZSL 1]<sup>2</sup></p> <p><b>(Baseline: 50.6 % i.e., 138 out of 273 surveyed population experience HH)</b></p>	<p>Baseline value set in Y1 and will be measured the decrease in HWC incidences by Y3 (<i>Act 4.12, full report available upon request</i>).</p>	<p>Implementation of HWC mitigation plan, construction of coral, e stoves distribution of forest dependant HHs, installation of early warning system will take place in Y2.</p>
<p><b>Outcome indicator 0.5:</b> 216 households (HHs) have experienced an increase in income (minimum of 10% increase on average for at least 80% of 270 HHs) by the end of Y3 (baseline to be determined by Y1 pre project survey) [IWTCF-A01b]</p> <p><b>Baseline: Average wellbeing index 0.31,</b> (<i>Since most of the HHs were reluctant to respond to the question about their income, hence wellbeing of 270 HHs will be measured</i>)</p>	<p>Baselines for wellbeing of communities at project sites were set in Y1</p>	<p>Capacitate and institutionalize women led cooperatives to run livelihoods schemes sustainably in project communities</p>
<p><b>Output 1:</b> Nepali law enforcement (LE) agencies' capacity and capabilities to combat IWT strengthened, including improved investigative, enforcement, prosecution, and judicial capacity and capabilities, and human rights during arrest and detention ensured.</p>		
<p><b>Output indicator 1.1:</b> 200 LE officers (investigation officers, custom officials, border security and attorneys and judges) focusing on newly formed provincial WCCB unit trained in human rights, IWT investigation, trafficking, and their role in prevention of wildlife crime by the end of Y3 (55 in Y1, 90 in Y2 and 55 in Y3);</p> <p><b>(Baseline=0 officers) [IWTCF-D01].</b></p>	<p>24 LE officers, including both protected area managers as well as forest officers of different division forest offices, investigation officers, customs officials, border security personnel, attorneys, and judges attended advanced level training on wildlife crime investigation and prosecution. Knowledge increase of participants by 86% on legal and structural framework of wildlife crime investigation, process of identification and analysis of seizures, crime scene management and documentation, case building and reporting protocols with mock case exercises (<i>Act 1.1, Annex 4.3</i>).</p> <p>39 LE officers from national parks, Department of Forests, Nepal Police, Nepal Army, Armed Police Force, National Investigation Department and national NGOs attended workshop on 'Upholding human rights during arrest and prosecution', facilitated by former judge of high court of Nepal and Deputy Attorney General of Office of the Attorney General. Participants gained critical knowledges on Human Rights &amp; Conservation, Conservation Law and National and International dimensions of IPLC (<i>Act 1.3, Annex 4.4</i>).</p>	<p>For the next year, project planned to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) conduct another advanced training on wildlife crime investigation to LE officers</li> <li>ii) conducted workshop on upholding human rights during arrest and prosecution</li> <li>iii) conduct a training to Judges and prosecutors on wildlife crime trends and threats, national and international legal provision and CITES enforcement</li> <li>iv) Conduct a workshop with LE officers on case building and filing of wildlife crime cases, and</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> ZSL 1: Is a simple output-level indicator to track the % decrease in human wildlife conflict



<b>Output indicator 1.2:</b> At least 3 national LE organizations have improved capability and capacity as a result of the project by the end of Y3; baseline to be established in Y1 [IWTCF-D04]. <b>Baseline: 2 National LE agencies i.e., Nepal Army, CIB/Nepal police</b>	Training on of wildlife crime investigation, process of identification and analysis of seizures, crime scene management and documentation, case building and reporting protocols, upholding human rights during detention have been delivered ( <i>Act 1.1, 1.3, Annex 4.3, 4.4</i> ). Improved capability and capacity will be measured by Y3.	Capacitate enforcement agencies and investigation officers
<b>Output indicator 1.3:</b> At least 50% trained LE officers report the application of new capabilities by the end of Y3. <b>Baseline=0 [IWTCF-D02].</b>	Among the 24 participants, 16.7% were women, and 41.7% were mid-career professionals actively engaged in enforcement and management roles showing 86% increase in their knowledge on legal and structural framework of wildlife crime investigation, process of identification and analysis of seizures, crime scene management and documentation, case building and reporting protocols with mock case exercises ( <i>Act 1.1, 1.3, Annex 4.3, 4.4</i> ). Continuous application of knowledge will be measured by Y3.	Capacitate enforcement agencies and investigation officers  Organize experience sharing meeting with prosecutors and judges on wildlife crime investigation.
