

## Darwin Initiative Capability & Capacity Annual Report

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

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

**Submission Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

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### Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	DARCC034
Project title	Vicuña management for biodiversity conservation and local livelihoods in the Bolivian highlands
Country/ies	Bolivia
Lead Partner	Lilian Painter (lpainter@wcs.org)
Project partner(s)	ACOFIVB
Darwin Initiative grant value	£199,998
Start/end dates of project	1 <sup>ST</sup> April 2023 – 31 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2023 – Mar 2024) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	YR1 (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)
Project Leader name	Oscar [REDACTED]
Project website/blog/social media	<a href="https://bolivia.wcs.org/">https://bolivia.wcs.org/</a>
Report author(s) and date	Oscar [REDACTED], Humber [REDACTED], José Luis [REDACTED], Linda [REDACTED] & Lilian [REDACTED]. 30 Abril 2024

### 1. Project summary

We will increase the capability of the national association of vicuña managers to replicate best practices for vicuña and habitat management developed with de Apolobamba regional vicuña management association, including censusing, shearing, and marketing tools, as well as habitat (e.g. peatland) monitoring approaches. These best practices have been developed through partnerships that will be leveraged for impact at the national scale to build the institutional framework to support local livelihoods and conserve species associated with highland peatlands and pastures, such as Andean flamingos, Andean hairy armadillos and others.

### 2. Project stakeholders/ partners

This project collaborates with the Association for the Commercialization of Vicuña Fiber of Bolivia (ACOFIVB), which represents 11 regional associations consisting of 113 communities involved in vicuña management, encompassing approximately 5,500 families. These communities primarily consist of Aymara and Quechua people from the highlands of La Paz, Oruro, Potosí, Tarija, and Cochabamba; regions of the country with an extreme poverty rate of 73%.

The activities carried out within the project are conducted in full coordination with our main partner, ACOFIVB, and through it, with the Regional Associations of Vicuña Managing

Communities (ARCMV). Implementation is carried out in coordination and consultation with the competent national authority, the General Directorate of Biodiversity and Protected Areas (DGBAP), under the Vice Ministry of Environment, Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Forest Management and Development (VMMABCCGDF). In the case of activities in protected areas, coordination is also maintained with the National Protected Areas Service (SERNAP) through the Directors of the corresponding protected areas (Apolobamba, Sajama, Eduardo Avaroa, and Sama).

### **3. Project progress**

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

1.1 Develop internal agreement between ACOFIVB and its 11 regional organizations for the whole process.

[We have a valid agreement between ACOFIVB and WCS](#) for the implementation of joint activities, including the present project. The project was jointly developed by the ACOFIVB board and presented to its 11 regional branches in an assembly. However, due to the appointment of a new ACOFIVB board in March 2023, the project was presented a second time, and coordination for the implementation of all activities was carried out with the new board. Additionally, meetings have been held with ACOFIVB and the competent national authority, the General Directorate of Biodiversity and Protected Areas (DGBAP).

1.2 Communal workshops with all regional organizations and at least 35% women participants to develop internal regulations.

Meetings and workshops have been organized at the national level to gather suggestions and inputs for incorporation into the statutes and internal regulations of what would become the National Association of Vicuña Handlers of Bolivia (ANMVB), replacing ACOFIVB. This is necessary because ACOFIVB's mandate limits its role to the sale of vicuña fiber. The ANMVB will include representation of vicuña managers across the management cycle.

Additionally, the statutes and internal regulations of each Regional Association, essential legal documents for [updating their legal entity registrations](#), have been reviewed and approved. In these meetings 1224 people participated and 296 or 24% were women.

1.3 Transcribe internal regulations in a statute and by-laws format and present for approval by the regional associations.

With the support of a commercial lawyer, the drafting, socialization, review, and correction of the [statutes](#) and [internal regulations](#) of the ANMVB have been completed. Subsequently, these documents were socialized and approved by the legal representatives of the Regional Associations of Vicuña Managing Communities (ARCMV).

