

Darwin Initiative Main and Post Project Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Writing a Darwin Report” guidance: (<http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms>). It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

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Darwin Project Information

Project reference	26-012
Project title	Ghodaghodi's Guardians: Communities Restoring a Ramsar Wetland at watershed scale
Country/ies	Nepal
Lead organisation	Zoological Society of London
Partner institution(s)	Ghodaghodi Municipality (GM), Comprehensive Ghodaghodi Lake and Tourism Board (CGLTDB) and Himalayan Nature (HN)
Darwin grant value	£320,931.00
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Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2019 – Mar 2020) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	Apr 2019 – Mar 2020 Annual Report 1
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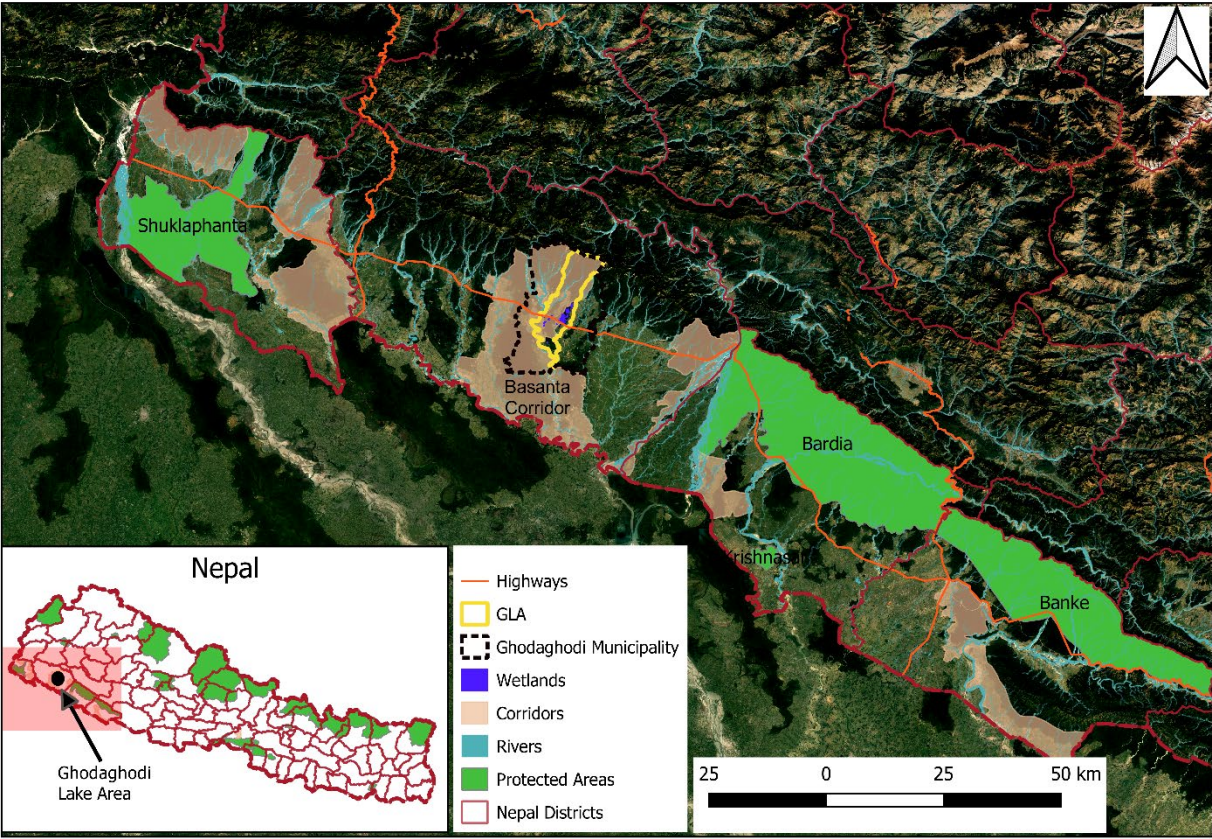
1. Project summary

Ghodaghodi Lake Area (GLA) is a globally significant Ramsar wetland and a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) with high natural capital and biodiversity, playing a crucial role in enabling conflict-free species movement through the transboundary Western Terai Complex (WTC) and Siwalik hills. However, rapid population growth due to migration from hills to plain lands, fast-growing tourism, agro-pollution, over exploitation of natural resources, over-grazing and over-fishing threaten this critical ecosystem.

GLA (28° 41'N, 80° 57'E) is located in the southwestern part of Nepal in Ghodaghodi Municipality of Kailali district, Sudur Paschim Province. This wetland covers an area of 2563 ha and comprises more than 15 smaller wetlands. The entire area is known after the main and the largest lake – Ghodaghodi. It lies in between the two national parks of WTC i.e. Bardia National Park (park HQ

lies approx. 64 Km towards the east) and Shuklaphanta National park (park HQ lies approx. 91 km towards west) as shown in the map below. Basanta Protected Forest, a critically important biological corridor, supporting movement of carnivores, mega-herbivores and other threatened species across TAL area almost covers the entire GLA located west of this area.

This project is aimed at improving our understanding of the underlying threats to GLA and developing appropriate mitigation. Activities will be aimed at restoring GLA’s ecological integrity through community-led, natural capital-based sustainable management. This in turn will increase well-being of local people and water security, while protecting biodiversity through sustainable tourism, women-led cooperatives, land-use planning and biological monitoring. Ultimately, the project will work towards declaring the area as a Bird Sanctuary supporting the decision taken by community people and authorised agencies.



2. Project partnerships

ZSL has built a firm relationship with its partners and stakeholders, including the Department of Forests and Soil Conservation (DoFSC), Ghodaghodi Municipality (GM), Comprehensive Ghodaghodi Lake and Tourism Development Board (CGLTDB) and Himalayan Nature (HN) for biodiversity conservation and protection in the GLA.

ZSL manages the overall project activities, by facilitating improved communication and coordination between partners for project implementation and bringing together relevant skill sets to complete the project, including overall technical, financial and risk management. CGLTDB and HN are our two implementing partners at the project site who are fully engaged in delivering the project activities. Besides this, we also work with and receive support from community and local organisations during project implementation. Also, a Project Coordination Committee (PCC) – chaired by the Deputy Director General of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), with section heads of DNPWC and the Project Manager from ZSL as members, has been formed at the central level, where project progress are shared annually and feedbacks are received for future implementation.

Ghodaghodi Municipality (GM) is the local government authority responsible for the development of the entire municipality and conservation of the GLA. GM is engaged in supporting the project through the CGLTDB. GM is taking a central role in engaging communities and stakeholders, both in and around the area, to secure the designation of the Bird Sanctuary, protected status of Ghodaghodi, coordinates for the development of watershed management plan, tourism plan etc.

and ensure the post–project legacy through long-term implementation and institutionalisation of plans prepared.

DoFSC provides permissions and technical support when required while implementing this project. Kailali district Divisional Forest Office (DFO) has facilitated engagement with the communities and other stakeholders across the wider Ghodaghodi watershed, including Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs).

CGLTDB has the key role of ensuring long-term community-led sustainable management and conservation of GLA. Their focus is on using the increasing levels of tourism as a catalyst to empower communities to protect natural capital and improve their livelihoods, through both tourism enterprises and using tourism revenue to make investments in the sustainability and productivity of their traditional livelihoods.

HN leads the community engagement employing their team of social mobilisers, supporting communities for adopting supplementary livelihood opportunities through the formation of women-led groups under the local cooperatives, monitoring of the overall biodiversity status of the area for land use planning and establishment of the bird sanctuary.

The involvement and support of 39 GLA communities including Tharu, dalits, women and marginalised groups, is crucial in achieving the objective of the project while protecting the entire GLA ecosystem. Through this project, the communities, local organisations and technical specialists will be engaged in the preparation of tourism plan, watershed management plan, establishing robust ecological baseline through surveying GLA biodiversity, natural capital assessment workshops, cooperatives, trainings, etc. This will help the communities to be further informed and inspired about the significance of GLA ecological integrity.

Our partnership with the GM and CGLTDB is proving to be a promising implementation modality for area-based conservation given the insight that these organisations possess about the site. Also, our interventions to develop the capacity of the CGLTDB members has been noticeable, which bodes well for the impact and legacy of the project. We will continue to assess our relationship with our partners in identifying challenges and weaknesses while striving to achieve success and learn from our mistakes during the rest of the project years.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

The project activities have been conducted smoothly during the first year of the project as planned. Initially, contracts with project partners were signed, literature reviews were carried out and inception workshop was conducted. The inception workshop was the first avenue to engage stakeholders and other partners to seek their crucial role in the successful implementation and productive outcomes of the project. Initial scoping identified immediate term priorities including improving understanding of community freshwater-based livelihoods; establishing ecological baseline and sustaining engagement with local government and communities to co-develop project implementation plans.

Output 1: Natural capital of GLA governed equitably through CGLTDB, and established governance mechanism

Two training courses on Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) and equitable governance (Act 1.1) were conducted for 64 participants (Annex 4 – 1.1) from GM, CGLTDB, newly formed women group, Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs), Nepal Tourism Board, social workers, single women, media, local clubs, community people, other Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and the project staff. Sessions on understanding the concept of GESI, planning policy, budgeting, processes for the development of GESI and roles and responsibilities of local government to achieve greater gender equality were discussed. Participants expressed their gratitude for the trainings that helped them to better grasp the knowledge on GESI and expressed commitments to enhance GESI related issues from their respective roles and capacity.

A workshop was conducted to develop good governance principles, including draft compliance and incentive mechanism, for GLA (Act 1.2). This workshop was attended by 102 participants (Annex 4 – 1.2) from GM, CGLTDB, women groups, CFUGs, social workers, civic organisation

and local communities. Once the objective of the workshop was explained, open discussion sessions were conducted, followed by group works. Groups were provided with a set of questionnaires to gather relevant suggestions and inputs. After gathering suggestions, municipal members, CGLTDB members and technical experts rigorously worked to develop the draft mechanism for the GLA. Moreover, CGLTDB hosted a separate workshop, attended by 71 participants (Annex 4 – 1.3), including representatives from 40 settlements, including Tharu (indigenous people) and women to obtain additional inputs and conditional consent (Act 1.6) for the draft plan.

CGLTDB recruited 40 Freshwater Information System for Households (FISH) (18 females, 22 male) (Annex 4 – 1.4) representatives from 39 different settlements to provide an information conduit to the newly formed GLA working group (Act 1.3). During recruitment they were trained and informed on GLA's ecosystem and its status to make them the community focal points for sharing information on GLA condition and its sustainable management to the working group. They were further engaged in different community consultation meetings and workshops to enhance their capacity on restoring GLA at watershed scale (Act 1.5). GM has taken ownership of the FISH scheme.

Following these workshops and trainings, a GLA working group was established, with 138 representatives (Annex 4 – 1.4) from all 39 settlements, GM, CGLTDB, FISH representatives, staff of DFO, social workers and local CBOs (Act 1.4) to feed in information and knowledge on different perspectives of GLA conservation approaches. The working group is now disseminating knowledge on conservation needs in their respective societies.

A Participatory Natural Capital Assessment workshop for 90 representatives from 39 settlements, including Tharu, Dalit, women and cooperative members was conducted. Introduction describing concept of natural capital, information provided by the FISH representatives on ecological services of GLA, possible environmental pressure due to development and other facts on GLA were a subject of discussion in the workshop. During the workshop, the participants were sensitized on the natural capital of GLA and its identified ecosystem services, environmental pressures and impacts of development on GLA that could help concerned authorities in management of development sectors without affecting ecosystem services. Moreover, performance-based incentive system and GLA ongoing participatory management plan (Act 1.7) were discussed, while the results from the review of all existing tourism development plans for GLA were also shared. All participants were requested to provide input and suggestions to draft different components of the plan (Act 1.8 – on going). The feedbacks will guide the GLA participatory management plan, which will be finalised, endorsed and implemented by GM in the next reporting period.