<b>Output 2.</b> Increased coordination between enforcement agencies at district, province, national and transnational level has created an integrated approach to combat wildlife crime.		
<b>Output indicator 2.1:</b> Illegal wildlife trade route of five SAWEN countries identified and shared regionally [IWTCF-B01]	Study on wildlife trade route was conducted and report produced highlighting the major trade routes, nodes, vulnerable areas, and recommendations of SAWEN countries ( <i>Act 2.1, full report available upon request</i> )	This report will be disseminated nationally as well as internationally through different mediums and online workshop
<b>Output indicator 2.2:</b> At least 10 additional IWT-related intelligence reports shared among LE agencies from local to regional level, inclusive of provincial WCCB and INTERPOL by end of Y3 (baseline TBD in Y1) [IWTCF-B14] <b>Baseline: 24 intelligence reports shared by CNP and PNP to DNPWC and 2 information shared at transboundary level.</b>	Will be documented from Y2 onwards.	Transborder coordination meeting, intelligence sharing platform for state and central public prosecutors, interaction workshop among LE agencies will be executed.
<b>Output indicator 2.3:</b> At least 100 decision makers attend briefing events for establishing partnerships to ensure better coordination and collaboration to combat IWT by end of Y3 <b>Baseline = 0 partnerships [IWTCF-D08]</b>	Annual information-sharing workshops ( <i>Act 2.4, Annex 4.6</i> ), facilitated by Central WCCB in March 2025, brought together 59 decision makers representatives from Nepal Police, Post office, Aviation authority, Armed Police Force, Nepal Army, Customs Department, and the National Investigation Department as well as representatives from the DNPWC. These gatherings served not only to share data and discuss emerging trends, but also to harmonize operational approaches and reinforce institutional roles.	Transborder coordination meeting, intelligence sharing platform for state and central public prosecutors, interaction workshop among LE agencies will be executed.
<b>Output indicator 2.4:</b> Three new or enhanced tools/approaches to tackling IWT developed through federal, provincial, and local	The formal adoption of a resolution to operationalize provincial and district-level WCCBs in line with national enforcement strategy ( <i>Act 2.4</i> ). Further, the establishment of a localized yet	Formalization of community level online communication channel

workshops involving key stakeholders by end of Y3 (1 in Y1, 2 in Y2) <b>Baseline = 0 tools/approaches [IWTCF-D12].</b>	systematic communication channel, WhatsApp group for sharing of IWT and HWC-related intelligence, that is scheduled to formalize in the subsequent transboundary meeting ( <i>Act 2.8, 2.9, Annex 4.9, 4.10</i> ).	and other tools/approaches will be explored.
<b>Output indicator 2.5:</b> At least 25 records of wildlife crime activities received through camera deployment added to WCCB database in DNPWC (10 records in Y2 and 15 in Y3) by end of Y3 in identified IWT hotspots <b>Baseline=0 records [IWTCF-D10]</b>	The deployment of GSM-enabled spy cameras both online and offline ( <i>Act 2.6</i> ) in CNP's high-risk zones yielded 10 actionable illegal images within four months received by JOC was shared with District and Province level WCCB ( <i>Act 2.6, Annex 4.7.2, 4.7.3</i> ).	Continue covering high threat areas of Chitwan-Parsa Complex with spy cameras and share the information by JOC to WCCB via semi-annual meetings.
<b>Output 3:</b> Community resilience to human-wildlife conflict (HWC) has been strengthened and human-wildlife coexistence (HWCx) promoted, fostering site-based stewardship and reducing a driver of IWT in three key villages within the Chitwan-Parsa complex.		
<b>Output indicator 3.1:</b> 4 HWC hotspot maps, 2 HWC mitigation plans prepared by Y1, endorsed by Y2, and implemented by Y3; <b>Baseline = 0 maps, 0 plans [IWTCF-D16]</b>	Four detailed HWC hotspot maps were produced and validated through extensive consultations with communities and stakeholders ( <i>Act 3.1, Annex 4.11.1, 4.11.2</i> ). Complementing this, two locally tailored HWC mitigation plans were developed for Tribeni and Daunne Devi BZUCs through participatory assessments, addressing the specific needs and conflict dynamics of each area ( <i>Act 3.5, Annex 4.15</i> ).	Endorse hotspot maps and HWC mitigation plans with concerned agencies and support to implement the HWC mitigation plans.
