

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)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2025

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IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Scheme (Main or Extra)	Main
Project reference	IWTR10S2\1021
Project title	Community engagement against poaching and IWT in Sudurpaschhim province
Country/ies	Nepal
Lead Organisation	National Trust for Nature Conservation
Project partner(s)	Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment, Sudurpaschhim Province (MoITFE), Community development center (CDC).
IWTCTF grant value	£ 524,562.00
Start/end dates of project	August 2024 to January 2027
Reporting period (e.g. April 2024-Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	August 2024 to March 2025 (Annual Report 1)
Project Leader name	Dr. Naresh Subedi
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.ntnc.org.np/project/community-engagement-against-poaching-and-iwt-sudurpaschhim-province-nepal
Report author(s) and date	Mr. Laxmi Raj Joshi, Naresh Subedi, Sujhav Pun

1. Project summary

Nepal's Sudurpaschhim Province, sharing borders with India and China, is a hotspot for poaching and illegal wildlife trade (IWT). The aim of the project is to engage traditional hunting communities and strengthen law enforcement to curb poaching and IWT through innovative alternative livelihood support, minimizing retaliatory killings of wildlife, increasing conservation awareness among local communities and strengthening law enforcement capacity. This project addresses three major aspects of IWT: poaching by traditional hunting communities for bush meat and easy money, retaliatory killings by local communities as they are highly exposed to human-wildlife conflict (HWC), and inadequate capacity of frontline enforcement staff to curb hunting and IWT.

The species most impacted by IWT in the project site include tigers, leopards, snow leopards, pangolins, musk deer, and Himalayan black bears. Over the past seven years, authorities have confiscated 21 common leopard skins, five tiger skins, one live pangolin, two bear biles, two musk pods, one snow leopard skin, and two rhinoceros horns.

For instance, in Baitadi district (one among the nine districts in Sudurpaschhim Province), 28 human fatalities were caused by leopards since 2011 led to the retaliatory killing of 26 leopards (Baral et al., 2022;

DFO Baitatdi records-unpublished), with recent seizures of five leopard skins believed to be linked to such conflict. The common leopard has been listed as Vulnerable (VU) on the IUCN Red List since 2016. The species showed significant population decline globally, mainly due to HWC, poaching for skin and body parts, and retaliatory killings following livestock predation. In 2025, two tigers were found dead in the buffer zone of ShNP and Kailali district, while two recent human fatalities were also related to tiger.

The communities most affected by IWT include Dalit and marginalized ethnic groups, traditional hunting communities living in remote parts of the province, and women, who are often unknowingly exploited in wildlife trafficking chains. These challenges and target areas were identified through a comprehensive baseline survey and review of existing literature. Over the period of seven years, a total of 63 people were engaged in wildlife related offence were arrested, 44 of whom were from marginalized ethnic and Dalit communities, including 24 women. In some cases, women are used as porters for trafficking wildlife parts.

Additionally, retaliatory killings stemming from HWC feed into IWT. A baseline survey on HWC and IWT revealed that the common leopard is the most problematic species in terms of livestock depredation, while the wild boar is the primary species responsible for crop raiding. Similarly, poaching incidents are most prevalent for the common leopard, followed by the wild boar. This project employs a landscape-level approach, spanning ecological zones from the Terai plains to the high mountains. It is being implemented across three key clusters: Api Nampa Conservation Area-Darchula, Khaptad National Park-Doti, and the Kanchanpur-Dadeldhura district.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The project received continuous support from all formal partners including central, provincial and local governments. The project proposal itself was developed upon receiving strong consent from all the relevant stakeholders, and thus it reflected the contemporary challenges and demands of all the formal partners as well as the target communities. Series of dialogues (both formal and informal) were conducted at provincial and local levels where we tried to engage all the formal partners. The communities selected as the core intervention site were reached through formal institutions such as buffer zone user committees (BZUC) and community forest user groups (CFUG). Intervention sites were selected on a collaborative approach based on the available database on HWC and IWT, comparative marginality and vulnerability of the communities, and the multidimensional poverty index (supplementary material 1). Similarly, all the capacity development packages were delivered in a collaborative way by the available expertise at district and province levels. This exchange of expertise helped us to enhance the overall impact of the project. All the formal project partners were engaged in planning, monitoring and evaluation. Project planning aligned with partner expectations and feedback. Beyond formal partners, local stakeholders such as community leaders, cooperatives, local government institutions, and schools were engaged extensively.

The key achievements that resulted from the collaborative approach included, institutional setup for local cooperatives, collaborative efforts to materialize the roles and responsibilities of wildlife crime control bureaus (WCCB-both at provincial and district levels), capacity development of frontline staff, and facilitating transboundary cooperation. Local expertise was utilized in delivering capacity development packages. A key lesson learnt was about the sustainability of interventions that rely heavily on the collaborative efforts of all the formal and informal. The strengths of various stakeholders have significantly contributed to the project's success. NTNC excelled in community engagement, ensuring active participation of local communities. DNPWC, MoITFE, and concerned DFOs as well as PA officials demonstrated strong expertise in law enforcement, while CDC was highly experienced in promoting alternative livelihoods.

Despite notable achievements, the partnership approach presented several challenges. Engaging new partners was difficult, especially in building their institutional capacity and orienting them on governance norms and values. Coordination with government line agencies was often demanding in terms of time and resources. Implementing livelihood and HWC mitigation programs through CFUG in the Hill areas was a relatively new approach. DFOs often prioritized forest management over HWC mitigation and IWT. Governance challenges of some local CFUGs/BZUCs, such as irregular meetings, poor implementation of annual deliverables (audit, tax clearance etc) were the major issues concerned with doing agreements with such institutions in the beginning of the project implementation. Participation of women and marginalized groups was often more ritual rather than their meaningful participation. To manage the various challenges encountered during the project, we maintained continuous engagement with all stakeholders. We used our expertise and showcased success stories from previous projects to build their trust. We maintained strong governance standards and did not compromise on project compliances. Inclusive participation was ensured by clearly justifying our approach in official communications, particularly when demanding the representation of women and marginalized groups and applying positive discrimination when required (supplementary material 2).

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

There has been a slight delay in the implementation of activities, primarily due to the timeline of project approval and necessary preparatory steps. The project was approved at the end of August and formally initiated in September. Following this, considerable time was required to finalize agreements with formal partners, which was essential to ensure effective delivery of the project. Despite the delay, the majority of the planned activities were successfully implemented.

Output 1: Marginalized and IWT affected communities adopt alternative livelihood

Activity 1.1: Provide support for institutional strengthening of saving and credit groups including financial management and governance training (Indicator 1.1)

Six livelihood cooperatives/saving and credit groups (hereafter referred as the saving and credit groups) were formed engaging 731 poaching/IWT and HWC-affected community members of the project sites/clusters. These sites were selected based on recommendations and data provided by the respective Division Forest Offices (DFO), Protected Areas (PA), and Community Forest User Groups (CFUG)/Buffer zone user committees (BZUC) (supplementary material S1). The key selection criteria for the beneficiary HH included the overall socio-economic well-being of the family, prevalence of poaching/IWT and HWC, distance from the forest etc. (supplementary material S3). To form these cooperatives, site-level meetings were held to inform community members about the project, its safeguarding measures, and planned activities (supplementary material S4).

Participatory well-being ranking exercises were conducted to ensure inclusivity and saving and credit groups were formed ensuring representation of women and marginalized groups in key positions. Group Legislation and fund mobilization guidelines were developed, which were subsequently, endorsed by the respective DFOs, CFUGs, BZUCs, and group/committee members (supplementary material S5 and S6). In addition, logistic support such as stationaries and office suppliers were also supported (supplementary material S7).

306 saving and credit group members (M: 88; F: 218; Dalit: 46; Janjati: 13; BCT: 247) mentioned above received financial management and governance training (seven training packages of five days each). The training curriculum (supplementary material S8) included both theoretical and practical sessions, covering important aspects of savings and loan procedures, record keeping, group meeting and decision-making procedures, and regulatory frameworks related to BZUC and CFUGs. The training sessions were delivered by the local practitioners working with BZUCs/CFUGs/cooperatives/PAs and DFOs.

Activity 1.2: Prepare household level Livelihood Improvement Plans (LIP) (Indicator 1.2)

LIPs (a sample LIP in supplementary material S10) were prepared for 300 saving and credit group members (key beneficiary of the livelihood seed fund). The LIP process included group meetings, preparation of LIPs by the consultant, sharing with the respective households, and endorsement by the concerned CFUG/BZUC and beneficiary households (supplementary material 1S1).