A total of 204 active fishermen were identified through focus group discussions. Among them, 35 fishermen (8 males and 27 females) from vulnerable communities (Annex 4 – 1.5) who are frequently engaged in fishing activities were identified and trained on reduced impact harvesting practices (covering techniques, timings and location) (Act 1.9) to restore the population of native fish, snails, and water chestnuts on 30 December 2019. Later, on 3rd March 2020, CGLTDB also hosted a workshop for 52 representatives from concerned stakeholders and fish-dependent indigenous people to agree on fisheries interventions in GLA (Act 1.10). The fisherman in GLA do not completely rely on fish and some of their household members have other alternative business and it is believed that this intervention does not likely affect their wellbeing. Furthermore, this project will support them in supporting other alternative livelihood practices.

Two workshops on regulating grazing and pesticide/fertilizer application in GLA (Act 1.12) were completed for 216 participants on January 5 & 6, 2020 (Annex 4 – 1.6). The majority of participants represented the communities of the boundary of the GLA, whose activities can likely harm the lake and its surrounding area. The main objective of the workshops was to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers (pesticides, insecticides, herbicides), and to encourage farmers to plant fodder plants to reduce the pressure of cattle grazing within GLA and use more organic manure in agricultural fields rather than chemical fertilizers. Moreover, communities' opinions and suggestions were also collected so as to incorporate them during the preparation of the GLA plans.

Output 2: Access to sustainable natural capital-based livelihood secured for the most vulnerable, marginalized fresh water dependent communities within GLA

A total of 22 focal group discussions were conducted in GLA to identify vulnerable households - poor and marginalized people, houses led by single women, differently-abled persons and bonded labourers (Act 2.1). Following the identification of the vulnerable HHs, two engagement meetings were conducted to form two women led cooperatives under CGLTDB and design guidelines for their operation in collaboration with existing cooperatives. Each of these were supported with GBP 5,000 for their seed fund, which was disbursed as soft loans (interest rate ≤ 4%) to 52 members of the cooperatives (Act 2.2) and are now already utilising this in small scale business ventures for livelihood especially in livestock rearing activities practicing stall feeding. This will help to support poverty alleviation and reduce dependency in fishing and other natural resources within GLA.

Basic training on "Group Management and Revolving Fund Mobilization" was provided to 49 cooperative members to support management and day to day operation and evaluation of their impact (Act 2.3). A fund mobilization procedure was also developed, shared and agreed among the group members.

A simple and practical training module was developed to educate local aquaculturists and fisherman on the importance of native species in maintaining wetland biodiversity, and training was delivered on productivity raising techniques for native fish, snails and water chestnut (Act 2.7). Based on the training module/curriculum, a two-day aquaculture training was conducted for 101 aquaculturists and fishermen by experts from Nepal's agriculture and fisheries department and experts from a local private hatchery. During the training, participants were also informed on policy and legal provisions for aquaculture in Nepal.

Output 3: Growing tourism industry in GLA is increasingly sustainable, with wider community benefits, based on a master plan that provides a model for other tourist destinations.

Existing tourism infrastructure, capacity and markets were assessed to identify areas likely to negatively impact the GLA's ecological integrity (Act 3.1) and found to have low impact. There are 15 lodges capable of holding a maximum of 200 people within 15 km radius of this area. Similarly, few infrastructures such as information centre, view tower, tree tower, bird hide, ticket counter, small restaurant, few resting sheds, and less than a kilometre of cement and stone paved foot trails exist within one km periphery of the entrance gate of GLA. Adjacent to GLA entrance gate, temples are present that hold religious and cultural values for the communities. Visitors are also allowed to boat in the semi-natural pond located close to the main lake of GLA. Currently, the existing market is limited to nearby towns and does not seem capable of linking tourists from distant Nepal cities/towns as well as India/ foreign tourists with their services and operations.

So far, current levels of tourism have neither created any serious issues on the degradation of the lake nor caused significant disturbances to wildlife movement and their habitat. Hotspot areas such as basking sites of crocodiles, nesting sites of birds etc. have been left intact. Additionally, to protect the number of fish species, their breeding sites as well as bird species, boating and fishing are regulated to one part of the main lake. Also, the source site of water remains unharmed, but some canals constructed upstream for irrigation purpose can likely have a negative impact on upstream movement of fish species if not managed properly. Nearly 85,000 national and international tourists (Source: based on local NGO record who issue ticket for visitors) visited the GLA last year but very few tourists spend a night around GLA. However, inappropriate disposal of solid wastes around the GLA due to the number of visitors remains a matter of concern to authority.

Four workshops for 163 participants from GLA settlements, tourism entrepreneurs from Bardia and Kailali districts, civil society organizations, women groups, CFUGs, and cooperatives and local government authorities, were organized to identify the key needs for tourism development in GLA (Act 3.2). The participants suggested the development of eco-friendly infrastructures (e.g. foot-trails, view towers, camps, information centres, research/study centres, homestay promotion etc.) as key needs for tourism development. They also recommended the promotion of cultural amenities like traditional songs, dances, and other religious events to attract tourists. Besides

these, increasing public awareness on eco-tourism, arrangement of alternative ponds for fishing to reduce pressure on natural fish stock, biodiversity conservation, water resource management etc. were also recommended to sustain tourism development. Based on these suggestions, CGLTDB has drafted the participatory tourism master plan (Act 3.4).

ZSL has provided support for sustainable tourism infrastructure development in GLA (Act 3.3). An eco-friendly foot trail (310 m) was constructed within GLA, while information centre and public toilets were renovated for the ease of visitors. Proper management of foot trails around GLA could be an opportunity for burgeoning tourism demands so that they can walk around GLA and observe its scenic beauty and wildlife. This could further support to promote and enhance ecotourism activities. Management, maintenance and construction of sustainable tourism infrastructure will be continued in the coming years.

With this regard, a workshop was conducted for 55 participants (Annex 4 – 3.1) among the working groups, CGLTDB and GM to share the draft tourism plan and obtain detailed community inputs and ensure the acceptance of the draft plan (Act. 3.5). During the workshop, background of tourism roadmap, aims and objectives of tourism development, approaches, purpose and methodologies of tourism plan formulation etc. were presented by CGLTDB and opinions and feedbacks of the participants were collected. Another final workshop is planned for next year once all the feedbacks and suggestions are incorporated into the plan.

Output 4: A robust protection framework is implemented, by designating GLA as Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary, and building on the existing Basanta Protected Forest designation in the upper watershed, to address upstream threats.

Knowledge of Land Use and Land Cover (LULC) is essential to prepare plans and conserve GLA biodiversity. As such, four initial participatory workshops on LULC mapping of upstream watershed were organised (Act 4.1). These were attended by 125 participants (Annex 4 – 4.1), including representatives from upstream settlements. Participants' inputs were sought to map the LULC; their perception on causative factors of LULC change were noted. These, along with satellite images were used to create an inventory of all small and large lakes within the GLA, which were verified through field visits (Annex 4 – 4.2 Fig. 1). The relative distribution of LULC classes in the study area in different time intervals was also calculated. The map produced, shows a drastic increase in the human settlement areas (85.97 hectare in 2003 to 183.81 hectare in 2018), while the wetland area has decreased from 201.00 ha to 133.41 ha over the same 15-year period. Similarly, the forest area has decreased slightly (7065.18 ha in 2003 to 7051.70 ha 2018), whereas grassland and shrub lands have slightly increased during the same time period (Annex 4 – 4.2). Increased demand in agricultural land, encroachment, grazing, water resources use etc. in association with increases in human population partly due to migration from the surrounding hills, were the major factors resulting land use changes.

Following the results obtained from participatory land use mapping, a community workshop hosted by CGLTDB and municipal government for 56 participants (Annex 4 – 4.3) with inclusive representation of upstream settlement was conducted to introduce principles of the participatory watershed management plan (Act 4.2). This plan is intended to guide the communities to restore GLA and accrue benefits from it. Incorporating the inputs from the workshop, a draft watershed management plan for GLA was prepared (Act 4.3). Following this, another workshop was conducted for 87 participants, including representatives from upstream settlements, Tharu and women, municipal government and concerned stakeholders to agree on the developed plan (Act 4.4). Different issues and collective suggestions to achieving the long-term goals for watershed management were noted during the workshops to finalise the watershed management plan. This plan is currently under review and will be completed and endorsed by GM in next year.

A total of six awareness raising drop-in sessions were conducted for 253 members of six upstream settlement communities in GLA to discuss and consult on watershed management plan (Act 4.5). Importance of wetland and their conservation issues were shared and discussed, while participants also helped identify problems and threats to water resources, helping guide the development of a participatory framework to address these issues in each specific watershed.

CGLTDB and local municipality are being supported in declaring GLA a bird sanctuary (Act 4.8) within the project period. The idea has been raised among local communities and other relevant authorities during project-initiated meetings/workshops/consultations. Most of them have

supported the idea, as this declaration will be the first of its kind in Nepal, while different management plans (Participatory Management Plan, GLA Tourism Master Plan, Watershed Management Plan and Natural Capital Monitoring Plan) are being developed to support the Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary Management Plan.

Output 5: Data and experience from GLA, with its natural capital and socioeconomic monitoring, inform evidence-based conservation interventions, management plans and policy.

Rapid assessment of key landscape biological monitoring methods within the Ghodaghodi watershed was conducted (Act 5.1) to obtain baseline data on lake diversity (site indicator species and natural capital within the GLA). The assessment identified some key indicator species that can reflect the overall health status of GLA and their monitoring methods. A workshop was conducted for 47 participants from the local community, FISH representatives, local researchers and CGLTDB members (Annex 4 – 5.1) to discuss the results from the assessment and collect feedback to establish an integrated plan for site-indicator and threatened species monitoring and natural capital assessment (Act 5.2). Besides these, the plan also drew input from literature reviews.

Following this, a GLA working group meeting was conducted among 56 participants to share the site indicator and threatened species monitoring plan, collect feedback and suggestions, and agree on Key Performance Indicators (Act 5.3). The feedback was used to further fine tune the plan, which will be finalised and endorsed by the GM. The indicators agreed for the assessment are listed in Annex 4 – 5.2.

Two-day training on indicator species monitoring and camera trapping was conducted for 24 participants from FISH representative and DFO staff on 9 Feb 2020 (Act 5.4). Immediately after the training, annual biodiversity monitoring survey was conducted and was completed (Act 5.5). Vegetation surveys recorded 65 species of trees, 46 species of shrubs and 51 species of herbs. Likewise, 178 species of birds were recorded of which 14 were new for GLA. Including the results of the present survey, GLA now has a high total of 314 species of birds, which is an exceptional high diversity for such a small area. Similarly, this survey has recorded 16 mammal species (camera trap and indirect sign identification), 14 species of fish, mugger crocodile and two species of turtle. 147 Cotton Pygmy-goose and 11 mugger crocodiles were counted during the survey. No Lesser Adjutant Stork presence was recorded during the survey. The survey team also confirmed the presence of a tiger (footprint observed and verified by experts) in the GLA, suggesting this area may be used as a corridor by the tiger. Likewise, the current study identified 4.54 hectare of area covered with wild rice within GLA. The patches of wild rice have been observed mostly towards the northern boundary of Ghodaghodi Lake.

Similarly, annual natural capital assessments (Act 5.6) were carried out during this reporting period. Water quality indicator of 16 lakes including Ghodaghodi and two streams was assessed (Annex 4 – 5.3). Both in situ and laboratory analyses were carried out to identify the physio-chemical parameters of water.

Questionnaires for household (HHs) surveys on livelihoods, income, well-being metrics, community knowledge on wildlife and their natural capital dependency were designed (Act 5.7) and used to conduct surveys (Act 5.8). Four surveyors were given training before interacting with the community. Altogether, 445 HHs were surveyed (226 male respondents, 219 female respondents) based on the questionnaires designed. Results showed that most of the HHs were dependent on subsistence agriculture and 56% of them had poor living condition, used fuelwood collected from nearby community forest for cooking (66% HHs) and 22% HHs said their food production meets demand for 3-6 months only. All who relied on agriculture were using pesticides and other chemical fertilizers to increase the agriculture production. However, this project aims on reducing chemical use, and to improve food security, alternative schemes were provided to some community members and training and education that have both direct and indirect benefits on poverty alleviation were given to them. They were further encouraged to use more organic manure rather than chemicals that will increase productivity as well as secure water bodies from eutrophication. All respondents had some knowledge on wildlife where 70% of respondents were aware that hunting wildlife is illegal, and 82% recognised GLA's Ramsar Site status. Majority of the respondents agreed that the main disturbances to wildlife habitat in the GLA is encroachment (65%) followed by deforestation (64%).