<b>Output indicator 3.2:</b> Two HWC mitigation committees formed by end of Y1; <b>Baseline = 0 committees [IWTCF-D17]</b>	Further, for institutionalization of mitigation efforts, two HWC mitigation committees were formally established in the Tribeni and Daunne Devi BZUCs, providing long-term structures for conflict resolution ( <i>Act 3.4, Annex 4.14</i> ).	Promote functionality of HWC committees by assisting implementation of priority HWC mitigation activities, as targeted by HWC Mitigation plans.
<b>Output indicator 3.3:</b> At least 180 HHs supported with pre-emptive HWC mitigation measures including establishment of an HWCx learning centre by end of Y3 (25 in Y1, 125 in Y2, and 30 in Y3; <b>Baseline = 0 [ZSL 2]<sup>3</sup></b>	Total 132 HHs receive direct support pre-emptive HWC mitigation measures which includes predator proof coral for 52 HHs and electric stove for 80 HHs ( <i>Act 3.7, 3.12, Annex 4.16.1, 4.16.2, 4.16.3, 4.20.1, 4.20.2, 4.20.3, 4.20.4</i> ). While, about 670 HHs received the indirect support on HWC mitigation measures through maintenance of 10.2-Kilometer-long electric fencing in Daunne devi BZUC ( <i>Act 3.7, Annex 4.16.4</i> ).	Project planned to support additional 100 predator proof coral, additional 120 electric stoves, and early warning systems in HWC hotspot areas as identified in Y1.
<b>Output indicator 3.4:</b> At least 1250 community members reached through mass awareness activities conducted on IWT, HWC, HWCx by end of Y3 (300 in Y1; 650 in Y2;300 in Y3 <b>Baseline = 0 activities [IWTCF-C04]</b>	Total of 197 community members (40% women, 83% indigenous and disadvantage group) were sensitized about behaviour of wild animals that pose threats to humans from all project communities ( <i>Act 3.3, 3.13, Annex 4.13, 4.21</i> ). Additionally, about 0.8 million community members receive	Similar to this year, awareness workshops and events are planned for next year too. In addition, construction of another learning center and enhancing

<sup>3</sup> ZSL 2: Is an output-level indicator that tracks the number of households (HHs) equipped with HWC mitigation measures (unit = # of HHs)  
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	awareness message through radio stations ( <i>Act 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, Annex 4.17, 4.18, 4.19</i> ). One learning center is established in Tribeni ( <i>Act 3.8, Annex 4.17</i> ).	functionality of existing one will take place.
<b>Output 4:</b> Proven livelihood schemes have been implemented in three communities breaking the cycle of poverty and reducing community members' vulnerability to exploitation by poachers and illegal wildlife traders.		
<b>Output indicator 4.1:</b> Four women-led community banking cooperatives established by Y1 and are operational by the end of the project (at least 60% of members from low-income households with 70% of members being women, disadvantaged and vulnerable people); 25 members per bank initially, growing to at least 68 members each by Y3). <b>Baseline = 0 cooperatives [IWTCF-A06]</b>	Total Four community banks established, engaging 400 vulnerable community members (64% women, 86% indigenous and marginalized groups), legally registered and institutionalized at local government, i.e., Sahumara Prasaiya ALG (74% women, 72% indigenous and marginalized group), Tribeni ALG (115 members; 73% women and 83% indigenous and marginalized group), Baguban ALG (100 members; 58% women, 88% indigenous and marginalized group), Tamaspur ALG (101 members; 68% women, 98% indigenous and marginalized group) ( <i>Act 4.1, Annex 4.22</i> ).	Financial literacy training, market linkage assessment and
<b>Output indicator 4.2:</b> At least 5 sustainable livelihood options identified and at least 2 feasibility assessments conducted for identified livelihood schemes along with wildlife (boar/deer) farming at HH/community level by end of Y2; <b>Baseline = 0 identified options and 0 feasibility assessments [ZSL 3]<sup>4</sup></b>	Four livelihood options identified via livelihood ranking matrix carried out at the community level ( <i>Act 4.6</i> ).	Business plan preparation for targeted livelihood interventions and feasibility study of commercial wildlife (boar/deer) farming will take in Y2.