Activity 1.3: Establish seed money in saving and credit groups and provide soft loans to 300 households to implement LIP (Indicator 1.2)

The lead partner entered into separate agreements (sample agreement in supplementary material S12) with the concerned CFUG/BZUC/saving and credit groups, and provided seed money supports (£22,500 in total, details below) to each of the beneficiary groups (n=6). These funds are now managed through local cooperatives selected by the concerned CFUG/BZUC/saving and credit groups. Beneficiaries have to pay a nominal interest rate of 6% per annum, and are free to choose their own livelihood activities. The detail of the seed money supports is provided below.

S.N.	Alternative livelihood groups	Amount (NPR)	Amount (£)
1	Dadeldhura,	609750	3750
2	Kanchanpur	609750	3750
3	Kanchanpur	609750	3750
4	Darchula	609750	3750
5	Doti	609750	3750
6	Bajhang	609750	3750
Total		3658500	22500

Until this reporting period, £5,535.05 as soft loans was mobilized to nine HH of the *Sidda Baijanath alternative livelihood sub-committee*, Kalapani Village, Kanchanpur District. The beneficiary selection procedure was as per the rules set in group legislations. Beneficiaries received NPR 50,000 each who

have initiated their alternative livelihood activities including livestock farming, small-scale grocery shops and tailoring (supplementary material S13 and S14).

Activity 1.4: Conduct certified skill-based training to 120 local youths from marginalized, IWT and HWC prone communities, and provide business start-up grant (indicator 1.3, 1.4)

60 IWT and HWC-affected local youths (M: 47; F: 13; BCT: 34; Dalit: 5; Janjati: 21; people with disability: 1) of the project site received two-month (three training packages in total) certified skill-based training package of plumbing, electrician, and mobile repairing. Participants represented the buffer zone area of ShNP, and Chure Jhilmila and Bhairav CFUGs of Dadeldhura District lying in the remote Siwalik Hills. The trainings were facilitated by a locally selected vendor viz. *the Business Consultancy and Training Center, Kanchanpur*. The beneficiaries will be provided with the business-start up supports in the next year. Remaining 60 beneficiaries will be trained and provided business start-up in next year. Progress on Indicator 1.4 will be reported in future reports.

Activity 1.5: Participatory survey and mapping of HWC hotspots in project sites

A baseline survey was conducted to assess the HWC incidents in the project sites. The survey shows that HWC is widely spread in all project with varying degrees of severity in terms of crop loss, livestock damage, property destruction, and human risk. The communities in most of the project areas have not yet received support for mitigation measures. A separate survey report is attached with this report (supplementary material S15) which includes the HWC hotspot maps in the project areas.

Activity 1.6: Support for construction of predator-proof corrals in HWC affected households in HWC hotspots

100 HWC-affected community members of the project sites (BCT: 78; Dalit: 6; Janjati: 16) were supported to construct Predator-Proof Corrals (PPC). Prior to the PPC support, formal agreements were made with the respective BZUC/ CFUG that documented the criteria and standards for the construction (supplementary material S16). The beneficiary HH were selected by the respective groups and recommended by the concerned BZUC/CFUG/local government units. Priorities were given to the HWC-affected HH (whose goats and pigs were repeatedly killed by the predators), marginalized HH and HH living in close proximity to the forest, as per the participatory findings of the well-being ranking conducted during the project inception.

Activity 1.7: Conduct pre- and post-project income and HWC change assessment of beneficiary households (Indicators 1.5 and 1.6)

Baseline survey of HWC is reported above in Activity 1.5. A baseline survey was conducted to assess the income of targeted households (saving and credit group members, and local youths). The socio-economic assessment of households across the six districts in Sudurpaschim Province highlights notable disparities in income, education, gender representation, food security, occupation, and livestock ownership. Kanchanpur (*Bagphanta*) emerged as the area with the highest mean household income, while Bajhang and Doti lagged behind, indicating uneven economic development across the region. A separate survey report is attached with this report (supplementary material S9). Progress towards Indicators 1.5 and 1.6 will be reported on year 3.

Output 2: Increased knowledge and skills of frontline staff and improved coordination among law enforcement agencies

Activity 2.1: Conduct site-level crime scene procedure trainings for frontline law enforcement staff (Indicator 2.1)

Nine training events were completed to provide crim-scene procedures to 229 frontline staff (M: 194; F: 35; BCT: 177; Dalit: 13; Janajati: 39; person with disability: 1) (supplementary material S17). The beneficiaries represented various district level agencies having important roles in wildlife crime investigation and control (Divisional Forest Office-DFO; Protected Area-PA; District Postal Offices-DPO, Nepal Army, Armed Police Force, and Nepal Police).

The training deliverables were related to the present scenario of wildlife crime and trade in Nepal, legal and institutional mechanisms to curb wildlife crime, major animal and plant species that are threatened due to wildlife crime, identification procedures of major animal and plant species, and their derivatives that goes to illegal trade, crime-scene procedures (evidence collection, safety of the crime spot, reporting crime cases), wildlife crime prosecution procedures, post-mortem, and forensic procedures (supplementary material S17). NTNC used IWT knowledge and wildlife parts/product identification procedures booklet produced by this project, and the manual developed through the project "Combat Wildlife Trafficking in Nepal (SINLEC21GR3324)" being implemented by NTNC.

The training sessions were jointly facilitated by the existing master trainer trained under "SINLEC21GR3324" project, and officials from the respective DFOs, PA, District Government Attorney

Offices, District Police Offices, District Courts, and the NTNC. Over the five days of training, participants improved their test-scores on average from 50% (pre-test) to 85% (post-test) (supplementary material S18). It is expected that the trained frontline staff now have better knowledge and skills to control poaching and IWT in Sudurpaschhim province. Although this activity was originally planned for Y2, this was conducted in Y1 through change request. It was because of the importance of capacitating frontline staff from early project stage to ensure effectiveness of wildlife crime control interventions. Training report is included in supplementary material S30.

Activity 2.2: Develop and print booklets of IWT knowledge and wildlife parts/products identification procedures (n = 1 booklet; 1500 copies) (Indicator 2.2)

A booklet of IWT knowledge and wildlife parts/products identification procedures was prepared and 1500 copies of the booklet were printed. The booklets consists information on frequently traded wildlife species from Nepal (including their ecology, biology and behavior), and field-level identification of the stockpiles. The booklet is printed in Nepali language to make it more useful for the target frontline staff. A soft copy of the booklet is attached with this report as a separate document (supplementary material S29).

Activity 2.3: Provide support for institutional strengthening of province-level WCCB, periodic meetings (10 meetings) and annual learning workshops (3) (Indicator 2.4)

Province-level wildlife crime control bureau (P-WCCB) was formed for the Sudurpaschhim province engaging 49 authorities (M: 48; F: 01; BCT: 42; Madhesi: 04; Janjati: 03). Honorable Minster, Ministry of Forest and Environment (central government of Nepal), and Honorable Minster, Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment (province government, Sudurpaschhim province) jointly marked the workshop. Other key attendees were from the central-level WCCB (ministries and departments), provincial authorities (ministry and departments, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, and other provincial and district level authorities) having the roles and responsibilities in wildlife crime control, as provisioned by the Wildlife Crime Control Directive of Nepal, 2023, as well as conservation partners (NTNC, ZSL, WWF and others). The workshop concluded with the formation of province-level WCCB and some open decisions to strengthen collaboration and cooperation among the agencies (supplementary material S19). The first meeting of the provincial WCCB was organized on the same date following its formation. An annual learning workshop of the provincial WCCB was organized engaging 23 authorities (M: 17; F: 06; BCT: 13; Madhesi: 08; Janjati: 02) from the Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment, Provincial Forest Directorate, respected PAs and DFOs. The workshop provided a platform for the attendees to discuss on the emerging wildlife conservation issues in the province related to HWC and IWT. Site-level issues were discussed in group discussions and important way forward for the provincial WCCB were identified. The major issues discussed were:

1. Current state of wildlife trade and HWC in the province
2. Lessons learnt from the recent seizures of wildlife stockpiles in the province
3. Capacity gaps among the authorities and frontline staff related to identification of wildlife stockpiles
4. Capacity gaps among the frontline staff on HWC management
5. Contemporary needs of the authorities related to wildlife rescue and handling

The meeting provided a platform for inter-agency dialogue and strategic planning. Through structured group discussions, participating stakeholders identified key areas for collaborative action, which included strengthening enforcement mechanisms, fostering community engagement, enhancing coordination among relevant institutions, and promoting innovative approaches for human-wildlife coexistence.