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Excellent progress has been made towards achieving the project outputs. During this reporting period, all required baselines have been set and participatory monitoring/management plans were discussed and drafted (Ongoing activity). The plans will be finalised in the coming years and implemented by the project end.

Output 1: Natural capital of GLA governed equitably through CGLTDB, and established governance mechanism

The project has trained all nine members of CGLTDB and additional members of GM, community members and project staff in good governance principles and GLA management (Act 1.1, Act 1.2) in an equitable and participatory way (Ind 1.1). CGLTDB is a newly formed board of GM that specifically works on GLA management and tourism development within the municipal boundary.

40 FISH representatives were recruited (Act 1.3) from 39 settlements (indicator 1.2) to provide an information conduit to the newly formed GLA working group (Act 1.4). Before this no such representatives and working groups were formed that voluntarily worked for conserving the GLA.

ZSL Nepal provided technical support to the CGLTDB to conduct a workshop on Annual Participatory Natural Capital Assessment (Ind 1.3) for 90 participants from FISH representatives, CFUGs, and women groups took part in the workshop, guided by the information received from FISH representatives. During the same workshop, CGLTDB informed the participants about incentive mechanism and is working to establish a performance-based incentive system (Ind 1.4) for all 39 settlements (Act 1.7) designed to increase public interest in investments into communities adopting environmentally friendly practices This is on track to be achieved by the end of year 2.

Similarly, development of participatory management plans (Act 1.8) is ongoing (Ind 1.5). The plan supports fisheries management (Act 1.10), sustainable grazing management (Act 1.12) and protects a certain percentage of the area. The GLA participatory management plan will be finalised, endorsed and implemented by GM in the next reporting period.

Output 2: Access to sustainable natural capital-based livelihoods secured for the most vulnerable, marginalised freshwater dependent communities within GLA.

The project has established two women-led cooperatives (Act 2.1) of total 52 members under CGLTDB in the most vulnerable, marginalized freshwater-dependent communities (Ind 2.1) in year 1. A total of GBP 5,000 was provided as seed funds to each of the cooperatives. Based on the agreed by-laws, soft loans were provided (Act 2.2, Act 2.3) to 52 members. The income of the group members and growth in seed fund will be measured in the coming year (Ind 2.2) considering zero as the baseline in year 1.

Output 3: Growing tourism industry in GLA is increasingly sustainable, with wider community benefits, based on a master plan that provides a model for other tourist destinations.

All existing tourism development plans for GLA and GM were compiled and reviewed in collaboration with CGLTDB and presented and discussed (Act 1.7) at Participatory Natural Capital Assessment workshop (Ind 3.1). Sustainable tourism master plan is being developed (Act 3.2, Act 3.4, Act 3.5) and will be agreed and submitted to municipal government by end of year 2 (Ind 3.2). Considering the need for green sustainable tourism infrastructure (Ind 3.3), more than 300 m of foot/bicycle trails were constructed, information centre and public toilets were renovated and dustbins for litter collection were placed in GLA (Act 3.3). In addition to this, CGLTDB in support of GM has invested in tourism promotional activities and infrastructures including ticket counters, bird hide, and resting sheds. New tourist sites for tourism development where ecological impact will be limited will be identified by project end.

Output 4: A robust protection framework is implemented, by designating GLA as Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary, and building on the existing Basanta Protected Forest designation in the upper watershed, to address upstream threats.

CLGTDB and GM are being supported to develop participatory land-use plan for the upstream watershed of GLA (Ind 4.1). Under this, participatory land use mapping workshops (Act 4.1) and

consultation with all upstream settlements (Act 4.2) were conducted to prepare a draft participatory watershed management plan (Act 4.3). Other indicators under Ind 4.1 will be met in the second and third year of the project.

The CGLTDB and GM are being supported (Act 4.8) to upgrade GLA to Nepal's first bird sanctuary, while different management plans are being prepared to formulate the Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary Management Plan (Ind 4.3). The project will support the CGLTDB and GM to achieve this by the project end.

Output 5: Data and experience from GLA, with its natural capital and socioeconomic monitoring, inform evidence-based conservation interventions, management plans and policy.

GM, CGLTDB and representatives of all 39 settlements have agreed on appropriate socio-economic indicators (Act 5.7), ecological (Act 5.5) and natural capital (Act 5.6), KPIs and monitoring plan (Act 5.3) by this reporting period (Ind 5.1). Twenty-two FISH representatives and two DoFSC staff were trained in biological monitoring (Act 5.4), and adaptive management to enable local monitoring of KPIs (Ind 5.2). The monitoring plan will be institutionalized (Ind 5.4) by the project end.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The project has made considerable progress towards achieving the project outcome in year 1. Key indicator species were monitored (Section 3.2, Output 1 & 5) and a baseline was set (Ind 0.1) to monitor their changes in the coming years. The project is supporting GLA's conservation status to be upgraded to become Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary (Ind 0.2), which will be achieved by the project end (Section 3.2, Output 4). The idea has already been raised by project beneficiaries during project-initiated meetings/workshops/consultations, while different management plans (participatory management plan, GLA tourism master plan, watershed management plan, natural capital monitoring plan) are being formulated (Section 3.2, Output 1,3,4 & 5) to support the implementation of an evidence-based Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary management plan (Ind 0.3). The different management plans will be finalised in the next reporting period while the Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary management plan will be implemented within GLA by the project end.

Water quality indicator of 18 water bodies within GLA has been assessed (Section 3.2, Output 5) to set a baseline for measuring the rate of decline of eutrophication drivers across the watershed (Ind 0.4) during the project period.

Likewise, baseline data on the overall wellbeing index (Ind 0.5) was collected in this reporting period. Vulnerable and marginalised households were identified (598 HHs) and 52 members from most vulnerable and marginalised HHs were selected to form cooperatives in this reporting period. Cooperative members have already started income generating activities (IGAs) in year 1.

Unless unfavourable developments (which the project doesn't foresee) do not arise in the area, these indicators are adequate for measuring the intended outcome. Considering the current progress of the project, the outcomes are achievable and if something unexpected occurs, ZSL and the project support will remain in place for GM, CGLTDB and DoFSC to safeguard GLA biodiversity and well-being of community people.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

	Outcome Assumptions	Comments
Assumption 1	Ghodaghodi Municipality (GM) and CGLTDB remain committed to conservation of GLA.	Ghodaghodi Municipality (GM) and CGLTDB are the key stakeholders and authorised bodies to carry out conservation measures and GLA conservation has been the priority programme. Members of both institutions are highly committed to this.
Assumption 2	Biodiversity conservation remains a national priority, with a political	Ghodaghodi Lake complex is a Ramsar designated site, so all

	situation conducive for conservation and project implementation.	concerned authorities are monitoring the conservation and implementation of this project which positively correlates with national priority towards conservation. Also, local government (GM) has shown their deep concern and supported the project for effective implementation.
Assumption 3	Increased financial resources devoted to the site reflects increased government commitment to its conservation and will result in improved conservation outcomes.	GM has formed a board (CGLTDB) supplied with financial resources to conserve GLA biodiversity and tourism promotional activities
Assumption 4	Communities will share this information willingly, including on levels of usage near watercourses	Work in progress
Assumption 5	ZSL's deployment of a locally defined participatory wealth- ranking wellbeing index will be appropriate to the local context. Given our experience applying it across different socioeconomic classes and self-identified community subgroups, in the Philippines, Mozambique and Cameroon.	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 6	A 10% stratified sample of households in GLA is sufficient to identify wellbeing increases generally and disaggregate this by groups.	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 7	Local communities are supportive of conservation and keen to diversify livelihood opportunities.	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 8	Equal wellbeing gains between Tharu, women and less marginalised groups are achievable given that 36 % of the population are Tharu and around 12% are Dalit.	Almost all the selected members who receive benefits comprise of Tharu, women and marginalised community.

	Output 1 Assumptions	Comments
Assumption 1	Suitable and diverse candidates to be selected as FISH representatives are willing and available from the pool of community members. And these individuals do not overlap with the chairmen/women of the CFUGs.	FISH representatives were selected from all the settlements comprising both males and females, especially those representing indigenous Tharus, CFUG member, and other vulnerable people.
Assumption 2	Community members make the connections between wellbeing increases and the package of measures/natural- capital approach of the project, and therefore abide by the sustainability measures as agreed in the management plans	This assumption remains reasonable

Assumption 3	Most community members will readily identify a relationship between their livelihoods and natural capital as the vast majority of community members, if not all, have livelihoods dependent on GLA's natural capital, mostly either livestock, fishing, aquaculture or tourism livelihoods.	This assumption remains reasonable, However, people who received trainings on sustainable livelihood practices and those who attended natural capital workshops are expected to now understand the relationship
Assumption 4	CGLTDB investment, together with other project activities, provides a robust incentive for communities to be supportive of protect natural capital, while the workshops are able to provide unbiased evidence on community performance.	This assumption remains reasonable
Assumption 5	Bringing CFUG leaders, from the 26 settlements with established CFUGS, together with inclusive representatives from the 13 settlements without CFUGs will enable equal representation of all settlements interests and help promote Nepal's Community Forestry Programme.	This assumption remains reasonable
Assumption 6	We assume that 10% of water area protected from harmful fishing impacts is achievable, based on community consultations and ZSL's early-stage experiences in the Philippines where communities have been willing to protect an average of 3ha each (DI24-016, DI21-020).	This assumption remains reasonable. However, GM and CGLTDB in consultation with community people are working on it to establish a fishing prohibited zone in the main lake (Ghodaghodi Lake, the largest lake of this complex)
Assumption 7	Freshwater No Take Zones (NTZs) have the potential to protect valuable intact habitat and spawning areas for freshwater biodiversity, and the community engagement and success of these no take zones will be enhanced by utilising lessons from ZSL trials in the Philippines (DI24-016, DI21-020).	If other anthropogenic pressures are reduced and GM and CGLTDB take actions to support NTZs, this is still expected to hold true.

	Output 2 Assumptions	Comments
Assumption 1	CGLTDB members remain receptive to equitable and sustainable governance approaches.	Seems true. Still, periodic trainings on this will be more helpful for members.
Assumption 2	Natural capital cooperatives, building on ZSL's successful livelihood cooperative model from DI-funded project DI22-009 are effective and equitable management institutions for natural capital-based sustainable livelihoods.	Two women-led groups are formed and expected to be effective on coming years.
Assumption 3	Participatory natural capital assessments prove an effective means of engaging communities	This assumption remains reasonable

	with the link between natural capital and their livelihoods, so making the case for sustainable management of natural capital management transparent and contributing to GLA conservation.	
Assumption 4	Take up of loans is similar to demand on other ZSL projects and another DI-funded Nepal project (i.e.87 loans), DI22-009	True. Soft loan received and used by members for income generating activities, and periodic deposits on cooperatives by their own can make positive changes in longer time period. This project has provided training on livelihood practices and is encouraging members to contribute their own investment.
Assumption 5	Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops will be attractive for community members to attend due to the opportunity to participate in local resource governance decisions.	Likely to happen but depends on the level of knowledge they have and grasp through workshops provided to them.