<b>Output indicator 4.3:</b> At least 150 HHs apply new capabilities (skills and knowledge) gained through capacity building trainings to improve HH livelihood (50 in Y1 and 100 in Y2). <b>Baseline = 0 [IWTCF-D02]</b>	Total of 166 members of four ALG (67% women, 86% indigenous and marginalized group), 114 (57% women, 87% indigenous and marginalized group) ( <i>Act 4.6</i> ), and 52 members of ALG (78% women, 86% indigenous and marginalized group) ( <i>Act 4.9</i> ), were benefitted.  All the participants received, piglets, breeding buck of Sirohi goat breed, veterinary package, vegetable for the respective training minimizing the gap of knowledge gain and its execution at HH level ( <i>Act 4.6, 4.9, Annex 4.25, Annex 4.26</i> ).	Additional 2 intensive trainings, 4 basic trainings and 1 advanced training is planned for next year.

<sup>4</sup> ZSL 3: Is an output level indicator that tracks the number of livelihood options identified and feasibility assessments conducted (units = # of options identified and # of assessments conducted).  
IWTCF Main & Extra Annual Report Template 2025

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

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<b>Impact:</b> A reduction in IWT in the eastern Terai Arc Landscape due to strong, collaborative, transboundary partnerships, robust law enforcement, an effective judicial system, and economically resilient local communities.			
<b>Outcome:</b> Reduced IWT involving key threatened species in Chitwan-Parsa complex through enhanced and collaborative law enforcement, judicial systems, proven diversified livelihoods schemes such as community banking and reduced human-wildlife conflict.	<p><b>0.1</b> 10% increase in IWT cases received and followed up by the end of Y3 as a result of 3 intelligence sharing platforms at local, federal and transnational level; (baseline to be determined by Y1 and 10% will be changed into the appropriate number of case) <b>[IWTCF-B07]</b></p> <p><b>0.2</b> 8 individuals from the identified hotspots in Gandaki and Bagmati province successfully prosecuted for serious IWT offences by the end of Y3 (baseline 1 successful prosecution out of 5 IWT arrests in 2018: DNPWC, 2018) <b>[IWTCF-B09]</b></p> <p><b>0.3</b> 30 arrests (paying due attention to probable cause and due process) linked to wildlife crime and facilitated by the project made in Gandaki and Bagmati province by end of Y3 (8 in Y1; 10 in Y2 and 12 in Y3) baseline typically c. 5 arrests/year (DNPWC, 2018) <b>[IWTCF-B05]</b></p> <p><b>0.4</b> 20% decrease in incidences of human wildlife conflict by end of Y3 (baseline to be determined early in Y1 with target % to be changed into numbers) <b>[ZSL 1]</b>.</p> <p><b>0.5</b> 216 households (HHs) have experienced an increase in income (minimum of 10% increase on</p>	<p><b>0.1</b> WCCB data, seizure data records, pre- and post-project assessments, Protected Areas (PA) records; disaggregated by agencies referring and agencies receiving case referrals.</p> <p><b>0.2</b> Department of National Parks and Wildlife Reserves (DNPWC) records, Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) records, Court Records, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) records.</p> <p><b>0.3</b> DNPWC data, Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) data, WCCB data; disaggregated by level of offence.</p> <p><b>0.4</b> Baseline survey and post project survey tallying forest dependency and number of HWC cases in target communities.</p> <p><b>0.5</b> All participatory metrics for inclusion in income index co-defined by end Y1. Pre and post project survey at community level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Law enforcement (LE) and other agencies continue sharing data on arrests and prosecution.</li> <li>- Local communities are supportive of conservation and are keen to diversify their income generation.</li> <li>- WCCB structure is established at federal level by the project starting period.</li> <li>- Avenues exist for improving law enforcement agencies' response to IWT and that those agencies remain supportive of conservation initiatives.</li> <li>- HWC is a potential driver of IWT in the region (i.e. people angry at HWC turn to poaching either for the pot or for IWT): recorded retaliatory killing of 2 tigers recently and deaths of 376 protected animals in 2018/2019 suspected to include retaliatory killings (Kathmandu post, October 2022; Onlinekhabar, June 2023) and so reducing HWC will support combating IWT in the region.</li> </ul>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	average for at least 80% of 270 HHs) by the end of Y3 (baseline to be determined by Y1 pre project survey) <b>[IWTCF-A01b]</b>		