Activity 2.4: Organize district-level WCCB coordination meetings (n = 25) (Indicator 2.4)

Seven WCCB meeting were conducted in Dadeldhura (2), Baitadi (1) Darchula (1), Bajhang (1), Doti (1), and ShNP (1). Altogether, 146 authorities (Male: 135; Female: 11; BCT: 124; Janajati: 10; Dalit: 3; Madhesi: 9) attended these meetings. The attendees have distinct roles and responsibilities in wildlife crime control as provisioned by the Wildlife Crime Control Directives. In these meetings discussions and decisions were made regarding IWT, forest product exploitation, and other relevant site-specific issues (a sample meeting minute is provided in supplementary material S20).

Some noticeable decisions from the coordination meetings and their impact:

During winter, wildlife from high mountains migrates to lower elevations, increasing the prevalence of HWC and IWT. To address these challenges, a consensus was made among the authorities to undertake precautionary measures and awareness programs with enhanced coordination among relevant organizations. Park Range posts were established in encroachment prone areas of ShNP. It was also agreed to reform the Api Nampa Conservation Area Management Council to ensure people participation in PA management.

Activity 2.5: Organize annual local transboundary meetings between India and Nepal (n = 3)

Indo-Nepal transboundary cooperation meeting for biodiversity conservation was organized in Khatima, Terai East Forest Division, Uttarakhand state of India. Twenty-five attendees (M:18; F:7; 12 Nepali nationals; 13 Indian nationals) from Nepal and India including PA officials, community leaders and conservation partners attended the meeting. Sudurpaschim Province plays a both a source and a transit point for the IWT. Due to its strategic location and proximity towards the Indian states of Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, the province is vulnerable to smuggling of wildlife parts and products. Recognizing this, authorities have prioritized the need to strengthen border security to effectively monitor and control such activities. The meeting featured knowledge-sharing sessions focused on flagship species, particularly the tiger. Participants from both countries shared their experiences and techniques related to combating IWT. Discussions included poachers operation across borders. Strategies for managing HWC in affected communities were also exchanged. Additionally, India shared insights on eco-tourism development initiatives in the PTR, highlighting opportunities for community engagement and sustainable conservation practices (supplementary material S28).

Activity 2.6: Provide support to maintain WCCB Secretariat IWT database and link with central WCCB database(Indicator 2.6)

To ensure effective management of province-level IWT database, a laptop, a digital camera, and 13 GPS devices were provided to the provincial WCCB secretariat.

Activity 2.7, 2.8 and 2.7: We dropped these activities due to risk of sensitive information being misused potentially affecting members of the target communities.

Output 3: Increased awareness level of local communities on poaching and IWT

Activity 3.1: Conduct 50 poaching/IWT sensitization workshops for target communities, including porters, seasonal labours, and traders benefitting 1,500 people (Indicator 3.2)

This activity is planned for next year.

Activity 3.2: Broadcast a fortnightly radio program (52 episodes) focusing on generating conservation awareness and sensitizing the public on poaching/IWT issues (Indicator 3.4)

This activity is planned for next year.

Activity 3.3: Produce and disseminate poaching and IWT awareness materials (n = 5000 pamphlets, 2000 posters, 10 hoarding boards) (Indicator 3.3)

2500 conservation posters consisting message of poaching and IWT were printed and distributed to the project area communities and stakeholders. The poster consists message about human-wildlife co-existence (dos and don'ts while encountering potential problem causing animals), and causes and consequences of IWT including legal punishments while engaging on such crimes. Similarly, five hoarding boards with the message of IWT (consequences, legal measures) were placed at the strategic location of the province (customs, city centers, bus parks). Sample poster and hoarding boards are provided in supplementary material S22. All the awareness materials are printed in Nepali language to make it more useful for the target communities.

Activity 3.4: Develop training manual for ToT on HWCx and poaching/IWT and develop 30 local change agents through ToT (Indicator 3.1)

Training manual of ToT on HWCx and poaching/IWT was prepared and printed. A copy of the training manual is attached with this report (supplementary material S23). 30 (M: 18; F: 12; BCT: 28; Janajati: 1; Dalit: 1) local youth from Sudurpaschim Province received seven days training of trainer's package (ToT) on HWCx and IWT. The training sessions were jointly facilitated by officials from MoITFE, ShNP, DFOs, and the NTNC. The following sessions were delivered (both theoretical and practical, detailed in supplementary material S24).

- Biodiversity conservation practices, and threats to biodiversity conservation in Nepal
- PA system of Nepal, paradigm shift in PA management
- Current state of wildlife poaching and illegal trade in Nepal
- Wildlife behavior and safety measures, HWC mitigation practices and learning
- Stakeholders and their role in IWT control
- Database management techniques and documentation.
- Short training course session plan and delivery

Practical sessions of identification of wildlife (direct and indirect methods of identification) were delivered in ShNP. The pre-test and post-test results showed an increase in knowledge of participants by 10.5%. The average pre-test score was 8.2 and post-test score was 9.5) (supplementary material S24). Trained local youth have delivered site-level sessions on HWCx, and conducted behavior change campaign (Conservation awareness) and anti-snare campaign which ultimately helped developing positive perception of the communities towards wildlife, and also helped reduce forest dependency.

Activity 3.5: Organize behavioral change campaigns by change agents (n = 150) (Indicator 3.2)

Local change agents trained in Activity 3.5 actively conducted behaviour change campaigns across all nine districts of Sudurpaschim Province. 49 conservation education and awareness events/sessions (site-levels) were conducted in villages and schools, reaching a total of 1,713 individuals (M: 801, F: 912, BCT: 1277, Janajati: 247, Dalit: 189). The campaign focused on educating communities about the HWC relief guidelines, recognizing wildlife signs such as paw marks and scats, understanding animal behavior, and safety measures from potential problem causing animals, such as avoiding travelling alone into the forests, and reporting wildlife sightings and potential movements to the villagers. Through these grassroots efforts, the campaign is helping to foster a culture of coexistence across the landscape and developing positive attitude of local communities towards wildlife (supplementary material S25). Two sharing workshops with 68 behaviour change agents (M: 26, F: 8, BCT: 31, Madhesi: 1, Dalit: 2) were organized to gather their feedback on behavior change campaigns and anti-snare campaigns. These serve as a platform to assess the effectiveness of the interventions, understand challenges faced in the communities and devising future plans (supplementary material S26).

Activity 3.6: Conduct pre and post perception surveys will assess the level of sensitization generated in targeted communities/groups (Indicator 0.3)

A perception survey was conducted to assess perception of project area communities/target communities towards poaching and IWT knowledge and awareness. The survey findings in general, indicate a positive perception of communities on wildlife conservation. However, tolerance levels toward HWC varied across different sites because of the relative exposure towards HWC. Specifically, tolerance levels were found to be closely linked with the type, frequency, and severity of conflict experienced, as well as the assess towards the mitigation measure. A separate survey report is attached with this report (supplementary material S21).

Activity 3.7: Conduct anti-snare campaigns by change agents (Indicator 3.5)

Local change agents conducted 17 anti-snare campaigns across all nine districts of Sudurpaschim Province. These campaigns were organized in 11 local units, reaching a total of 607 community members (M: 252, F: 355; BCT: 459, Janajati: 66, Dalit: 82). As part of the initiative, the trained youths supported local community in identifying and removing traps from forest areas while raising awareness about the ecological and legal consequences of trap-setting. Till this reporting period, a total of 43 snare and 14 catapults were recovered and handed over to the respective DFOs and PA authorities (supplementary material S27).

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

In overall, the project is in good position to achieve the outputs. Most of the activities in all the components have been initiated. Necessary documentation of all the activities have been made to support the verification towards achieving the outputs and outcomes. Baselines surveys on level of HWC and annual income in project areas have been completed which will be compared with final year's survey data to report the changes. Activities that require institutional process are being undertaken with involvement of the concerned stakeholders and necessary documents, such as livelihood loan distribution guideline, LIPs, agreement with communities for PPC support, etc. were prepared and finalized with stakeholders' approvals. Training activities are being conducted with support of relevant experts and institutions. The project is field-intensive, our field-based project team is in continuous engagement with local authorities, stakeholder agencies and community members to ensure good planning and implementation of the project activities. This direct of involvement from the local level is expected to help in effective monitoring of the project activities and contribute to successful completion of the project.