	Output 3 Assumptions	Comments
Assumption 1	Government remains supportive of development of tourism and green tourism	GM in support of CGLTDB, ZSL and other stakeholders are currently preparing the sustainable tourism plan.
Assumption 2	Green infra-structure are sustainable and adopted by government	Investment to date has been achieved through green sustainable related tourism infrastructure.
Assumption 3	Participatory tourism master plan agreed by all stakeholders is subsequently respected and implemented with ZSL's ongoing technical support and engagement.	Under progress

	Output 4 Assumptions	Comments
Assumption 1	On advice from local partners, this proposal assumes that this existing Protected Forest designation of the upper watershed and its associated land-use zoning provides an effective framework upon which a land-use plan can be built and implemented, within the timeframe, with sufficient compliance mechanisms pre-built in.	Under process. Needs further interactive discussions among concerned stakeholders. CGLTDB is working to facilitate this.
Assumption 2	All 10 communities are willing to participate, under the existing framework of the protected forest, in sustainable management of their upstream freshwater system.	This assumption remains reasonable
Assumption 3	Community members will be keen to agree collective management of riparian forests and fertilizers/pesticides. This is due to	This assumption remains reasonable

	commitment to the Community Forestry Programme, which will be built upon, and the existing level of compliance with Basanta Protected Forest land-use zones, in combination with local communities active desire to seek support to protect GLA.	
Assumption 4	Agreement of plans, alongside technical support, government investment, and encouragement will lead to effective conservation actions on the ground.	If GM works responsibly, this can be achieved. ZSL will support for this throughout the project period.
Assumption 5	Government remains committed to protection of GLA, and supportive of declaring GLA a Bird Sanctuary.	This assumption remains reasonable

	Output 5 Assumptions	Comments
Assumption 1	Diverse stakeholders are able to agree KPIs that effectively capture the relevant metrics and demonstrate the value of participatory watershed management.	This assumption remains reasonable
Assumption 2	Being a FISH representative will be attractive to local community members as a route to greater participation in resource governance decision making, and a status position associated with CGLTDB, which is a respected body.	This assumption remains reasonable
Assumption 3	Agreed KPIs will be monitorable in the long-term, with buy in from provincial level down to settlement level.	This assumption remains reasonable

3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation

Target impact: Ecological connectivity through the critical Western Terai Corridor is restored, with a well-managed community-led protected area at its heart, providing an innovative model of freshwater-based conservation of Nepal's ecological connectivity.

The project is laying a foundation for the restoration of ecological connectivity through the critical Western Terai Corridor with a well-managed community-led protected area. In line with this, the project is supporting the concerned authorities, with the engagement of the communities, to develop effective management plans that promote biodiversity conservation (Section 3.2, Output 5), land use planning (Section 3.2, Output 4), watershed management plan (Section 3.2, Output 5) and participatory management plan (Section 3.2, Output 1) to restore the ecological integrity of GLA. These will feed into the Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary management plan (Indicator 4.3). Also, the Natural Capital Assessment (Section 3.2, Output 1) will inform communities on the benefits of an ecologically intact GLA, making a major contribution towards overall GLA conservation. Along with this, training local fisherman on reduced impact fishing practices (Section 3.2, Output 1), supporting them through alternative schemes (Section 3.2, Output 1), spreading knowledge of natural capital and sustainable biodiversity (Section 3.2, Output 1) helps native fish species recover, regulates grazing and pesticides/fertilizer application in GLA which will help in achieving the designation of Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary.

Currently, the project has identified vulnerable communities and ensured their engagement in project activities. We have formed and trained two women led cooperatives, provided them seed money to facilitate soft loans and trained them on different alternative livelihood skills (Section 3.2, Output 2). Capacity building and increased income will help improve their well-being and reduce poverty. Furthermore, in the long term, GLA's designation as Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary will create employment opportunities for the local communities in the tourism sector.

4. Contribution to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

The following SDGs are relevant to the project.

Goal 1: No poverty: The project has supported the formation of two cooperatives, provided them with seed funding which has been distributed to all 52 members of the cooperatives (from vulnerable and marginalised HHs) in the form of soft loans. They have used the soft loans on IGAs to enable long-term income generation. Besides this, other support including trainings and education, support in policy framework, infrastructure for tourism development etc. will contribute to poverty and sustainable development.

Goal 3: Good health and wellbeing: The project has supported communities to adopt IGAs, helping them generate long-term income. Beyond project-end, the project supported management plan will help ensure the intactness of the ecological integrity of the GLA, while promoting tourism. Through this, the GLA will be increasingly conserved and opportunities in tourism sector will increase. The communities will have the opportunity to leverage this and diversify (increase) their income sources, and gain access to improved healthcare, securing their wellbeing.

Goal 5: Gender equality: GESI training sessions were organized to promote gender equality. Likewise, we have formed two women-led cooperatives, consisting of 88% females from indigenous communities. We are striving to support women's participation in natural capital governance by ensuring women and indigenous communities are adequately represented in all community consultations/workshops/trainings/meetings. This will help empower women's role in the community and income generating activities.

Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation: The baseline water parameters have been recorded for 18 water bodies within GLA including streams, and the watershed management plan is under development. This plan forms a part of the broader Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary management plan, which will help monitor GLA and ensure clean water and sanitation, to most of the communities inside GLA

Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production: Communities have been trained on aquaculture and reduced impact fishing practices, the importance of native species, and productivity raising techniques for native fish, snails and water chestnuts. Participatory management plans in place will guide resource harvest and consumption in a sustainable way. Alternative income generation activities are being promoted to increase resource (animal husbandry, vegetable farming) production, which will help alleviate poverty along with possible pressure on GLA biodiversity. This will improve fisheries/livestock management, reduce human wildlife conflict and pressure on wild fish stocks.

Goal 15: Life on Land: Development and implementation of evidence based Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary management plan by the end of the project, complemented by wise use programmes, scientific knowledge, capacity building and conservation measures will protect terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity.

Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: A responsive, participatory and representative decision-making approach, across different jurisdictions within the GLA area, and cooperatives will be facilitated through strengthening institutional capacity of CGLTDB and GM, and their partnerships with communities, and local institutions (NGOs, CFUGs and cooperatives).

Goal 17: Partnership for the goals: Close partnerships have been built among the communities, conservation stakeholders and government agencies to carry out the activities that contribute to the goals.

5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project hasn't had any interaction with in-country convention focal points; however, this has been planned for year two.

SN	Convention, treaty, agreement	Project contribution to meet national obligations
1	Convention of Biological Diversity	<p>The project contributes to following Aichi Biodiversity Targets:</p> <p>Target 1: Raising awareness of wetland ecosystems' importance (Section 3.3, Ind 0.2), through education and engagement of local people in natural resource management (Section 3.3, Ind 0.3). This particularly benefits the Tharu indigenous people, who combine a desire to understand and protect the natural resources on which they depend, with limited pathways and opportunities to act on this desire.</p> <p>Target 2: Integration of biodiversity conservation into existing local tourism/development strategies, by bringing together multiple stakeholders to develop a GLA tourism masterplan and a participatory management plan (Section 3.3, Ind 0.3). Securing sustainable land use by addressing the impacts of the highway along the southern edge of the GLA, and establishing sustainable grazing regimes, aquaculture and no-take zones of fish.</p> <p>Target 5,6,7,8: The GLA management plan and associated measures, will aim to reduce habitat loss (target 5); secure sustainable management and harvest of agricultural land, forests (target 7) and fish (target 6); and reduce pollution to levels that are not detrimental to the functioning of the GLA ecosystem (target 8). The management plans (Section 3.3, Ind 0.3) are under development.</p> <p>Target 12: Improving the conservation status of threatened species, such as the Lesser Adjutant Stork (<i>Leptotilos javanicus</i>) (VU), Fishing Cat (<i>Prionailurus viverrinus</i>) (VU), Mugger Crocodile (<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>) (VU), and nationally recognised biodiversity indicator species such as Cotton Pygmy Goose (<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>) (LC) and the religiously important and threatened Lotus (<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i>). Key indicator species were monitored (Section 3.3, Ind 0.1).</p> <p>Target 14: Safeguarding the GLA ecosystem and its services, through participatory planning for tourism and natural resource management (Section 3.3, Ind 0.3), while safeguarding and embedding the needs and culture of local indigenous populations. Supporting women's livelihoods through establishing cooperatives (Section 3.2, Ind 2.1). Safeguarding indigenous Tharu people's rights to celebrate cultural traditions and annual festival at the lake. Utilising a green growth approach, including agreeing a sustainable framework to construct tourism infrastructure and capturing sustainable economic benefits from the growing number of national and international tourists (Section 3.2, Ind 3.3)</p> <p>Target 17: Progressing implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) of Nepal Government (Section 3.3, Ind 0.2).</p> <p>Target 18 and 19: Providing robust data on the GLA ecosystem and wetland-dependent species. Integrating this with local needs and practices (Section 3.3, Ind 0.1).</p>

2	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)	The project also responds to some of the key challenges set out in Nepal's National Ramsar Report 2018. These are limited technical capacity for wetland management, low awareness of the role of wetlands among stakeholders and beneficiaries and limited financial resources. It also responds to key future priorities such as monitoring and research to ensure Ramsar sites have robust baseline data to inform management; sustainable livelihoods; ecotourism; wetland management. GLA requires protection and a new management plan, as – unusually – it is a Ramsar site with no recognised PA status, which Bird Sanctuary status will address (Section 3.3, Ind 0.2).
3	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)	The project also supports key habitat conservation of several species of migratory waterfowl and raptors listed in CMS Appendix I: such as, Ferruginous Duck (<i>Aythya nyroca</i>), Egyptian Vulture (<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>), Red-headed Vulture (<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>), Slender-billed Vulture (<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>), White-rumped Vulture (<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>), Greater Spotted Eagle (<i>Clanga clanga</i>), Steppe Eagle (<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>) (Section 3.3, Ind 0.2, Ind 0.3)

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

The expected beneficiaries of this project are Tharu indigenous people, women and over the longer term, the 5000 fish and livestock dependent communities of the GLA. The project has direct and indirect benefits for the communities. We have formed and trained two women led cooperatives, provided them seed money to facilitate soft loans and trained them on different alternative livelihood skills (Section 3.2, Output 2). The members, all from indigenous and vulnerable communities, are now engaged in livelihood-based activities like livestock rearing to alleviate poverty. Through trainings and engagement in different interactive meetings/workshops, they are being supported to build on their skill sets to take advantage from diverse income generating opportunities.

The project has supported to formulate a participatory management plan (Section 3.2, Output 1), GLA tourism master plan (Section 3.2, Output 3), and watershed management plan (Section 3.2, Output 5) to promote GLA's ecological integrity and sustainable tourism development. These will support the upgrading of GLA's status to Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary which is expected to create employment opportunities for the local communities in the tourism sector, alleviating poverty and securing their wellbeing. Apart from this, an ecologically intact GLA will support increased ecological services to the local communities, procuring food and water security for improved community health.

7. Consideration of gender equality issues

Women are often less involved than men in decision making processes regarding natural resources and income generation because of the lack of opportunities to learn and grow. To promote gender equality, GESI training has been organised for GM, CGLTDB, and local communities (Section 3.2, Output 1 – Ind 1.1). We are striving to support women's participation in natural capital governance by ensuring women and indigenous communities are adequately represented in all community consultations/workshops/trainings/meetings (Section 3.2, Output 1 – Ind 1.3). Moreover, we have formed two women-led cooperatives, consisting of 88% females also positioned in decision-making roles from indigenous communities (Section 3.2, Output 2 – Ind 2.1). This will help support women and their increased role in community decision-making and income generating activities.

Additionally, to offset the existing gender gap in income generation activities in local communities, women were prioritised for inclusion in training programmes on aquaculture and indicator species monitoring (Section 3.2, Output 5 – Ind 5.2). Women's participation (54 %) has been ensured in participatory natural capital workshops, biodiversity and household surveys, and in preparation of different plans for GLA.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

During the first year, the project activities have primarily engaged GLA dependent communities and municipal authorities to lay a foundation for building an ecologically intact GLA, with local communities accruing benefits over the long term. In order to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these activities, members of GM, CGLTDB, ZSL and HN were visited four times in the intervention sites, overseeing project progress and adaptively planning the future course of action. All partners share the M&E work, with M&E visits facilitated by ZSL. ZSL compiles the partner-submitted M&E reports and shares this among stakeholders. During this reporting period, baselines for all project indicators have been set, and these will be monitored in line with the M&E plan.

Similarly, project milestones have been developed to measure monthly progress. The completion of milestones is being monitored through monthly reports submitted using ZSL's web-based system - these include activity tracking, indicator tracking, and finance tracking systems. Together, these allow the different aspects of successful project implementation to be monitored simply and effectively, while enabling the information sources to be readily combined to assess overall progress and enable highly flexible adaptive management in response to the changing conditions.

Besides this, a Programme Coordination Committee (PCC) formed centrally under the chairmanship of the Deputy Director General of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), with DNPWC section heads and ZSL as members, also monitors the overall project progress and makes recommendation.

These approaches have been effective in monitoring and evaluating the project and will be continued on in the coming years as well.