<b>Output 1</b> Nepali law enforcement (LE) agencies' capacity and capabilities to combat IWT strengthened, including improved investigative, enforcement, prosecution, and judicial capacity and capabilities, and human rights during arrest and detention ensured.	1.1 200 LE officers (investigation officers, custom officials, border security and attorneys and judges) focusing on newly formed provincial WCCB unit trained in human rights, IWT investigation, trafficking, and their role in prevention of wildlife crime by the end of Y3 (55 in Y1, 90 in Y2 and 55 in Y3); (baseline=0 officers) <b>[IWTCF-B01]</b> . 1.2 At least 3 national LE organizations have improved capability and capacity as a result of the project by the end of Y3; baseline to be established in Y1 <b>[IWTCF-D03 Core]</b> . 1.3 At least 50% trained LE officers report the application of new capabilities by the end of Y3 (Baseline=0) <b>[IWTCF-D02]</b>	1.1 Reports on training of LE, customs, judicial, border security officials (disaggregated by gender, age group, stakeholder group, and type of law enforcement role). 1.2 List of organizations with number of officials trained including pre- and post-training evaluations; disaggregated by organization type). 1.3 Endline Survey	- LE and other agencies and their staff are cooperative, available, and receptive to trainings on IWT and human rights issues. - WCCB, District Forest Office (DFO), National parks are willing to share their database
<b>Output 2</b> Increased coordination between enforcement agencies at district, province, national and transnational level has created an integrated approach to combat wildlife crime.	2.1 Illegal wildlife trade route of five SAWEN countries identified and shared regionally <b>[IWTCF-B01]</b> 2.2 At least 10 additional IWT-related intelligence reports shared among LE agencies from local to regional level, inclusive of provincial WCCB and INTERPOL by end of Y3 (baseline TBD in Y1) <b>[IWTCF-B14]</b> 2.3 At least 100 decision makers attend briefing events for establishing partnerships to ensure better	2.1 National Park and District Forest Office database (patrol duration and hours) 2.2 Number of intelligence reports shared. 2.3 Meeting minutes, Photographs, Event Report 2.4 Report on proven tools/approaches developed through participatory approach of which an example is "Joint Operational Centres (JOC) - a coordinated body involving park	- LE and other key agencies from local to regional level including local communities are open to improved coordination and collaboration and are comfortable with sharing of intelligence and information for a collaborative approach to combat IWT. - LE and other key stakeholders are open to partnerships - Willingness to share intelligence reports

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>coordination and collaboration to combat IWT by end of Y3 (baseline = 0 partnerships) <b>[IWTCF-D08]</b></p> <p>2.4 Three new or enhanced tools/approaches to tackling IWT developed through federal, provincial, and local workshops involving key stakeholders by end of Y3 (1 in Y1, 2 in Y2) (baseline = 0 tools/approaches) <b>[IWTCF-D12]</b></p> <p>2.5 At least 25 records of wildlife crime activities received through camera deployment added to WCCB database in DNPWC (10 records in Y2 and 15 in Y3) by end of Y3 in identified IWT hotspots (baseline=0 records) <b>[IWTCF-D10]</b></p>	<p>officials and Nepal Army created by ZSL through IWT041 in western TAL which has resulted in an increase in IWT seizures and arrests in the region.</p> <p>2.5 Images from surveillance camera, WCCB record</p>	<p>- Agreement to endorse proven and innovative IWT tackling tools/approach by relevant authorities</p>