Output 1: Marginalized and IWT affected communities adopt alternative livelihood

Six saving and credit groups were formed engaging 731 poaching/IWT and HWC-affected community members. 306 members of the total group members received financial management and governance training. LIPs were prepared for 300 group members, and endorsed by the relevant authorities. Seed money was mobilized to the group, with initial soft loans (£5,535.05) provided to nine HH in Kalapani, Kanchanpur. 60 local youths received skill-based training, and 100 PPC were constructed for HWC-affected households. We have conducted the baseline HWC survey for those HH who received support for PPC construction. Similarly, a baseline survey to assess annual household income of the project areas was also conducted. The changes in HWC and income will be reported in the project's final year. We have documented the evidences of the activities and attached with is report.

Status of indicators under this output:

Indicator 1.1: Formation of 6 cooperatives is targeted. This has been fully achieved.

Indicator 1.2: £78,125 total value for 300 households and 120 youths is targeted. £5,535.05 has been provided to nine HH.

Indicator 1.3: 120 local youths is targeted. 60 youths have received skill-based training.

Indicator 1.4: 90 youths is targeted. This will be reported in year 3.

Indicator 1.5: 225 HHs by year 3 is targeted. LIPs have been prepared, 9 HH have received livelihood loans and distribution of livelihood loans will continue. This indicator will be reported in year 3.

Indicator 1.6: 200 HH is targeted. Baseline HWC data is on hand and 100 HH have been supported to construct PPC.

Output 2: Increased knowledge and skills of frontline staff and improved coordination among law enforcement agencies

229 frontline staff received trained on crime scene procedures. A comprehensive booklet on IWT was prepared (1500 copies were printed for wider circulation). A Province-level WCCB was formed and institutionalized. An annual learning workshop of the provincial WCCB indicated that the network is fully functional. Seven district-level WCCB meetings were organized in six districts. Transboundary conservation issues were discussed with the Indian counterparts through a transboundary cooperation meeting. The project also supported the WCCB Secretariat of Sudurpaschim Province with equipment to maintain IWT database.

Status of indicators under this output:

Indicator 2.1: 225 frontline staff is targeted. This target is achieved.

Indicator 2.2: 1500 wildlife parts and products identification booklet is targeted. This target is achieved.

Indicator 2.3: Baseline is 18 individuals arrested in fiscal year 2021/22. This will be reported in year 3 using data from law enforcement agencies.

Indicator 2.4: 35 meetings is targeted. Seven WCCB meetings are organized so far.

Indicator 2.5: 3 meetings is targeted. One transboundary meeting has been completed.

Indicator 2.6: 1 database is targeted. Database equipment was provided to province WCCB.

Indicator 2.7: This activity was dropped.

Output 3: Increased awareness level of local communities on poaching and IWT

30 local youth were trained through a ToT on poaching and IWT. The change agents reached to a total of 1713 individuals through 49 behaviour change campaigns. 2500 posters were printed and widely distributed to the communities. Five hoarding boards were installed in strategic locations. 17 anti-snare campaigns were conducted resulting in a collection of 43 snares and 14 catapults.

Status of indicators under this output:

Indicator 3.1: 30 change agents is targeted. This target is achieved.

Indicator 3.2: 7,500 people is targeted. 1713 is reached so far, out of which 53% are women and 25% belong to IPLC.

Indicator 3.3: one technical report on HWC hotspot mapping; 5000 pamphlets; 2000 posters; and 10 hoarding boards is targeted. HWC report, 2500 poster and 5 hoarding boards have been produced.

Indicator 3.4: 52 episodes is targeted. This activity will be reported in year 2.

Indicator 3.5: 42 anti-snare campaigns is targeted. 17 campaigns have been conducted so far.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The outcome indicators seem to be achievable by the end of the project. Until this reporting period, efforts were made to set foundation for HWC mitigation, IWT control, reducing depending on forest, and developing positive attitude of the community against IWT. We have supported the target saving and credit groups with seed funds. Mobilization of these funds has recently initiated. Skill-based training packages were recently organized, and business-start up grants will be soon mobilized. HWC-affected community members have constructed predator proof corrals to safeguard their livestock. This will minimize livestock depredation, and increase profits for livestock owners. When the seed funds are fully mobilized, trained youths receive business start-up supports, and HWC-affected members adopt improved farming practices, there will be a significant change in local livelihoods. People will minimize their dependency on forest and IWT, backed up with conservation awareness programs.

Similarly, the project has set a foundation to mobilize district-Provincial WCCB networks. We have also provided crime scene procedure training packages in the first year (originally planned in second year, but implemented in Yr I through a change request). With the accomplishment of institutional strengthening of WCCB and in-depth training packages, as well as required logistic supports the frontline staff will engage themselves with required skills and knowledge. This will result in a significant decline in poaching and IWT throughout the landscape. These developments have collectively created a positive and enabling environment for meeting the outcome-level indicators. While some activities experienced slight delays, the project remains on track, and full achievement of the outcome-level indicators is expected by the end of the project funding period.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Outcome level assumptions

Assumption 1: No large scale natural disasters and political situation occur to delay project activities.
Comments: This assumption still hold true.

Assumption 2: Community mobilizers monitor livelihood transformation of beneficiary households resulting from to project support and targeted households adopt and cooperate on project activities and provide accurate information on income generated from alternative livelihood schemes.

Comments: This assumption still hold true. However, seed funds have been recently provided to the saving and credit groups, and IGA training was also recently conducted. Mobilization of funds will be made in the next year. Role of community mobilizers will be important when funds will be fully mobilized.

Assumption 3: Local municipalities and community institutions will sufficiently collaborate with the project to meet the targets.

Comments: This assumption holds true. A successful execution of the project activities was only possible with collaboration from the municipalities, CFUGs, BZUCs and other local institutions. In supporting documents such collaborations can be expelled.

Assumption 4: Poaching and IWT cases will reduce because there will be decrease in the number of people engaging in poaching and IWT as they have access to income from alternative livelihood and this change will be supported by enhanced law enforcement presence in the province that acts as a deterrent to wildlife crime.

Comments: This assumption also holds true. No evidences of target communities engagement in poaching and IWT has been observed in this reporting period. A comprehensive poaching and IWT database will be available in the next year.

Assumption 5: Increase in knowledge and awareness about the legalities of poaching and IWT will discourage poaching/IWT sensitive groups that will have a positive effect on reducing wildlife crime cases in the province.

Comments: This assumption also holds true. A successful delivery of behaviour change campaigns and anti-snare campaigns have certainly generated awareness about the legal aspects of poaching and IWT.

Assumption 6: With success in changing poaching/IWT dependent livelihood practices among poaching and IWT sensitive communities to alternative means of earning income, combined with securing their livelihood from HWC mitigation will lead to decrease in the number of wildlife deaths from poaching and HWC related retaliatory killing, indicating overall decrease in wildlife crime cases from the province.

Comments: This assumption will hold true when the funds will be fully mobilized and begin showing impacts in the coming years.

Output level assumptions

Output 1

Assumption 1: With no external factors affecting the stability of local markets and routine operation of saving and credit groups, the project will do better to achieve this output.

Comments: This assumption still hold true. As of now we have made a strong institutional mechanism in which funds will be mobilized efficiently. Likelihoods of fund misuse are almost negligible.

Assumption 2: All three tiers of government agencies create enabling environment for smooth project execution.

Comments: This holds true. The project received anticipated supports from all the formal and informal government partners. Supporting documents with this report shows such a strong support from line agencies.

Assumption 3: Local communities accept and adopt alternative livelihood options introduced by the project and accurately report their households level changes.

Comments: This assumption also holds true. Communities are free to choose their own affordable livelihood activities, and started reporting changes. This is well expelled in project support documents related to saving and credit group mobilization and seed fund utilization.

Output 2:

Assumption 1: Transfer of law enforcement, protect area and division forest staff to other districts/province/or departments remain minimum such that existing master trainers and capacity development are retained in the province.

Comments: This holds true. We haven't realized any mass movement of law enforcement staff from the project area.