9. Lessons learnt

- Involvement of the local government body (GM), including its newly formed wing – CGLTDB, is vital for the successful implementation of the project. On a broader note, commitment by the local government bodies is integral in conserving natural resources to achieve biodiversity and community wellbeing.
- Communities are an integral component of any conservation programme and providing them an alternative to the direct use of natural resources will benefit conservation in the long run as communities with alternative livelihood options work as guardians of the nature.

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

N/A

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

N/A

12. Sustainability and legacy

Local government bodies such as DFO, GM and CGLTDB along with local communities are actively involved in the project. The project has formed two women led co-operative groups under the direct supervision of CGLTDB and GM, ensuring a sustainable financial mechanism beyond the completion of the project. Likewise, trainings and interactive workshops have helped CGLTDB and GM to independently conduct tourism assessments, biodiversity and natural capital monitoring. Feedback collected during these assessments have supported the formulation of different plans (participatory management plan, GLA tourism master plan, watershed management plan, natural capital monitoring plan) to feed into the Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary management plan which will guide GM and relevant stakeholders to better manage GLA. The project has also sought to upgrade the conservation status of GLA to become Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary. All these are expected to make the impact of the project sustainable and leave a strong legacy.

13. Darwin identity

The Darwin Initiative and UK Government has been mentioned in each agreement signed with the partners. Likewise, DI fund has been mentioned during project inception and in all events like trainings, workshops, meetings and logos have been placed on such event banners.

14. Safeguarding

ZSL has its own safeguarding policies and procedures both in the UK and globally. ZSL recognised safeguarding as a key area of responsibility and are fully committed to strengthening and rolling out ZSL safeguarding approach. Global Safeguarding Policy; Global Whistleblowing Policies and Procedure; Global Code of Conduct; DBS and Criminal Convictions Policy; Employing Younger Workers Policy; Disciplinary Policy and Procedure; Reference Request Policy; Violence and Aggressive Behaviour Policy; The 4 Rs safeguarding procedure; Staff handbook are some policies that ensure the adequate safeguarding measures while executing projects.

In addition to these safeguarding efforts, ZSL has been managing many projects funded by IUCN and has been implementing the standard IUCN ESMS and ESMP procedures. All these learning has been from other project has been used during the implementation of this project. Furthermore, ZSL is committed to enabling Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) throughout project implementation with targeted activity to provide entry points to marginalised groups within different recognised groups e.g. women and those with disabilities. ZSL is developing an institutional indicator framework to ensure project are delivering impact in this area.

The project has set standard safeguarding tools from the beginning of the project. The communities were consulted during the project preparation and project implementation phase. Beneficiaries were selected based on the household information collected from social surveys/focus group discussions conducted in the beginning of the project. The project has targeted women and most vulnerable ethnic groups for inclusion in livelihood activities. All concerned stakeholders contributed to this project since the very beginning of project planning to implementation phase. The project has not worked against the interest of local communities. Also, there is a grievance mechanism in place, which the project beneficiary and stakeholders have been informed about.

15. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2019/20 Grant (£)	2019/20 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items				
Audit costs				
Others				
TOTAL				

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2019-2020

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>Ecological connectivity through the critical Western Terai Corridor is restored, with a well-managed community-led protected area at its heart, providing an innovative model of freshwater-based conservation of Nepal's ecological connectivity.</p>		<p>By the end of Year 1, the project has set some milestones towards achieving the impact through establishment of FISH representatives, women-led cooperatives, conducting participatory natural capital workshops, initial drafting of participatory watershed management plan, tourism plan, monitoring plan etc.</p>	
<p>Outcome</p> <p>GLA's globally significant biodiversity and natural capital secured through sustainable and equitable management as a Bird Sanctuary, with upstream watershed threats addressed, safeguarding globally-threatened species' recovery and communities' livelihoods and culture.</p>	<p>0.1 Key local populations of nationally and ecologically relevant indicator species to be confirmed in year 1 (e.g. Lesser Adjutant Stork (<i>Leptotilos javanicus</i>) (VU), Mugger Crocodile (<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>) (VU) and Cotton Pygmy Goose (<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>) (LC)) are stable or increasing (baseline= year 1) by project end.</p> <p>0.2 GLA's conservation status is upgraded to become Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary, and prioritised for conservation by local and national government with at least 20% more projected annual management input going to the site (baseline = year 0) by project end.</p> <p>0.3 Implementation of an evidence-based Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary management plan (comprising components: i) participatory management plan, ii) GLA tourism master plan, iii) watershed management plan and iv) natural capital monitoring plan) achieves a 15% increase in natural capital (relevant metrics to be defined in year 1, see 5.1 below) within GLA by project end (baseline = year 1)</p> <p>0.4 20% decline in eutrophication drivers across watershed - non-natural nutrient inputs and pesticide pollution - (baseline = year 1) by project end.</p> <p>0.5 Households show positive change in overall wellbeing index (baseline= year 1) by project end.</p> <p>0.5.1 10% sample of households in GLA (total= ca. 5,000) show at least a 10% increase in wellbeing.</p> <p>0.5.2 All cooperative member households (ca. 100 per cooperative) show at least a 40% increase in wellbeing; and</p>	<p>0.1 Baseline data on key local populations of nationally and ecologically relevant indicator species collected in year 1. Total of 147 Cotton Pygmy Goose (<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>) (LC) in a single high count and 11 Mugger Crocodile (<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>) (VU) were recorded from the survey in year 1. No Lesser Adjutant Stork recorded during the survey.</p> <p>0.2 Baseline for the implementation of an evidence based Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary management plan developed.</p> <p>0.3 Supporting documents such as GLA tourism master plan, watershed management plan and Natural capital monitoring plan are in the development phase.</p> <p>0.4 3 kg of fertilizers/<i>Kattha</i> (338 sq.m) use on average by each household (baseline information).</p>	<p>Monthly bird survey will be conducted in support of CGLTDB and FISH representatives (0.1).</p> <p>HHs recently received soft loans and started business, their wellbeing will be monitored periodically (0.5)</p>

	0.5.3 Women and Tharu ethnic minority people achieve equal gains in wellbeing to less-marginalised groups, seen in 0.5.2.	0.5 Baseline data on overall wellbeing index collected in year 1 (in progress). Vulnerable and marginalized: 598 households (HHs) identified; 52 vulnerable and marginalised HHs were supported through soft loans and had already started IGAs in year 1.	
Output 1. Natural capital of GLA governed equitably and effectively through CGLTDB, and established community governance mechanisms	<p>1.1 100% (9 members) of CGLTDB trained in good governance, and coordinating all project outputs and GLA management in an equitable and participatory way (in line with the management plans) by end year 1</p> <p>1.2 39 Freshwater Information System for Households (FISH) representatives (one per settlement) recruited to provide information conduit to GLA working group of CGLTDB and 39 settlements by year 1 end</p> <p>1.3 Annual Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops, including inclusive representatives from 39 settlements (utilising information received from 39 FISH representatives):</p> <p>1.3.1 one/first annual workshop held by year 1 end.</p> <p>1.3.2 informing development of natural capital performance-based incentive system (indicator 1.4) by year 1 end</p> <p>1.3.3 informing development of GLA participatory management plan (indicator 1.5) by year 2 end</p> <p>1.3.4 with 80% of participants identifying a positively correlated trend in income/wellbeing and natural capital by project end</p> <p>1.4 CGLTDB will establish a performance-based incentive system for all 39 settlements, to target their own investment, and implement social recognition and sanctions schemes (based on information from Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops) by year 2 end.</p> <p>1.5 Development and implementation of participatory management plan for GLA site:</p> <p>1.5.1 GLA management plan parameters developed by CGLTDB with all 26 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) and inclusive representatives of 13 other settlements without CFUGs (non-CF settlements) by year 1 end</p> <p>1.5.2 GLA management plan will be developed by GLA working group and agreed by all CFUGs and non-CF settlements (expanding the Community Forestry Programme model to the freshwater system), with CGLTDB as custodian of final agreement, by year 2 end</p> <p>1.5.3 At least 10% of water area of GLA (ca. 200ha) protected from protective fisheries management measures through a combination of spatial (no-take zones) temporal (non-fishing times e.g. spawning</p>	<p>1.1 Completed.</p> <p>The project trained 9 members from CGLTDB and GM on November 2019. A total of 102 participants from GM, CGLTDB, women groups, CFUGs, social workers, civic organisation and local communities participated this workshop.</p> <p>1.2 Completed.</p> <p>40 Freshwater Information System for Households (FISH) recruited.</p> <p>1.3 Ongoing</p> <p>1.3.1 Completed. ZSL Nepal provided technical support to the CGLTDB to conduct the first annual workshop for 90 participants from CFUGs, FISH representatives and women groups.</p> <p>1.3.2 Informed and shared the draft incentive mechanism produced by CGLTDB.</p> <p>1.3.3 Informed and received inputs/suggestions from participants for the plan.</p> <p>1.4 CGLTDB is working to establish a performance-based incentive system for all 39 settlements to target their own investment and implement social recognition and sanctions</p>	<p>1.3 Will give continuity in year 2 and 3.</p> <p>1.4 Planned in year two.</p> <p>1.5 Will give continuity in year 2 to accomplish this activity.</p>

	<p>periods), and selective-catch measures (e.g. size limits) (baseline= 0) by project end.</p> <p>1.5.4 Sustainable grassland and grazing management (including application of pesticides and fertilisers), prioritising riparian areas, in place within 50% of the area of the GLA (12.5km² of the total 25km²) by project end. (Baseline = 0)</p>	<p>schemes. This is on track to be achieved by the end of year 2</p> <p>1.5 Ongoing.</p> <p>1.5.1 GLA management plans preparation were discussed in workshops.</p> <p>1.5.2 This is on track to be completed in year 2.</p> <p>1.5.3 This will be achieved by the project end.</p> <p>1.5.4 This will be achieved by the project end.</p>	
<p>Activity 1.1. Short training course on GESI and equitable governance for CGLTDB board members, municipality and project staff</p>		<p>Two training courses were delivered on June 2019 and February 2020 to 64 participants that include all members of CGLTDB, representatives of GM and other local communities, community-based organizations etc.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>Activity 1.2. Co-develop, through a workshop with CGLTDB, good governance principles, including draft compliance and incentives mechanism, for GLA</p>		<p>Drafted. One workshop was conducted on November 2019 where 102 participants from GM, CGLTDB, women groups, CFUGs, social workers, civic organisation and local communities attended the workshop.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>Activity 1.3. Recruit and train ca. 40 FISH representatives</p>		<p>40 FISH representatives (18 females, 22 male) from 39 different were recruited and working as the community focal points for sharing information on GLA condition and its sustainable management to the working group.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>Activity 1.4. Establish working group with representatives of all ca. 40 settlements, CGLTDB, GM representatives and FISH representatives to feed in information.</p>		<p>138 representatives from GM, CGLTDB, FISH representatives, staff of divisional forest offices, social workers and local CBOs to feed in information and knowledge on different perspectives of GLA conservation approaches.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>