<p><b>Output 3</b></p> <p>Community resilience to human-wildlife conflict (HWC) has been strengthened and human-wildlife coexistence (HWCx) promoted, fostering site-based stewardship and reducing a driver of IWT in three key villages within the Chitwan-Parsa complex</p>	<p>3.1 4 HWC hotspot maps, 2 HWC mitigation plans prepared by Y1, endorsed by Y2, and implemented by Y3; baseline = 0 maps, 0 plans <b>[IWTCF-D16]</b></p> <p>3.2 Two HWC mitigation committees formed by end of Y1; baseline = 0 committees <b>[IWTCF-D17]</b></p> <p>3.3 At least 180 HHs supported with pre-emptive HWC mitigation measures including establishment of an HWCx learning centre by end of Y3 (25 in Y1, 125 in Y2, and 30 in Y3; baseline = 0) <b>[ZSL 2]</b></p> <p>3.4 At least 1250 community members reached through mass awareness activities conducted on IWT, HWC, HWCx by end of Y3 (300 in Y1; 650 in Y2; 300 in Y3 (baseline = 0 activities) <b>[IWTCF-C04]</b></p>	<p>3.1 Hotspot maps, HWC mitigation plans, and IWT practical guideline document with details on sharing and consultation meeting and evidence of endorsement (forewords, letters, etc.); disaggregated by language and type of best practice guidelines and knowledge products.</p> <p>3.2 HWC mitigation committees' documentation formed under Buffer Zone Users' Committee (BZUC) and Community Forests (CF).</p> <p>3.3 Pictures and reports on preventative pre-empted HWC mitigation measures and HWCx learning centres; disaggregated by participating households' stakeholder group/ethnicity.</p>	<p>- HWC is a driver of IWT in the region and reducing HWC will help reduce IWT.</p> <p>- Local communities welcome the idea of reduced HWC and better HWCx.</p> <p>- Active participation from the targeted HHs.</p> <p>- Community centres or local government facilitate location for HWCx centres.</p> <p>- Access to electricity in all participating HHs.</p> <p>- IWT strategy developed with innovative and proven approaches from ongoing IWT project (IWT099)</p>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
		3.4 Minutes and pictures of awareness activities, sample / pictures of awareness materials; disaggregated by media type and local or national scale	
<b>Output 4</b> Proven livelihood schemes have been implemented in three communities breaking the cycle of poverty and reducing community members' vulnerability to exploitation by poachers and illegal wildlife traders.	4.1 Four women-led community banking cooperatives established by Y1 and are operational by the end of the project (at least 60% of members from low-income households with 70% of members being women, disadvantaged and vulnerable people); 25 members per bank initially, growing to at least 68 members each by Y3); (baseline = 0 cooperatives) <b>[IWTCF-A06]</b>  4.2 At least 5 sustainable livelihood options identified and at least 2 feasibility assessments conducted for identified livelihood schemes along with wildlife (boar/deer) farming at HH/community level by end of Y2; baseline = 0 identified options and 0 feasibility assessments <b>[ZSL 3]</b> .  4.3 At least 150 HHs apply new capabilities (skills and knowledge) gained through capacity building trainings to improve HH livelihood (50 in Y1 and 100 in Y2); baseline = 0 <b>[IWTCF-D02]</b>	1.1 Community bank registration lists, pictures, and reports of training; disaggregated by gender of owner(s) and members, age groups of members, community, and cooperative type.  1.2 List of sustainable livelihood options decided through participatory approach, feasibility study reports; disaggregated by livelihood type.  1.3 Training reports inclusive of beneficiary list; disaggregated by gender, age group, stakeholder group, type of training, and proportion of trained people employed at end of project	- Community members agree to be members of community banks with declaration signed to not engage in an IWT related activities and actively participate to combat IWT in the region.  - Government of Nepal publishes and endorses a directive for wildlife farming (boar/deer)  - Participants of training agree to become part of special committee to respond or communicate IWT activities in their area  - Community members actively take part in organised training and are motivated to be economically resilient.
<b>Activities</b> (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)  Activity 1.1 Conduct training for law enforcement agencies and other relevant actors on different elements of wildlife crime investigation, trafficking and their role in its prevention.  Activity 1.2 Conduct training for prosecutors and judges on wildlife laws and crime (combating wildlife trafficking, improving prosecutions, wildlife identification, physical evidence management, CITES and wildlife laws).			



Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Activity 1.3 Facilitate workshop for LE officers on upholding human rights during arrest and detention.</p> <p>Activity 1.4 Facilitate workshop between wildlife investigation officers, custom officials, border security, police and attorneys for investigation, case building and other legal procedures at national and local level.</p> <p>Activity 1.5 Organise experience sharing meeting of state and federal public prosecutors to improve understanding of wildlife laws, its significance and techniques to build successful court cases.</p> <p>Activity 2.1 Study, identify and reflect on the supply chain of illegal wildlife commodities in five SAWEN member countries.</p> <p>Activity 2.2 Sharing of the supply chain study among national and international stakeholders to reflect the supply chain of IWT in SAWEN countries using their international platform.</p> <p>Activity 2.3 Facilitate workshops to strengthen information sharing mechanism among National/Central/Province/District Level WCCB, other relevant LE agencies and park authorities to collectively combat wildlife related organized crime.</p> <p>Activity 2.4 Facilitate annual information sharing workshop through WCCB among central level LE agencies and park authorities tackling illicit wildlife trafficking.</p> <p>Activity 2.5 Facilitate transborder coordination and meetings with counterparts on issues of wildlife trafficking at relevant border check posts.</p> <p>Activity 2.6 Support Park to deploy GSM-enabled cameras in wildlife crime hotspots with information/database hosted by JOC and shared with WCCB.</p> <p>Activity 2.7 Share the information hosted by JOC to WCCB (semi-annually).</p> <p>Activity 2.8 Establish intelligence sharing mechanism between CBAPU members and Park authority (communication system set up, quarterly meetings/connect to JOC).</p> <p>Activity 2.9 Initiate community-level information sharing mechanism between Nepal and India through common digital platform (information from community feeds to WCCB in both countries via WCCB Nepal/Park warden).</p> <p>Activity 3.1. Produce HWC hotspot maps and validate through community and stakeholder workshops.</p> <p>Activity 3.2 Assess the capacity of the communities on animal behaviour, including avoidance strategies specifically targeting the identified vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Activity 3.3 Carry out community workshops in the identified conflict hotspots to provide knowledge on animal behaviour, including avoidance strategies specifically targeting the identified vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Activity 3.4 Establish and institutionalise effective equitable HWC mitigation committee as subcommittee of BZUCs/CFUG to manage all HWC mitigation activities to ensure long-term sustainability of interventions.</p> <p>Activity 3.5 Facilitate the HWC committees to develop HWC plan and obtain local agreement on locally appropriate HWC mitigation measures utilising current and traditional knowledge.</p> <p>Activity 3.6 Support HWC committee to implement HWC plan using proven proactive HWC reduction measures.</p> <p>Activity 3.7 Support predator proof corral as pre-empted HWC mitigation measure.</p> <p>Activity 3.8 Establish early warning systems for HWC mitigation.</p> <p>Activity 3.9 Facilitate and support HWC learning centers within BZUC (materials, drop-in sessions).</p>			

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Activity 3.10 Install information boards in public areas such as schools, community centres and border crossings to create mass awareness on HWC and its mitigation, IWT and its implications.</p> <p>Activity 3.11 Develop Information, Education &amp; Communication (IEC) material such as audio visual, radio jingles and leaflets on HWC and its mitigation measures using local dialects and conduct mass awareness campaigns.</p> <p>Activity 3.12 Promotion of renewal energy (e-stoves) to reduce natural resource dependency as well as wildlife-people encounters.</p> <p>Activity 3.13 Community level awareness programme on illicit wildlife crime, trade and HWC and mitigation measures.</p> <p>Activity 4.1 Support communities to establish community banking cooperatives to promote alternative livelihood and community wellbeing.</p> <p>Activity 4.2 Institutional support for 4 community banks (set up and training on cooperative management, financial literacy).</p> <p>Activity 4.3 Provide seed fund support to community banks ensuring availability of soft loans that will target community members ensuring the sustainability of livelihood interventions post project.</p> <p>Activity 4.4 Training on cooperative management/financial literacy to target community members.</p> <p>Activity 4.5 Support community members to identify market linkages for their livelihood products.</p> <p>Activity 4.6 Build capacity for community members in identified sustainable and successful livelihoods (basic level training).</p> <p>Activity 4.7 Support communities to develop business plans for identified livelihood interventions.</p> <p>Activity 4.8 Feasibility study (wild boar, spotted deer) study in line with government policy- community HH level.</p> <p>Activity 4.9 Intensive training on identified livelihood schemes: eco-tourism/nature guide training/livestock/commercial farming/hospitality management.</p> <p>Activity 4.10 Advanced training on identified livelihood schemes.</p> <p>Activity 4.11 Pre and Post survey</p> <p>Act 4.11.1 Establishment of grievance mechanism in the community site</p> <p>Act 4.11.2 Organise workshop with all key stakeholders in the project on expected standard of behaviour of staff and how to report complaints and provide feedback on services; appropriate and proportional to the project activities</p> <p>Act 4.11.3 Safeguarding training to all project lead and staffs to ensure adherence to safeguarding and PSEAH standards</p>			

## Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the <b>correct template</b> (checking fund, scheme, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and <b>deleted the blue guidance text</b> before submission?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> putting the project number in the subject line.	
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> 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 <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the subject line.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Have you provided an updated risk register?</b> 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 encourage to develop a risk register.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 17)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	