Assumption 2: Transboundary cooperation are effective through timely information sharing between local authorities of India and Nepal.

Comments: This assumption also hold true. Significant achievements related to law enforcement was achieved, and information on movement of potential problem causing animals was shared (well expelled in the transboundary meeting minutes).

Output 3:

Assumption 1: No abrupt events (eg. earthquake, landslides) affect workshops and behavioural change campaigns.

Comments: This assumption holds true. No such incidents observed until the reporting period.

Assumption 2: Individuals participating in awareness campaigns and sensitization workshops will disseminate their knowledge and awareness in their family and friends circle.

Comments: This also holds true. This is well expelled in project support documents related to behaviour change campaigns and anti-snare campaigns.

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

Impact (as per the project proposal): Reduced position of the Sudurpaschim province as source and transit for IWT through community engagement and strengthened wildlife law enforcement, supporting sustainable wildlife conservation in the far-western landscape of Nepal. The project is contributing to achieve the higher-level impact related to both reducing IWT by strengthening the law enforcements and enhancing human development and wellbeing by addressing the root causes of IWT such as HWC, human behaviour, and law enforcement capacity. The project has been strengthening the law enforcement agencies by engaging district level WCCBs, forming the province-level WCCB, and developing capacity on crime scene procedures. Similarly, in terms of poverty reduction, marginalized communities (ultra-poor) who bear the costs of IWT and HWC are provided access to livelihood seed funds and capacity to mobilize the funds. Once they begin mobilizing these funds, it will have a significant impact on improving their livelihoods. Saving and credit group regulations and fund mobilization guidelines (please refer supporting documents related to group formation) ensured that the available funds will be utilized to implement such livelihood activities that minimize pressure on forest, and the beneficiaries will not engage themselves in IWT. The project interventions are targeting the multidimensional poverty (exacerbated by hierarchies, genders, disability remoteness, HWC prevalence, climate induced disasters etc.). Thus successful implementation of the aforementioned interventions will create an enabling environment to minimize poverty and thereby minimizing IWT and HWC in the project area.

4. Thematic focus

Theme 3: Strengthening Law Enforcement

This year we have contributed in strengthening law enforcement by developing the law enforcement capacity of the frontline staff of various enforcement agencies having primary roles in making investigations of wildlife crime (crime investigation, surveillance, protection of crime spots, reporting). We have also strengthened province-district level WCCBs, and made them effective in terms of reporting of crime cases, smart communication and coordination. Project results under this theme will be measured by indicators 0.2 and 2.3 which will be supported by poaching/IWT data from law enforcement agencies and this will be reported in year 3. As of this reporting period, authorities have confiscated four leopard skins, four Sambar deer antlers, 2 wild boar jaws, and 10 snares during this reporting year. Similarly, change agents helped recovery of 43 snares and collection of 14 catapults. We will continue to report progress in subsequent reports.

Theme 4: Developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT

IWT affected communities of the Province (of the project site) were provided access to soft loans, and capacity of local youths were developed to adopt alternative profitable livelihoods (details in activity 1.6 and 1.7). Similarly HWC mitigation supports were provided to the most HWC-affected HH (details in activity 1.11). We have also helped improving the governance of saving and credit groups (details in activity 1.2). These initiatives open the doors for the employment opportunity for the IWT affected communities. These results will be captured through progress in indicators 0.1, 1.5 and 1.6. Baseline socio-economic and HWC data is on hand.

5. Impact on species in focus

Since this is the first year of the project implementation, it is little early to indicate any impact on species in focus. However, significant progress has been made in curbing wildlife trade in the province. We expect that poaching and IWT control of target species will support to at least stabilize their population. We will report this progress in year 3 using available data from the concerned agencies. Project activities that could support species level impact include basic equipment for IWT surveillance and record keeping supported to the provincial WCCB and regular coordination among the law enforcement agencies. Moreover, public awareness and positive attitude towards wildlife is expected to support conservation of the targeted species.

6. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The beneficiaries of this project are the poor and marginalized communities (traditional hunting community, marginalized dalit and women) of the province who bear the cost of their intentional and unintentional engagement in poaching and IWT. These communities (and groups specifically) are included in the saving and credit groups and IGA training packages following and rigorous and participatory well-being ranking exercise (based upon agreed criteria). Their participation is also insured legally through group legislations and fund mobilization guidelines.

Community needs were identified on a participatory approach, in which communities made their own decisions to adopt any profitable and sustainable livelihood activity based on the site-specific issues and opportunities. A net increase in household income is expected once the seed funds are fully utilized and IGA training beneficiary youths receive business start-up grants. In long run, there will be enhanced governance among the community institutions, and forest ecosystem will be improved as communities become the guardian of their nature.

7. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

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

NTNC's engagement with IWT and HWC affected communities over the years has shown that the relative exposure and vulnerability of communities towards these important biodiversity threats are always case specific. Considering, the far Western province of Nepal people with certain caste, and ethnicities, poor and marginalized group groups living in remote areas, and women (mostly the single women) are the one who rely on poaching and IWT to meet their basic livelihoods. In another way, people who have the relatively high exposure to HWC also engage themselves in poaching and IWT, and thus bear the costs.

Thus our effort was to ensure GESI as an important project component while reaching to the communities. Legally, we ensured participation of the most vulnerable HH in saving and credit groups by including them as core beneficiaries of the project. Positive discriminations were made as and when required to ensure participation of marginalized community members, dalits, women and people with disability while implementing project specific training, workshop and other deliverables. This was made by issuing official letters that clearly outline participant selection criteria, and ensuring meaningful participation of the target

groups. These criteria explicitly require equitable representation of men, women, and individuals from marginalized groups.

Some challenges and lesson learnt during the period include: One of the major lessons learnt during the period was related to the competition among the women of different socio-economic hierarchies often resulting in leadership and key decision-making positions being dominated by those from more privileged backgrounds. This imbalance could limit the active participation and influence of women from marginalized or less empowered groups, potentially undermining the project's goal of fostering inclusive and equitable community representation. Efforts were made to address such community dynamics through continuous engagements with the communities where our social mobilizers created an enabling environment to support the target community member to take the leadership.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

This first annual reporting covers about six months of project implementation which was spent to initiating the project implementation, mainly involving coordinating with stakeholders, establishing cooperatives, documenting institutional guidelines, preparing training manuals and conducting some activities which contribute to the actual output level targets. As of this project stage, we are tracking the progress against the output-level indicators and the project is on track to fully achieve the outputs. Notably, 100% is achieved in cooperatives formation, 50% of the targets in HWC mitigation and skill-based training is achieved, 100% of law enforcement training is achieved, all of the planned change agents are trained and mobilized and province WCCB has been institutionalized. These are founding-level activities which are important to maintain steady progress in the remaining project years. We organized a project inception workshop in September, 2024 involving all the stakeholders who are appreciative to the project and their cooperation for the project is secured.

Up to this point, the progress that can be translated to achievements include:

- 6 cooperatives have been established and strengthened (Indicator 1.1, measured by documents related to their formation)
- 30 change agents are trained and mobilized (Indicator 3.1, measured by their field reports)
- 229 frontline staff trained in crime-scene procedures (Indicator 2.1)
- 100 HH received support for PPC construction (50% of target) (Indicator 1.6, measured by PPC construction agreement with community)
- 60 youths received skill-based training (50% of target) (Indicator 1.4, measured by training report and assessment in year 3)

Community Development Center (CDC) is our direct implementing partner responsible for implementing some key activities under outputs 1 and 2. CDC shares the M&E responsibility for its respective activities and is required to periodically report to NTNC on the technical and financial progress. Since the project does not have multiple implementing partners, no annual review workshops are planned but coordination with CDC is maintained through informal progress sharing meetings and other forms of communication. The project engages with the stakeholder agencies (BZUC, CFUG, PA authorities, etc.) in periodic meetings to share progress and discuss the issues in implementing the project.

9. Lessons learnt

Most of the Year 1 project activities have been completed, with a few exceptions due to delays in the project's official commencement. Although the project was approved in July 2025, the actual implementation began only in September 2025 (as our project went to OSJA screening), slightly affecting the initial timeline.

We received very good support from all the formal project partners. Because of their support we were able to timely and effectively deliver the most important activities of the project such as capacity development packages, group formation and legalization, engaging change agents in coordination with the law enforcement agencies, and mobilizing livelihood seed funds.