<p>Activity 1.5. Provide ongoing support for FISH</p>	<p>FISH representatives were supported through trainings and workshop remain the community focal points and provide inputs to working groups.</p>	<p>FISH representatives will remain the community focal points to inform working groups of GLA in year 2 & 3. They will be trained/informed about GLA conservation approaches through workshops.</p>
<p>Activity 1.6. Share draft compliance and incentive mechanism with representatives of each settlement (ca. 40) including Tharu and women through workshop, hosted by CGLTDB, to obtain inputs and conditional consent.</p>	<p>Draft compliance shared among 71 participants conducting a workshop on March 2020 to obtain additional inputs and conditional consent for the draft plan.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>Activity 1.7. Conduct annual CGLTDB-hosted participatory Natural Capital Assessment workshops (utilising FISH information) and post-workshop questionnaires with representatives of each settlement (ca. 40) including <i>Tharu, Dalits</i>, women, and cooperative members; to include discussion of 1) performance-based incentive system and 2) management plans.</p>	<p>Completed 1 workshop. CGLTDB conducted annual participatory Natural Capital Assessment workshops with the representatives of 39 settlements. Altogether 90 participants participated in the workshop.</p>	<p>Workshop is further planned for Year 2 & Year 3.</p>
<p>Activity 1.8. Co-develop participatory management plan for GLA through initial CGLTDB-hosted workshop, using baseline data collected under output 5, and subsequently adaptively manage it through Natural capital assessment workshops.</p>	<p>Ongoing. All participants were requested to provide input and suggestions to draft different components of the plan. The feedbacks will guide the GLA participatory management plan, which will be finalised, endorsed and implemented by GM in the next reporting period.</p>	<p>Also planned for Year 2 & Year 3.</p>
<p>Activity 1.9. Train local fisherman on reduced impact fishing practices (covering both techniques and timings and locations)</p>	<p>Completed. 35 local fishermen trained on December 2019.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>Activity 1.10. Hold CGLTDB-hosted workshop to agree fisheries interventions, with representatives of each settlement (ca. 30) including Tharu and women.</p>	<p>Completed. On March 2020, a workshop was organized among 52 representatives</p>	<p>Completed.</p>

		from concerned stakeholders and fish-dependent indigenous people to agree on fisheries interventions in GLA.	
Activity 1.11. Support CGLTDB in delineation and monitoring of no take zones.		Planned for next reporting period.	Brief plan in delineation of no take zone (including fishing times – month or day, size limit) will be prepared and monitoring will be conducted throughout the project period.
Activity 1.12. Facilitate CGLTDB in regulating grazing and pesticide/fertiliser application in GLA in accordance with participatory management plan		Ongoing. Two workshops have been conducted for 216 community members on the benefits of reduced use of chemical fertilizers and reduced grazing. Suggestions from the participants were collected, which will be used to draft a plan in accordance with participatory management plan.	Brief plan for no grazing lands and way of reducing pesticides/fertilizers use around GLA will be prepared. Monitoring activity will be continued throughout project period.
Output 2. Access to sustainable natural capital-based livelihoods secured for the most vulnerable, marginalised freshwater dependent communities within GLA	<p>2.1 Two women-led cooperatives established under CGLTDB in the most vulnerable, marginalised freshwater-dependent groups of settlements, in GLA</p> <p>2.1.1 with soft-loan seed funds and by-laws agreed, enshrining sustainable management of natural capital (e.g. farms for snails, water chestnuts, aquaculture, tourist souvenirs/handicrafts) and equitable benefits sharing by year 1 end</p> <p>2.1.2 contributions in-kind or funding for GLA conservation contribute to GLA management by project end.</p> <p>2.1.3 with 50 members per cooperative by year 2 end</p> <p>2.1.4 with seed funds grown by 50% compared to baseline by project end.</p> <p>2.1.5 with vulnerable groups without previous access to financial services, taking 75 livelihoods loans by project end.</p> <p>2.2 Income of cooperative members increased by 10% compared to baseline (to be determined) by year 2 end and 25% by project end.</p> <p>2.3 70% of cooperative members attend annual Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops, encouraged through post-cooperative meeting sessions by project end.</p>	<p>2.1 Completed. Two women-led cooperative groups have been formed with 52 members. Seed fund of GBP 5000 was supported as soft loans (interest rate ≤ 4%) for all the members.</p> <p>2.1.1 Seed fund of GBP 5000 was provided, and by-laws prepared and agreed.</p> <p>2.1.2 To be achieved by the project end.</p> <p>2.1.3 26 members established per cooperative in year 1.</p> <p>2.1.4 To be achieved by the project end.</p> <p>2.1.5 To be achieved by the project end.</p> <p>2.2 Average income of cooperative member is NPR. 12000 per month</p> <p>2.3 They are present in such workshop in year 1. This will be achieved by the project end.</p>	

Activity 2.1. Work with CGLTDB to identify vulnerable groups, using survey data, and hold initial engagement workshops on cooperatives	Completed 22 focal group discussions in different hamlets and several informal meetings with CGLTDB members.	
Activity 2.2. Support CGLTDB in coordination with Provincial Forest and Wildlife Division, and local forest department authority to co-develop 2 new cooperatives with equitable conservation constitutions - one per ward around GLA	Completed. Two women-led cooperative groups have been formed with 52 members. Seed fund of GBP 5000 was supported as soft loans (interest rate \leq 4%) for all the members.	
Activity 2.3. Support day-to day cooperative operation and monitoring and evaluation of their impact	Completed. Basic training on "Group Management and Revolving Fund Mobilization" was conducted for 49 members of the two cooperatives.	Monitoring and meeting are periodically planned throughout project period.
Activity 2.4. Hold 16 post-cooperative meeting sessions per cooperative - promoting the importance of natural capital management through participatory natural capital assessments; and sharing the results of these meetings.	Will be conducted periodically throughout project period.	Monitoring and meeting are periodically planned throughout project period.
Activity 2.5. Conduct natural capital cooperative exposure visits for 320 households (40 per quarter) from other settlements (those without cooperatives) to promote the natural capital cooperative concept.	Visit for 160 members planned in second year.	Similar planning is done for year 3.
Activity 2.6. Establish two community-managed fishponds for cooperative members (one per cooperative).	Planned to establish in second quarter of year two.	Further support for smooth operation will be provided throughout project period.
Activity 2.7. Train local aquaculturalists, and provide guidelines, in sustainable aquaculture, the importance of native species, and productivity raising techniques for native fish, snails and water chestnuts)	Completed. Two days aquaculture training was provided on November 2019 to 101 fish dependent households.	One training planned in August 2020 for cooperatives/fishpond members.
Activity 2.8. Facilitate access of cooperative members to market via linking with local/national markets and government commercial schemes.	Planned for the second and fourth quarter.	2 workshops planned for second year in quarter two and four.

<p>Output 3. Growing tourism industry in GLA is increasingly sustainable, with wider community benefits, based on a tourism master plan that provides a model for other tourist destinations.</p>	<p>3.1 All existing tourism development plans for GLA compiled and reviewed, in collaboration with CGLTDB, and presented and discussed at Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops (output 1) by end year 1.</p> <p>3.2 Sustainable tourism master plan is developed and agreed by CGLTDB and representatives from all c.40 settlements (identifying environmental and social impacts and opportunities for green growth and enshrining sustainable tourism approach) and submitted to municipal government by end year 2.</p> <p>3.3 Participatory tourism master plan being implemented by CGLTDB and local communities, and shared with DoFSC, DNPWC provincial and national government as a model of best practice by end of project.</p> <p>3.3.1 CGLTDB has made direct investments in identified green sustainable tourism- related infrastructure e.g. bicycle trails, information centres and green toilets by project end.</p> <p>3.3.2 Tourist waste and litter management scheme in place around water edges in GLA by project end.</p> <p>3.3.3 New tourist sites and shrines are solely located in areas with low natural capital value and low ecological importance by project end.</p>	<p>3.1 Completed.</p> <p>Compiled and reviewed all existing tourism development plans for GLA in collaboration with CGLTDB and presented and discussed at Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshop.</p> <p>3.2 Ongoing.</p> <p>Interactive meetings were conducted with all concerned stakeholders to draft a tourism master plan. This will be completed in the next reporting period.</p> <p>3.3 Ongoing.</p> <p>3.3.1 CGLTDB completed the construction of 300 m foot/bicycle trail and renovated the information centre and public toilets in year 1. Dustbins have been kept in place and information boards have been erected for litter management. Additional investment will be made and provided to CGLTDB for this in coming years. Besides this, GM is also investing on their own for other sustainable tourism activities.</p> <p>3.3.3 Locations of shrines and tourist sites are mentioned in draft plan (Discussions ongoing)</p>	
<p>Activity 3.1. Assess existing tourism infrastructure, capacity and market to identify areas likely to negatively impact GLA's ecological integrity.</p>	<p>Completed.</p> <p>Existing tourism infrastructure, capacity and market has been assessed and found to have little negative impact.</p>		
<p>Activity 3.2. Conduct workshop, hosted by CGLTDB, with representatives of each settlement (ca. 30) including Tharu and women, municipal government, and wider stakeholders to identify key needs for tourism development.</p>	<p>Completed.</p> <p>CGLTDB hosted four workshops for 131 participants to identify key needs for tourism development.</p>		
<p>Activity 3.3. Provide support for sustainable tourism infrastructure for tourists e.g. information centres, toilets, ticket counters etc.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>300 m foot/bicycle trail constructed; information centre and toilets renovated.</p>	<p>Sustainable tourism infrastructure as mentioned in the activity is also planned for Year 2.</p>	
<p>Activity 3.4. Draft initial participatory tourism master plan based on results of workshop.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>The plan has been drafted and will be finalised by year 2.</p>	<p>The plan will be finalised in Year 2.</p>	

<p>Activity 3.5. Hold series of 2 working group workshops (with inclusive representation from ca. 40 settlements, CGLTDB, GM) to obtain detailed community inputs on tourism master plan, and then to finalise and agree it.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>A workshop completed for 55 participants to obtain detailed community inputs for the plan.</p>	<p>2 more workshops will be conducted for further additional inputs in preparation of tourism plan.</p>
<p>Output 4. A robust protection framework is implemented, by designating GLA as Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary, and building on the existing Basanta Protected Forest designation in the upper watershed, to address upstream threats.</p>	<p>4.1 Participatory land-use plan for the upstream watershed (already designated as the Basanta Protected Forest), developed and overseen by CGLTDB and GM</p> <p>4.1.1 Inclusive participatory mapping of land-use and land-use governance; including consultation with all upstream settlements (ca. 10 of approximately 200 households each) by year 1 end.</p> <p>4.1.2 Improved riparian forest management agreed by year 2 end.</p> <p>4.1.3 Restrictions and logging system for fertilisers, endosulfans and other pesticides agreed by year 2 end.</p> <p>4.1.4 Participatory land use plan (including 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 as agreed) being implemented in 50% of riparian land in upstream watershed by project end.</p> <p>4.2 Following visits by fifteen relevant national and local government officials (including CBD national focal point), the annual plans of GM and DoFSC will include GLA and upstream watershed as priorities, by project end.</p> <p>4.3 GLA upgraded to Nepal's first bird sanctuary; with Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary Management Plan (comprising Participatory Management Plan, GLA Tourism Master Plan, Watershed Management Plan and Natural Capital Monitoring Plan), and associated policy briefs to promote GLA conservation prioritisation by project end.</p>	<p>4.1 Ongoing</p> <p>4.1.1 Four participatory workshops on Land Use Land Cover mapping were conducted for upstream settlements. Information gathered were used for the preparation of watershed management plan so that the target set under this output can be achieved.</p> <p>4.1.2 & 4.1.3 Participatory watershed management plan is under development and will be completed in the next reporting period.</p> <p>4.1.4 This will be achieved by the project end.</p> <p>4.2 This will be achieved by the project end.</p> <p>4.3 Ongoing. GLA Tourism Master Plan, Watershed Management Plan and Natural Capital Monitoring Plan are in draft phase and will be incorporated in Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary Management Plan at the end of the project.</p>
<p>Activity 4.1. Conduct initial participatory land-use and land-cover mapping of upstream watershed through engagement with all 10 upstream settlements.</p>	<p>Completed.</p> <p>Four workshops completed with the engagement of all 10 upstream settlements.</p>	
<p>Activity 4.2. Hold CGLTDP and municipal government-hosted workshop with inclusive representatives of all 10 upstream settlements to introduce and agree principles of participatory watershed management plan, using baseline data from output 5. and activity 4.1</p>	<p>Completed.</p> <p>One participatory community workshop completed to introduce principles of participatory watershed management plan to 56 attendees with inclusive representation of all upstream settlements was</p>	

	conducted to introduce principles of the participatory watershed management plan.	
Activity 4.3. Develop draft watershed management plan for GLA with municipal government and DoFSC office	Initial Watershed Management plan has been drafted.	The plan will be finalised in Year 2.
Activity 4.4. Conduct workshop, hosted by CGLTDB and municipal government, with representatives of all 10 settlements including Tharu and women, municipal government, and wider stakeholders to finalise watershed management plan	Ongoing. One workshop, scheduled for this year, was conducted. Community input was collected. To finalise it another workshop/interactive meeting will be held in year 2.	2 workshops will be carried on in year 2 to obtain additional inputs in plan and finalise it.
Activity 4.5. Setup and support community engagement drop-in sessions for upstream communities to discuss and consult on watershed management plan.	Completed for year 1. 253 community members participated in the drop-in sessions.	Four drop-in sessions will be conducted in Year 2 and for year 3 it will be planned next year.
Activity 4.6. Hold annual policy engagement workshop to share project impact and importance of GLA in Kathmandu.	Incomplete	Delayed due to COVID 19 case. 2 workshops are planned for second year (Quarter 1 & 4).
Activity 4.7. Conduct site visit for 15 National government officials, with GM and CGLTDB.		Planned to conduct this in 4 th quarter.
Activity 4.8. Support CGLTDB and local municipality in declaring GLA a bird sanctuary.	Ongoing. The idea has been raised among local communities and relevant authorities during project-initiated meetings/workshops/consultations. Most of them have supported the idea, as this declaration will be the first of its kind in Nepal.	Discussions will be continued among concerned stakeholders throughout project period.