WCCB networks become functional, and collaboration among the law enforcement agencies was improved because of timely meetings and follow up among the stakeholders.

Project partner, CDC initially faced challenges due to limited experience in wildlife conservation. As a result, additional time was required for them to familiarize with the project's working modalities and expected deliverables.

Governance among the CFUGs was another issue that we faced during the reporting period. Most of the participating CFUGs didn't have audit reports, operational plans and audit reports. We first engaged with CFUGs, improved their governance and then only implemented the project activities. This took more time than we previously planned.

Thus, to work in such an institutional and social dynamics need a project/institution to fully understand the overall governance of the community institutions, and underlying socio-economic dimensions. These important things should be better understood before the inception of the project.

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

11. Risk Management

No new risks have arisen in this reporting period. No new adaptation was necessary this year. Project had to wait for availability of stakeholders for coordination meetings which delayed the starting project implementation.

12. Scalability and durability

Local municipal governments, CFUGs, BZUCs and authorities from relevant forest and protected areas are aware of the project and its activities. These key stakeholders also supported the designing of this project, thus they all have taken some level of ownership to the project. We expect to regularly engage with them throughout the project and update them on the project, especially to share with them the good practices and the successful activities that could be integrated into their system. However, as of now, the project is still underway to achieve the targets and qualitative results will be assessed in the project's final year. The project has defined indicators intended to capture the changes (HWC, income, behaviour, skill level) and these will be examined in the final year. Some of the project outputs, such as behaviour change agents and livelihood cooperatives have good potential to be integrated into local forest intuitions and municipal governments given that the project succeeds is demonstrating their effectiveness. The project's sustainability and legacy will depend on larger external factors and we look forward to meaningfully engage with the stakeholders to create prospects for the project's longevity beyond its completion.

13. IWT Challenge Fund identity

To enhance recognition of the IWT Challenge Fund, NTNC has prominently featured the Fund's logo across various communication and outreach materials. These includes banners detailing training and workshop activities, the ToT manual on HWCx, and IWT manual, as well as hoarding boards, posters, bags, and shirts. We have a facebook page named National Trust for Nature Conservation-Shuklaphanta Conservation Program (<https://www.facebook.com/ntncscp>) and a group named behaviour change campaign for conservation-Sudurpaschhim Province (NTNC-SCP-<https://www.facebook.com/groups/183382281528007>).

Activities conducted under this project are mentioned with [#BiodiversityChallengeFund](#). Similarly, the project is given a distinct identity among the projects that are being implemented by NTNC with various themes, objectives, with various donors and varied landscape. A protect information webpage has also been posted in NTNC website (<https://ntnc.org.np/project/community-engagement-against-poaching-and-iwt-sudurpaschhim-province-nepal>).

14. Safeguarding

15. Project expenditure

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

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

TOTAL	£226,198.0	£220,172.4		
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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 (£)			NTNC and CDC
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

NA

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

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption including description, country and credit	Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No

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

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact Reduced position of the Sudurpaschhim Province as source and transit for IWT through community engagement and strengthened wildlife law enforcement, supporting sustainable wildlife conservation in the far-western landscape of Nepal	Communities become aware of caused and consequences of poaching and IWT, and provided with access to alternative income generation.	
Outcome Decreased involvement of marginalized and IWT affected communities of Sudurpaschhim Province in poaching and IWT underpinned by alternative livelihoods, strengthened law enforcement and increased awareness		
Outcome indicator 0.1 At least 75% of targeted IWT affected and marginalized households of intervention sites have at least 50% increased income from alternative livelihoods by year 3 and give up poaching and IWT	This will be reported in year 3. Baseline annual income of target communities is NPR 147,671 (£812.44)	Provide alternative livelihood support to target HHs
Outcome indicator 0.2 Percentage reduction in number of IWT and poaching cases as a result of increased law enforcement capacity of frontline staff and increased coordination among enforcement agencies	This will be reported in year 3 Baseline = 32 wildlife parts and products seized in last 6 years	Provide alternative livelihood support to target HHs Collect poaching/IWT data from agencies
Outcome indicator 0.3 Percentage increase in knowledge and awareness on poaching and IWT among targeted groups and communities Baseline = TBD by pre perception survey	This will be reported in year 3 A baseline survey was conducted to assess perception of project area communities/target communities towards poaching and IWT knowledge and awareness (detailed in the survey report S21)	Continue behaviour change campaigns
Outcome indicator 0.4 Reduction in incidents of poaching and IWT by marginalized and IWT affected communities	This will be reported in year 3 Baseline = ~60 poachers and wildlife traffickers arrested in last 5 years out of which 42 were from marginalized and IWT affected communities	Collect poaching/IWT data from agencies
Output 1 Marginalized and IWT affected communities adopt alternative livelihood		
Output indicator 1.1 Number of saving and credit groups strengthened and provided with financial management and governance training	6 saving and credit groups formed, and 306 members received financial and governance training. Evidence provided in Activity 1.1 and Activity 1.2 of report.	This activity is completed.

Output indicator 1.2 Total value and number of loans and business start-up grants provided to individual households and youths to implement Livelihood Improvement Plans (LIPs) and establish skill-based business	£22500 as seed money was mobilized to 6 groups, with initial soft loans (£5,535.05) provided to nine HH. LIPs were developed for 300 HH. Evidence provided in Activity 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6 of report.	Continue providing livelihood loans to target households
Output indicator 1.3 Number of people receiving training in sustainable livelihood skills	60 youth received skill-based training. Evidence provided in Activity 1.7 of report.	Continue the skill-based training
Output indicator 1.4 Number of people reporting they are applying new skills and knowledge after training	This will be reported in year 3. This will constitute the beneficiaries from indicator 1.3	Continue the skill-based training
Output indicator 1.5 Number of households that have experienced an increase in household income as a result alternative livelihood option	This will be reported in year 3. £22500 as seed money was mobilized to 6 groups, with initial soft loans (£5,535.05) provided to nine HH. LIPs were developed for 300 HH.	Continue providing livelihood loans to target households
Output indicator 1.6 Number of households reporting decline in HWC after project intervention	This will be reported in year 3. Baseline: In annual average, 131 cases of crop raids and 14 livestock depredation cases across project sites 100 HHs have been supported with PPC construction	Continue providing support for PPC construction
Output 2. Increased knowledge and skills of frontline staff and improved coordination among law enforcement agencies		
Output indicator 2.1. Number of frontline staff trained in law enforcement skills	229 frontline staff received crime scene procedure training. Evidence provided in Activity 2.1	This activity is completed.
Output indicator 2.2. Number of best practice guides and knowledge products	1500 copies of the booklet of IWT and wildlife parts/products identification were printed.	This activity is completed.
Output indicator 2.3. Number of wildlife crime cases submitted for prosecution and number of individual charged for wildlife crime	This will be reported in year 3	Collect poaching/IWT data from agencies
Output indicator 2.4. Number of WCCB units with improved interagency coordination	Province level WCCB was formed, and 7 district-level WCCB and 1 annual learning workshop of provincial WCCB organized.	Continue province WCCN annual meetings and WCCB coordination meetings
Output indicator 2.5. Number of local-level transboundary meeting organized between India and Nepal	1 Indo-Nepal transboundary cooperation meeting for biodiversity conservation was organized with 25 attendees	Complete second transboundary meeting.
Output indicator 2.6. Number of wildlife crime database maintained and linked to central WCCB database	A laptop, a digital camera, and 13 GPS devices were provided to the provincial WCCB secretariat.	Coordinate between province WCCB and central WCCB to link the database
Output indicator 2.7. Number of poaching and IWT prone areas monitored using Spy camera	NA	

Output 3. Increased awareness level of local communities on poaching and IWT		
Output indicator 3.1. Number of change agents trained on HWCx and IWT control to delivered further training by the end of the project	30 change agents trained on HWCx and IWT	This activity is completed.
Output 3.2 Number of people reached with behavioral change campaigns and sensitization workshops on HWCx and IWT	1713 individuals reached with behavioural change campaigns	Continue the campaign
Output 3.3 Number of publications produced (poaching and IWT hotspot mapping; posters; pamphlets and hoarding boards)	2500 posters were printed, and 5 hoarding boards were installed	Produce the pamphlets and remaining hoarding boards
Output 3.4 Number of radio program developed and broadcasted	This will be reported in year 2 and 3	Broadcast 26 radio programs
Output 3.5 Number of anti-snare campaigns conducted by the change agents	17 anti-snare campaigns were conducted by the change agents	Continue the campaign