<p>Activity 4.9. Hold workshop with all stakeholders (GM, CGLTDB, municipal DoFSC office etc.) in GLA to integrate land use management plan, tourism master plan, watershed management plan, and biological monitoring plan into Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary Management Plan.</p>	<p>Some of these plans are already in draft phase.</p>	<p>Planned for Quarter 2 of Year 3.</p>
<p>Output 5. Data and experience from GLA, with its natural capital and socioeconomic monitoring, inform evidence-based conservation interventions, management plans and policy.</p>	<p>5.1 Appropriate socio- economic indicators and ecological and natural capital KPIs (e.g. fish stocks and harvest by species, indicator species, water quality (oxygen, pesticide and nutrient levels), forest cover change; forest above ground woody biomass; seedling recruitment; grassland NPP; area of waterway clear) and a monitoring plan are agreed by GM, CGLTDB, and representatives of all c. 40 settlements by year 1 end</p> <p>5.2 Training in biological monitoring, analysis and adaptive management to enable local monitoring of KPIs:</p> <p>5.2.1 Two (2) DoFSC staff and ten (10) FISH representatives trained and begin monitoring by year 1 end</p> <p>5.2.2 Four (4) DoFSC staff and ca. 40 FISH representatives trained and carry out KPI monitoring, and analysis supported by ZSL, by year 2 end</p> <p>5.2.3 Five (5) DoFSC staff and ca. 40 FISH representatives trained and carry out KPI monitoring, and analysis supported by ZSL, by project end</p> <p>5.3 Monitoring data is fed into 1) local stakeholders via Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops, 2) Nepal's NBSAP (2015-25) and 3) Nepal's reporting to the CBD and Ramsar convention to inform effective and integrated multi-level conservation governance by end year 2.</p> <p>5.4 An ongoing (post- project) monitoring plan agreed and institutionalized with CGLTDB, FISH representatives, all 26 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) and inclusive representatives of 13 other settlements without CFUGs (non-CF settlements), municipal government and provincial DoFSC by project end.</p>	<p>5.1 Agreed on appropriate socio-economic indicators, ecological and natural capital KPIs and monitoring plan by GM, CGLTDB and representatives of all 39 settlements.</p> <p>5.2 Ongoing</p> <p>5.2.1 Trained 22 FISH representatives and 2 DoFSC staff on biological monitoring, analysis and adaptive management to enable local monitoring of KPIs.</p> <p>5.2.2 This will be achieved by year 2.</p> <p>5.2.3 This will be achieved by the project end.</p> <p>5.3 This will be achieved by year 2.</p> <p>5.4 This will be achieved by the project end.</p>
<p>Activity 5.1. Conduct rapid assessment of key landscape biological monitoring methods and locations within Ghodaghodi watershed.</p>	<p>Completed. Rapid assessment was done surveying GLA. Vegetation, fish and wildlife monitoring was conducted during the survey.</p>	
<p>Activity 5.2. Produce an integrated plan for site-indicator and threatened species monitoring and natural capital assessment in Ghodaghodi watershed.</p>	<p>Completed. Site indicator species were identified through the results of rapid assessment and a workshop was conducted for 47 participants from the local community, FISH</p>	

	representatives, local researchers and CGLTDB members to discuss the results from the assessment and collect feedback to establish an integrated plan for site-indicator and threatened species monitoring and natural capital assessment.	
Activity 5.3. Hold GLA working group meeting (representatives of all 40 settlements, CGLTDB, GM, FISH representatives) to agree KPIs in plan.	Completed. GLA working group meeting was conducted to share the results collect feedback and suggestions and agree on Key Performance Indicators. The feedback was used to further fine tune the plan, which will be finalised and endorsed by the GM.	
Activity 5.4. Support the annual training and refresher training of all monitoring personnel on indicator species monitoring and camera trapping (55 people at project end).	Completed. Two-day training conducted on indicator species monitoring and camera trapping to 24 people in year 1.	20 more voluntarily interested candidates will be selected and trained in year 2.
Activity 5.5. Conduct annual biodiversity monitoring of key site indicator and threatened species (bird, vegetation surveys, opportunistic camera trapping).	First year annual monitoring completed. Results are briefed in section 3.	Annual monitoring will be continued in coming years.
Activity 5.6. Conduct annual natural capital assessments (with GLA working group members and DoFW staff) covering indicator species, forest above ground woody biomass; seedling recruitment; grassland NPP; area of waterway clear; UNEP Water Quality Indicator for Biodiversity score conductivity, Nitrogen, Oxygen, pH, Phosphorous, Temperature results; and fish stocks.	Ongoing. First year assessment has been completed (Section 3; output 5).	Assessment is planned annually.
Activity 5.7. Design annual household surveys on livelihoods, income, wellbeing metrics, wildlife knowledge and natural capital dependency.	Completed.	
Activity 5.8. Conduct annual household surveys and analysis.	Completed. 445 HHs were surveyed in the month of	Annual survey will be conducted.

	December 2019 from 39 different settlements.	
Activity 5.9. Prepare report on natural capital monitoring in Ghodaghodi and encourage DoFSC to utilise it as a model of wetland monitoring.		Planned in year 3
Activity 5.10. Publish results in a peer-reviewed journal.		Planned in year 3

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

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: Ecological connectivity through the critical Western Terai Corridor is restored, with a well-managed community-led protected area at its heart, providing an innovative model of freshwater-based conservation of Nepal's ecological connectivity..</p>			
<p>Outcome: GLA's globally-significant biodiversity and natural capital secured through sustainable and equitable management as a Bird Sanctuary, with upstream watershed threats addressed, safeguarding globally threatened species' recovery and communities' livelihoods and culture.</p>	<p>0.1 Key local populations of nationally and ecologically relevant indicator species to be confirmed in year 1 (e.g. Lesser Adjutant Stork (<i>Leptotilos javanicus</i>) (VU), Mugger Crocodile (<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>) (VU) and Cotton Pygmy Goose (<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>) (LC)) are stable or increasing (baseline= year 1) by project end.</p> <p>0.2 GLA's conservation status is upgraded to become Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary, and prioritised for conservation by local and national government with at least 20% more projected annual management input going to the site (baseline = year 0) by project end.</p> <p>0.3 Implementation of an evidence-based Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary management plan (comprising components: i/participatory management plan, ii/GLA tourism master plan, iii/watershed management plan and iv/natural capital monitoring plan) achieves a 15% increase in natural capital (relevant metrics to be defined in year 1, see 5.1 below) within GLA by project end (baseline = year 1) .</p> <p>0.4 20% decline in eutrophication drivers across watershed non-natural nutrient inputs and pesticide pollution - (baseline = year 1) by project end.</p> <p>0.5 Households show positive change in overall wellbeing index (baseline= year 1) by project end.</p> <p>0.5.1 10% sample of households in GLA (total = ca. 5,000) show at least a 10% increase in wellbeing;</p> <p>0.5.2 All cooperative member households (ca. 100 per cooperative) show at least a 40% increase in wellbeing; and</p> <p>0.5.3 Women and Tharu ethnic minority people achieve equal gains in wellbeing to less-marginalised groups, seen in 0.5.2.</p>	<p>0.1 Annual indicator species monitoring results</p> <p>0.2 Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary documents and reports, GM annual plan, DoFSC annual plan, media coverage</p> <p>0.3 Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary Management Plan; Natural capital assessments of KPIs identified under indicator 5.1</p> <p>0.4 Community pesticide and fertiliser purchase and use records, and water quality monitoring records as applicable.</p> <p>0.5 Community survey (year 1 & project end): scores on overall economic wellbeing index, compiled from locally defined wellbeing indicators, using a participatory wealth ranking approach [9], material style of life measures [A], the Food Insecurity Experience Scale [10] and a subjective wellbeing measure.</p>	<p>Ghodaghodi Municipality (GM) and CGLTDB remain committed to conservation of GLA.</p> <p>Biodiversity conservation remains a national priority, with a political situation conducive for conservation and project implementation.</p> <p>Increased financial resources devoted to the site reflects increased government commitment to its conservation, and will result in improved conservation outcomes.</p> <p>Communities will share this information willingly, including on levels of usage near watercourses</p> <p>ZSL's deployment of a locally-defined participatory wealth ranking wellbeing index will be appropriate to the local context. Given our experience applying it across different socioeconomic classes and self-identified community subgroups, in the Philippines, Mozambique and Cameroon.</p> <p>A 10% stratified sample of households in GLA is sufficient to identify wellbeing increases generally and disaggregate this by groups.</p> <p>Local communities are supportive of conservation and keen to diversify livelihood opportunities.</p> <p>Equal wellbeing gains between Tharu, women and less marginalised groups are achievable given that 36 % of the population are tharu and around 12% are Dalit.</p>

<p>Output 1</p> <p>Natural capital of GLA governed equitably and effectively through CGLTDB, and established community governance mechanisms</p>	<p>1.1 100% (9 members) of CGLTDB trained in good governance, and coordinating all project outputs and GLA management in an equitable and participatory way (in line with the management plans) by end year 1</p> <p>1.2 39 Freshwater Information System for Households (FISH) representatives (one per settlement) recruited to provide information conduit to GLA working group of CGLTDB and 39 settlements by year 1 end</p> <p>1.3 Annual Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops, including inclusive representatives from 39 settlements (utilising information received from 39 FISH representatives):</p> <p>1.3.1 one/first annual workshop held by year 1 end.</p> <p>1.3.2 informing development of natural capital performance-based incentive system (indicator 1.4) by year 1 end</p> <p>1.3.3 informing development of GLA participatory management plan (indicator 1.5) by year 2 end</p> <p>1.3.4 with 80% of participants identifying a positively correlated trend in income/wellbeing and natural capital by project end</p> <p>1.4 CGLTDB will establish a performance-based incentive system for all 39 settlements, to target their own investment, and implement social recognition and sanctions schemes (based on information from Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops) by year 2 end.</p> <p>1.5 Development and implementation of participatory management plan for GLA site:</p> <p>1.5.1 GLA management plan parameters developed by CGLTDB with all 26 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) and inclusive representatives of 13 other settlements without CFUGs (non-CF settlements) by year 1 end</p> <p>1.5.2 GLA management plan will be developed by GLA working group and agreed by all CFUGs and non-CF settlements (expanding the Community Forestry Programme model to the freshwater system), with CGLTDB as custodian of final agreement, by year 2 end</p> <p>1.5.3 at least 10% of water area of GLA (ca. 200ha) protected from protective fisheries management measures through a combination of spatial (no-take zones) temporal (non-fishing</p>	<p>1.1 Post-training assessments; CGLTDB meeting minutes; CGLTDB records and annual report</p> <p>1.2 FISH representative recruitment records, FISH workshop minutes</p> <p>1.3 Workshop minutes and records, including male and female representation; FISH representative reports/presentation minutes; socioeconomic survey (baseline & project end): community knowledge and attitude questionnaire detailing understanding of natural capital and its link to their livelihoods.</p> <p>1.4 CGLTDB and community workshop minutes; CGLTDB records; community agreements</p> <p>1.5.1 GLA working group meeting minutes</p> <p>1.5.2 Participatory management plan for GLA;</p> <p>1.5.3 FISH representative reports; Socioeconomic survey (baseline & project end): self-reporting by practicing fishermen; fisheries assessments based on self-reported CPUE;</p>	<p>Suitable and diverse candidates to be selected as FISH representatives are willing and available from the pool of community members. And these individuals do not overlap with the chairmen/women of the CFUGs.</p> <p>Community members make the connections between wellbeing increases and the package of measures/natural capital approach of the project, and therefore abide by the sustainability measures as agreed in the management plans</p> <p>Most community members will readily identify a relationship between their livelihoods and natural capital as the vast majority of community members, if not all, have livelihoods dependent on GLA's natural capital, mostly either livestock, fishing, aquaculture or tourism livelihoods.</p> <p>CGLTDB investment, together with other project activities, provides a robust incentive for communities to be supportive of protected natural capital, while the workshops are able to provide unbiased evidence on community performance.</p> <p>Bringing CFUG leaders, from the 26 settlements with established CFUGs, together with inclusive representatives from the 13 settlements without CFUGs will enable equal representation of all settlements interests and help promote Nepal's Community Forestry Programme.</p> <p>We assume that 10% of water area protected from harmful fishing impacts is achievable, based on community consultations and ZSL's early-stage experiences in the Philippines where communities have been willing to protect an average of 3ha each (DI24-016, DI21-020).</p>
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	<p>times e.g. spawning periods), and selective-catch measures (e.g. size limits) (baseline= 0) by project end.</p> <p>1.5.4 Sustainable grassland and grazing management (including application of pesticides and fertilisers), prioritising riparian areas, in place within 50% of the area of the GLA (12.5km² of the total 25km²) by project end. (Baseline = 0)</p>	<p>1.5.4 Self-reporting by practicing pastoralists; household records of pesticide and fertiliser purchases.</p>	<p>Freshwater NTZ have the potential to protect valuable intact habitat and spawning areas for freshwater biodiversity, and the community engagement and success of these no take zones will be enhanced by utilising lessons from ZSL trials in the Philippines (DI24-016, DI21-020).</p>
<p>Output 2</p> <p>Access to sustainable natural capital-based livelihoods secured for the most vulnerable, marginalised freshwater dependent communities within GLA</p>	<p>2.1 Two women-led cooperatives established under CGLTDB in the most vulnerable, marginalised freshwater-dependent groups of settlements, in GLA</p> <p>2.1.1 with soft-loan seed funds and by-laws agreed, enshrining sustainable management of natural capital (e.g. farms for snails, water chestnuts, aquaculture, tourist souvenirs/handicrafts) and equitable benefits sharing by year 1 end</p> <p>2.1.2 contributions in-kind or funding for GLA conservation contribute to GLA management by project end.</p> <p>2.1.3 with 50 members per cooperative by year 2 end</p> <p>2.1.4 with seed funds grown by 50% compared to baseline by project end.</p> <p>2.1.5 with vulnerable groups without previous access to financial services, taking 75 livelihoods loans by project end.</p> <p>2.2 Income of cooperative members increased by 10% compared to baseline (to be determined) by year 2 end and 25% by project end.</p> <p>2.3 70% of cooperative members attend annual Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops, encouraged through post-cooperative meeting sessions by project end.</p>	<p>2.1 Community vulnerability context analysis; cooperative constitutions; cooperative management meeting minutes; soft-loan seed-fund records</p> <p>2.2 Cooperative records (including, for example, the number of loans, amount loaned, repayment rate, growth in seed funds and agreements on GLA conservation fund expenditure.</p> <p>2.3 Participatory natural capital assessment workshop records.</p>	<p>CGLTDB members remain receptive to equitable and sustainable governance approaches.</p> <p>Natural capital cooperatives, building on ZSL's successful livelihood cooperative model from DI-funded project DI22-009 are effective and equitable management institutions for natural capital-based sustainable livelihoods.</p> <p>Participatory natural capital assessments prove an effective means of engaging communities with the link between natural capital and their livelihoods, so making the case for sustainable management of natural capital management transparent, and contributing to GLA conservation.</p> <p>Take up of loans is similar to demand on other ZSL projects and another DI-funded Nepal project (i.e.87 loans), DI22-009</p> <p>Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops will be attractive for community members to attend due to the opportunity to participate in local resource governance decisions.</p>
<p>Output 3</p> <p>Growing tourism industry in GLA is increasingly sustainable, with wider community benefits, based on a tourism master plan that provides a model for</p>	<p>3.1 All existing tourism development plans for GLA compiled and reviewed, in collaboration with CGLTDB, and presented and discussed at Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops (output 1) by end year 1.</p> <p>3.2 Sustainable tourism master plan is developed and agreed by CGLTDB and representatives from all c.40 settlements (identifying environmental and social impacts and opportunities for green growth and enshrining sustainable tourism approach), and submitted to municipal government by end year 2.</p>	<p>3.1 Tourism plan report.</p> <p>3.2 Participatory tourism master plan, stakeholder workshop minutes</p> <p>3.3 CGLTDB records; tourism annual reports; workshop minutes where tourism plan is presented. Photographic evidence of</p>	<p>Government remains supportive of development of tourism and green tourism.</p> <p>Green infrastructure are sustainable and adopted by government.</p> <p>Participatory tourism master plan agreed by all stakeholders is subsequently respected and implemented with ZSL's ongoing technical support and engagement.</p>

<p>other tourist destinations.</p>	<p>3.3 Participatory tourism master plan being implemented by GGLTDB and local communities, and shared with DoFSC, DNPWC provincial and national government as a model of best practice by end of project.</p> <p>3.3.1 CGLTDB has made direct investments in identified green sustainable tourismrelated infrastructure e.g. bicycle trails, information centres and green toilets by project end.</p> <p>3.3.2 Tourist waste and litter management scheme in place around water edges in GLA by project end.</p> <p>3.3.3 new tourist sites and shrines are solely located in areas with low natural capital value and low ecological importance by project end.</p>	<p>any construction (before/after), use records and user satisfaction surveys of bike trails and green toilets and the GLA more widely</p>	
<p>Output 4</p> <p>A robust protection framework is implemented, by designating GLA as Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary, and building on the existing Basanta Protected Forest designation in the upper watershed, to address upstream threats.</p>	<p>4.1 Participatory land-use plan for the upstream watershed (already designated as the Basanta Protected Forest), developed and overseen by CGLTDB and GM:</p> <p>4.1.1 Inclusive participatory mapping of land-use and land-use governance; including consultation with all upstream settlements (ca. 10 of approximately 200 households each) by year 1 end.</p> <p>4.1.2 Improved riparian forest management agreed by year 2 end.</p> <p>4.1.3 Restrictions and logging system for fertilisers, endosulfans and other pesticides agreed by year 2 end.</p> <p>4.1.4 Participatory land use plan (including 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 as agreed) being implemented in 50% of riparian land in upstream watershed by project end</p> <p>4.2 Following visits by fifteen relevant national and local government officials (including CBD national focal point), the annual plans of GM and DoFSC will include GLA and upstream watershed as priorities, by project end.</p> <p>4.3 GLA upgraded to Nepal's first bird sanctuary; with Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary Management Plan (comprising Participatory Management Plan, GLA Tourism Master Plan, Watershed Management Plan and Natural Capital Monitoring Plan), and associated policy briefs to promote GLA conservation prioritisation by project end.</p>	<p>4.1 DoFSC records; municipal government records; workshop minutes; Land-use maps and analysis reports; participatory management plan agreements; participatory management plan; socioeconomic survey: self-reporting by households; pesticide and fertiliser logs</p> <p>4.2 Government visit reports, GM and DoFSC annual plans.</p> <p>4.3 Official Municipal Government records of bird sanctuary designation; Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary Management Plan; DoFSC letter of receipt, policy briefs, workshop minutes.</p>	<p>On advice from local partners, this proposal assumes that this existing Protected Forest designation of the upper watershed and its associated land-use zoning provides an effective framework upon which a land-use plan can be built and implemented, within the timeframe, with sufficient compliance mechanisms pre-built in.</p> <p>All 10 communities are willing to participate, under the existing framework of the protected forest, in sustainable management of their upstream freshwater system.</p> <p>Community members will be keen to agree collective management of riparian forests and fertilisers/pesticides. This is due to commitment to the Community Forestry Programme, which will be built upon, and the existing level of compliance with Basanta Protected Forest land-use zones, in combination with local communities active desire to seek support to protect GLA.</p> <p>Agreement of plans, alongside technical support, government investment, and encouragement will lead to effective conservation actions on the ground.</p>

			Government remains committed to protection of GLA, and supportive of declaring GLA a Bird Sanctuary.
<p>Output 5</p> <p>Data and experience from GLA, with its natural capital and socioeconomic monitoring, inform evidence-based conservation interventions, management plans and policy.</p>	<p>5.1 Appropriate socioeconomic indicators and ecological and natural capital KPIs (e.g. fish stocks and harvest by species, indicator species, water quality (oxygen, pesticide and nutrient levels), forest cover change; forest above ground woody biomass; seedling recruitment; grassland NPP; area of waterway clear) and a monitoring plan are agreed by GM, CGLTDB, and representatives of all c. 40 settlements by year 1 end</p> <p>5.2 Training in biological monitoring, analysis and adaptive management to enable local monitoring of KPIs:</p> <p>5.2.1 Two (2) DoFSC staff and ten (10) FISH representatives trained and begin monitoring by year 1 end</p> <p>5.2.2 Four (4) DoFSC staff and ca. 40 FISH representatives trained and carry out KPI monitoring, and analysis supported by ZSL, by year 2 end</p> <p>5.2.3 Five (5) DoFSC staff and ca. 40 FISH representatives trained and carry out KPI monitoring, and analysis supported by ZSL, by project end</p> <p>5.3 Monitoring data is fed into 1) local stakeholders via Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops, 2) Nepal's NBSAP (2015-25) and 3) Nepal's reporting to the CBD and Ramsar convention to inform effective and integrated multi-level conservation governance by end year 2.</p> <p>5.4 An ongoing (postproject) monitoring plan agreed and institutionalised with CGLTDB, FISH representatives, all 26 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) and inclusive representatives of 13 other settlements without CFUGs (non-CF settlements), municipal government and provincial DoFSC by project end.</p>	<p>5.1 Annual M&E reports, workshop minutes, municipal government records.</p> <p>5.2 Post training assessments, training curriculum.</p> <p>5.3 Workshop minutes; Natural Capital Monitoring Plan;</p>	<p>Diverse stakeholders are able to agree KPIs that effectively capture the relevant metrics and demonstrate the value of participatory watershed management.</p> <p>Being a FISH representative will be attractive to local community members as a route to greater participation in resource governance decision making, and a status position associated with CGLTDB, which is a respected body.</p> <p>Agreed KPIs will be monitorable in the long-term, with buy in from provincial level down to settlement level.</p>

Annex 3: Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Gender of people (if relevant)	Nationality of people (if relevant)	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
6A	Training on GESI and equitable governance	M = 24 F = 40	Nepali	64			64	
6A	Training local fisherman on reduced impact fishing practices	M = 8 F = 27	Nepali	35			35	
6A	Basic Training on Group Management and Revolving Fund Mobilization	M = 6 F = 43	Nepali	49			49	
6A	Training to local aquaculturalists	M = 16 F = 85	Nepal	101			101	100
6A	Training on biodiversity survey and monitoring	M = 11 F = 13	Nepali	24			24	55
14A	Workshop to codevelop draft compliance and incentive mechanism	M = 77 F = 25	Nepali	102			102	
14A	Workshop to share draft compliance and incentive mechanism	M = 42 F = 29	Nepali	71			71	
14A	Workshop on annual participatory natural capital assessment	M = 31 F = 59	Nepali	90			90	
14A	Workshop to agree fisheries intervention	M = 8 F = 44	Nepali	52			52	
14A	Facilitate CGLTDB in regulating grazing and pesticide/fertiliser use – Meeting with community people	M = 21 F = 195	Nepali	216			216	
14A	Workshop to identify key needs for tourism development	M = 86 F = 77	Nepali	163			163	

14A	Working group workshops to obtain detail community inputs on tourism plan	M = 15 F = 40	Nepali	55			55	
14A	Initial participatory landuse and mapping through engagement of 10 upstream settlements	M = 80 F = 45	Nepali	125			125	
14A	Workshop to introduce participatory watershed plan	M = 34 F = 22	Nepali	56			56	
14A	Workshop to obtain inputs and further draft watershed plan	M = 42 F = 45	Nepali	87			87	
14A	Working group meeting to agree KPIs	M = 34 F = 22	Nepali	56			56	

Table 2 Publications - N/A

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)

Annex 4 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged) Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	√
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	√
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	
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.	