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

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Reduced position of the Sudurpaschim province as source and transit for IWT through community engagement and strengthened wildlife law enforcement, supporting sustainable wildlife conservation in the far-western landscape of Nepal			
Outcome: Decreased involvement of marginalized and IWT affected communities of Sudurpaschim province in poaching and IWT underpinned by alternative livelihoods, strengthened law enforcement and increased awareness	0.1 At least 75% of targeted IWT affected and marginalized households of intervention sites have at least 50% increased income from alternative livelihoods by year 3 and give up poaching and IWT [ITWCF-A14, IWT-CF-A15] <i>Baseline = TBD by baseline survey</i> <i>Target = 225 households (by end of year 3)</i>	0.1 Yearly income assessment report of participating households <i>(Data Source – household income</i> <i>Data Collection Method – household income survey</i> <i>Data Disaggregation - disaggregated by gender and ethnicity)</i>	No large scale natural disasters and political situation occur to delay project activities Community mobilizers monitor livelihood transformation of beneficiary households resulting from to project support and targeted households adopt and cooperate on project activities and provide accurate information on income generated from alternative livelihood schemes
	0.2 Percentage reduction in number of IWT and poaching cases as a result of increased law enforcement capacity of frontline staff and increased coordination among enforcement agencies <i>Baseline = 32 wildlife parts and products seized in last 6 years ()</i> <i>Target = 40-50% reduction in IWT and poaching cases (by end of year 3)</i>	0.2 Annual reports of Central level WCCB and DNPWC; Annual reports respective PAs, DFOs and NTNC <i>(Data Source – reports from the agencies' office and websites</i> <i>Data Collection Method – review annual reports</i> <i>Data Disaggregation – disaggregated by gender)</i>	Local municipalities and community institutions will sufficiently collaborate with the project to meet the targets
	0.3 Percentage increase in knowledge and awareness on poaching and IWT among targeted groups and communities <i>Baseline = TBD by pre perception survey</i> <i>Target = 60% increase (by end of year 3)</i>	0.3 Pre and post perception survey reports <i>(Data Source – workshop participants</i> <i>Data Collection Method –perception survey questionnaire</i> <i>Data Disaggregation – disaggregated by gender and category of target group)</i>	Poaching and IWT cases will reduce because there will be decrease in the number of people engaging in poaching and IWT as they have access to income from alternative livelihood and this change will be supported by enhanced law enforcement presence in the province that acts as a deterrent to wildlife crime
		0.4 Seizure and poaching/IWT related records of CIB, DFOs and PAs, annual reports of DNPWC, project progress report	Increase in knowledge and awareness about the legalities of poaching and IWT will discourage poaching/IWT sensitive groups that will have a positive effect on

	<p>0.4 Reduction in incidents of poaching and IWT by marginalized and IWT affected communities <i>Baseline = ~60 poachers and wildlife traffickers arrested in last 5 years out of which 42 were from marginalized and IWT affected communities</i> <i>Target = 80% decline (by end of year 3)</i></p>	<p><i>(Data Source – seizure and poaching related records)</i> <i>Data Collection – collect data from agencies, review annual reports;</i> <i>Data Disaggregation – N/A)</i></p>	<p>reducing wildlife crime cases in the province</p> <p>With success in changing poaching/IWT dependent livelihood practices among poaching and IWT sensitive communities to alternative means of earning income, combined with securing their livelihood from HWC mitigation will lead to decrease in the number of wildlife deaths from poaching and HWC related retaliatory killing, indicating overall decrease in wildlife crime cases from the province</p>
<p>Outputs: 1. Marginalized and IWT affected communities adopt alternative livelihood</p>	<p>1.1 Number of savings and credit groups strengthened and provided with financial management and governance training [IWTCF-A05] <i>Baseline = Around 15 cooperatives present in target areas but need capacity strengthening to provide service to marginalized and IWT affected households</i> <i>Target = 6 groups – 30 hours of financial management and governance training (by end of year 1)</i></p> <p>1.2 Total value and number of loans and business start-up grants provided to individual households and youths to implement Livelihood Improvement Plans (LIPs) and establish skill-based business [IWTCF-06, IWTCF-07] <i>Baseline = About 100 households received vegetable farming support in Shuklaphanta National Park buffer zone</i> <i>Target = £78,125 total value for 300 households and 120 youths (by end of year 3)</i></p>	<p>1.1 Savings and credit group records and audit reports, training reports, meeting minutes of savings and credit groups <i>(Data Source – activity implementation)</i> <i>Data Collection Method – data collection as per M&E</i> <i>Data Disaggregation – N/A)</i></p> <p>1.2 Savings and credit group records and audit reports, meeting minutes of savings and credit groups, LIPs <i>(Data Source – records of saving and cooperative groups)</i> <i>Data Collection Method – review records of soft loans disbursement by saving and credit groups</i> <i>Data Disaggregation – disaggregated by gender of loan recipients)</i></p>	<p>With no external factors affecting the stability of local markets and routine operation of saving and credit groups, the project will do better to achieve this output</p> <p>All three tiers of government agencies create enabling environment for smooth project execution</p> <p>Local communities accept and adopt alternative livelihood options introduced by the project and accurately report their households level changes</p>

	<p>1.3 Number of people receiving training in sustainable livelihood skills [IWTCF-A01] <i>Target = 120 youths – 390 hours training per person (by end of year 2)</i></p> <p>1.4 Number of people reporting they are applying new skills and knowledge after training [IWTCF-A02] <i>Target = at least 75% of trained youths (by end of year 3)</i></p> <p>1.5 Number of households that have experienced an increase in household income as a result alternative livelihood options [IWTCF-A13] <i>Baseline = 0</i> <i>Target = 225 households (by end of year 3)</i></p> <p>1.6 Number of households reporting decline in HWC after project intervention <i>Baseline = TBD</i> <i>Target = 200 households (by end of year 3)</i></p>	<p>1.3 Pre and post training assessment report, training certificates (Data Source – training reports Data Collection Method – review training report Data Disaggregation – disaggregated by gender)</p> <p>1.4 Periodic income monitoring report, project impact report (Data Source –targeted youths receiving skill-based training Data Collection Method - monitoring of income activities after training Data Disaggregation – disaggregated by gender)</p> <p>1.5 Periodic income monitoring report, project impact report, case study reports (Data Source – households receiving soft loans for alternative livelihood Data Collection Method – household income survey Data Disaggregation – disaggregated by gender)</p> <p>1.6 Periodic HWC monitoring report (Data Source – households receiving predator-proof coral support Data Collection Method – household survey to assess change in HWC incidents Data Disaggregation – disaggregated by gender)</p>	
<p>2. Increased knowledge and skills of frontline staff and improved coordination among law enforcement agencies</p>	<p>2.1 Number of frontline staff trained in law enforcement skills [IWTCG-B01] <i>Baseline = 75 out of 630 frontline staff trained in crime scene procedures</i></p>	<p>2.1 Training report, pre and post training assessment report (Data Source – frontline staff receiving training)</p>	<p>Transfer of law enforcement, protect area and division forest staff to other districts/province/or departments remain minimum such that existing master</p>

	<p><i>Target = 225 frontline staff – 30 hours of training in 5 days (by end of year 2)</i></p> <p>2.2 Number of best practice guides and knowledge products [IWTCF-B05] <i>Baseline = crime scene procedures training manual</i> <i>Target = 1500 wildlife parts and products identification booklet (by end of year 2)</i></p> <p>2.3 Number of wildlife crime cases submitted for prosecutions and number of individuals charged for wildlife crime [IWTCF-B13, IWTCF-B12] <i>Baseline = 18 individuals were arrested in ShNP in fiscal year 2021/22</i> <i>Target = TBD as reported during project (year 3)</i></p> <p>2.4 Number of WCCB units with improved interagency coordination as a result of the project [IWTCF-D03] <i>Baseline = Provincial WCCB is recently established and district-level WCCBs do not have regular coordination meetings</i> <i>Target = 25 district-level WCCB meetings and 10 provincial WCCB meetings (by end of year 3)</i></p> <p>2.5 Number of local-level transboundary meeting organized between India and Nepal <i>Baseline = meetings are irregular and none have occurred since 2019</i> <i>Target = 3 meetings (year 1, 2 and 3)</i></p>	<p><i>Data Collection Method – documentation of training activity</i> <i>Data Disaggregation – disaggregated by gender)</i></p> <p>2.2 Wildlife parts and products identification booklet <i>(Data Source – wildlife parts and products identification booklets</i> <i>Data Collection Method – N/A</i> <i>Data Disaggregation – N/A)</i></p> <p>2.3 PA, DFO and CIB annual reports <i>(Data Source - wildlife crime data and annual reports of agencies</i> <i>Data Collection Method – review agency data and reports</i> <i>Data Disaggregation – disaggregated by gender of the individuals prosecuted and charged with wildlife crime)</i></p> <p>2.4 Minutes of transboundary coordination meetings, annual report of central level WCCB <i>(Data Source – province WCCB and district-level WCCBs</i> <i>Data Collection Method – documentation of meetings</i> <i>Data Disaggregation – N/A)</i></p> <p>2.5 Meeting minutes <i>(Data Source – meeting minutes</i> <i>Data Collection Method – review meeting minutes</i> <i>Data Disaggregation – N/A)</i></p> <p>2.6 Provincial wildlife crime database</p>	<p>trainers and capacity development are retained in the province</p> <p>Transboundary cooperation are effective through timely information sharing between local authorities of India and Nepal</p>
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	<p>2.6 Number of wildlife crime database maintained and linked to central WCCB database [IWTCF-B23] <i>Baseline = 1</i> <i>Target = 1 (by end of year 3)</i></p> <p>2.7 Number of poaching and IWT prone areas monitored using spy camera <i>Baseline = 0</i> <i>Target = TBD by survey (year 2 and 3)</i></p>	<p>(Data Source – wildlife crime database Data Collection Method – review activity report Data Disaggregation – N/A)</p> <p>2.7 Mapping report, monitoring report containing camera images (Data source - camera images and data Data Collection Method – deploy spy cameras and retrieve data periodically Data Disaggregation – N/A)</p>	
<p>3. Increased awareness level of local communities on poaching and IWT</p>	<p>3.1 Number of change agents trained on human-wildlife coexistence (HWCx) and IWT control to delivered further training by the end of the project [IWTCF-D01] <i>Baseline = 2 (in ShNP-BZ only)</i> <i>Target = 30 (33% female) change agents – 42 hours training in 1 week (by end of year 1)</i></p> <p>3.2 Number of people reached with behavioral change campaigns and sensitization workshops on HWCx and IWT [IWTCF-D10] <i>Baseline = None/ or low level of sensitization in targeted groups TBD through perception survey</i> <i>Target = 1500 individuals by workshops; 6000 individuals by community campaigns (at least 33% female) (year 1, 2 and 3)</i></p> <p>3.3 Number of publications produced (poaching and IWT prone areas mapping; HWC hotspot mapping;</p>	<p>3.1 Training manual on HWCx and IWT control, pre and post knowledge assessment of ToT participants, training attendance sheets of follow-up campaigns organized by the change agents (Data Source – change agents receiving ToT Data Collection Method - documentation of training activity Data Disaggregation -disaggregated by gender)</p> <p>3.2 Workshop and behavior campaign reports; pre and post perceptions survey reports (Data Source – individuals attending sensitization workshops and behavioral change campaigns Data Collection Method - documentation of workshops and campaigns Data Disaggregation – disaggregated by gender)</p> <p>3.3 Report and map of poaching and IWT prone areas, report and maps of HWC hotspots, number of posters;</p>	<p>No abrupt events (eg. earthquake, landslides) affect workshops and behavioral change campaigns</p> <p>Individuals participating in awareness campaigns and sensitization workshops will disseminate their knowledge and awareness in their family and friends circle</p>

	<p>posters; pamphlets and hoarding boards) [IWTCF-D13]</p> <p><i>Target: one technical report related to poaching and IWT prone areas mapping; one technical report on HWC hotspot mapping; 5000 pamphlets; 2000 posters; and 10 hoarding boards (by end of year 3)</i></p> <p>3.4 Number of radio program developed and broadcasted [IWTCF-D22] <i>Baseline = 0</i> <i>Target: 52 episodes (year 2 and 3)</i></p> <p>3.5 Number of anti-snare campaigns conducted by the change agents <i>Baseline: 0</i> <i>Target: 42 campaigns (by end of year 3)</i></p>	<p>pamphlets and hoarding boards produced (Data Source – publications Data Collection Method – document publication activities Data Disaggregation – N/A))</p> <p>3.4 Broadcasting certificate issued by the respected FM station (Data Source – radio broadcasts Data Collection Method – documentation of radio programs and broadcasts Data Disaggregation – N/A)</p> <p>3.5 Log book maintained by the change agents while conducting anti-snare campaigns (Data Source – change agents conducting anti-snare campaigns Data Collection Method – documentation of activity Data Disaggregation – N/A)</p>	
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Activities

Output 1: Marginalized and IWT affected communities adopt alternative livelihood

Activity 1.1: Provide support for institutional strengthening of saving and credit groups (n = 6)

Activity 1.2: Conduct financial management and governance training for saving and credit groups (n = 6)

Activity 1.3: Conduct baseline survey to assess income of target households and local youths (n = 1)

Activity 1.4: Prepare household level Livelihood Improvement Plans (LIP) (n = 300)

Activity 1.5: Establish seed money in saving and credit groups (n = 6, £37,500 total value)

Activity 1.6: Provide soft loans for alternative livelihood to target households through saving and credit groups (n = 300)

Activity 1.7: Conduct skill-based training to local youths (n = 6 trainings, 120 youths)

Activity 1.8: Provide business start-up grant to trained youths (n = 120, , £40,625 total value)

Activity 1.9: Conduct participatory survey to identify and map HWC hotspots in the project areas (n = 6)

Activity 1.10: Survey to assess baseline HWC incidents in HWC affected households (n = 1)

Activity 1.11: Support for construction of predator-proof corrals in HWC affected households (n = 200)

Activity 1.12: Conduct post-project income assessment of beneficiary households and youths receiving livelihood support (n = 1)

Activity 1.13: Conduct survey to assess change in HWC in beneficiary households receiving predator-proof coral support (n = 1)

Output 2: Increased knowledge and skills of frontline staff and improved coordination among law enforcement agencies

Activity 2.1: Conduct site-level crime scene procedure trainings for frontline law enforcement staff (n = 9; 225 staff)

Activity 2.2: Develop and print booklets of IWT knowledge and wildlife parts/products identification procedures (n = 1 booklet; 1500 copies)

Activity 2.3: Provide support for institutional strengthening of province-level WCCB (n =1)

Activity 2.4: Organize periodic meetings of province-level WCCB (n = 10)

Activity 2.5: Organize annual learning workshop of province-level WCCB (n = 3)

Activity 2.6: Organize district-level WCCB coordination meetings (n = 25)

Activity 2.7: Organize annual local transboundary meetings between India and Nepal (n = 3)

Activity 2.8: Provide support to maintain WCCB Secretariat IWT database and link with central WCCB database (n = 1)

Activity 2.9: Conduct survey to identify poaching prone areas in the province (n =1)

Activity 2.10: Develop map of poaching and IWT prone areas (n = 1)

Activity 2.11: Train frontline staff on use of technologies to reduce IWT (spy camera and CCTV) (n = 20 staff)

Activity 2.12: Deploy spy cameras in poaching prone areas identified by activity 2.9 (n = 10 cameras, areas = TBD)

Output 3: Increased awareness level of local communities on poaching and IWT

Activity 3.1: Conduct perception survey of target groups and communities on poaching and IWT knowledge and awareness (n = 1)

Activity 3.2: Conduct IWT poaching and IWT sensitization workshops (n = 50)

Activity 3.3: Develop and broadcast fortnightly episodes of radio program (n = 52)

Activity 3.4: Produce and disseminate poaching and IWT awareness materials (n = 5000 pamphlets, 2000 posters, 10 hoarding boards)

Activity 3.5: Develop training manual for ToT on HWCx and poaching/IWT (n = 1)

Activity 3.6: Conduct ToT for local change agents on HWCx (n = 1 training, 30 change agents)

Activity 3.7: Organize behavioural change campaigns by change agents (n = 150)

Activity 3.8: Conduct perception survey to assess the level of poaching and IWT sensitization generated in targeted groups and communities (n = 1)

Activity 3.9: Conduct anti-snare campaigns by change agents (n = 42)

Checklist for submission

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