1.4 Register internal regulations in the Public Registry and legal status for ACOFIVB and 11 regional organizations (Personeria Juridica).

As part of this process, the [legal documentation](#)—including notarized copies of the Legal Entity, Organic Statute, Internal Regulations, Notarial Power of Legal Representation, and identity cards of the Legal Representatives—of the Regional Associations of Vicuña Managing Communities (ARCMV) associated with ACOFIVB has been collected and updated.

The establishment, [election, and assumption of the Ad Hoc board of the National Association of Vicuña Handlers of Bolivia \(ANMVB\)](#) have been completed. The Ad Hoc Board has been [granted a general power of legal representation](#) and [special power for registering as a Legal Entity](#). Furthermore, [the association's name has been reserved with the Vice Ministry of Autonomies](#).

## 1.5 Communication of legal status of ACOFIVB and vicuña management program with biodiversity and law enforcement agencies to increase awareness on the impact of wildlife traffic.

All activities carried out by the vicuña managing communities in each ARCMV are fully coordinated by ACOFIVB with the DGBAP as the competent National Authority. The DGBAP is fully aware of the work being done to update the Legal Entity of the ANMVB and the Regional Associations. Once this legal process is concluded ANMVB will engage with law enforcement agencies to address the threat from illegal vicuña hunters. WCS already works with government authorities on combating IWT, particularly with the Biodiversity Authorities, the Public Prosecutors and Environmental Police (POFOMA).

### 2.1 Field schools on vicuña censusing with 11 regional associations.

Technical meetings have been held with ACOFIVB and the DGBAP, the competent National Authority, where the methodology and operational schedule for vicuña population estimation have been agreed upon. Between May and July, Field Schools were conducted to map and identify census zones and sites in each ARCMV. Training was provided on census methodology, form filling, recognition of vicuña social groups, and their habitats. [Throughout 2023, vicuña censuses were conducted in the regional associations](#) of Villazón, Tomave, Wila Kollo, Apolobamba, and the vicuña managing communities Quebrada Honda (Tarija) and Malla (La Paz), as well as in the protected areas Sama, Eduardo Avaró, and Sajama. In 2024, the estimation will be completed in other missing associations and communities to achieve a national estimation of the vicuña population (2023-2024).

### 2.2 Field schools on vicuña capture, disease surveillance and mechanical shearing, and evaluation of their implementation with 11 regional associations.

In order to train the members of the boards of the ARCMV and their respective Vicuña Managing Communities (CMV), [three field schools](#) were conducted to reinforce the implementation of the "Technical Guidelines for Sustainable Utilization of Vicuñas" approved by the DGBAP. This particularly focused on topics related to herding, capture, and shearing of vicuñas, fleece management, health, and general animal welfare. For this purpose, the Field Schools were held in Oruro, Uyuni (Potosí), and El Alto (La Paz), with the participation of the 11 ARCMV and their respective CMV, grouped according to their geographical proximity.

Under the management of ACOFIVB, a [Training Course in Mechanized Shearing of vicuñas](#) was conducted at the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) in Argentina. The aim was to equip local community resources with the skills for applying this shearing technique. Mechanized shearing improves vicuña welfare during handling, directly reducing stress by decreasing handling and shearing time from 20-30 minutes (with scissors) to a maximum of 3 minutes. It also provides a uniform cut of the fiber, enhancing its commercial value, and favors increased yield per animal and per community. The course saw the participation of 38 young shearers from the 11 regional associations, with project support provided for transportation, food, and accommodation. Technical support, training, and the use of INTA Abra Pampa (Jujuy, Argentina) equipment incurred no cost.

In addition to the course, ACOFIVB facilitated the donation of 11 shearing machines as an additional benefit from the buyers of the 13<sup>th</sup> annual sale of vicuña fiber. Concurrently, the project provided 11 electric generators, which were utilized in each ARCMV during the vicuña fiber harvesting season. From September to December 2023, the vicuña fiber harvesting season progressed, during which parasitic diseases of vicuñas, with a particular emphasis on scabies, were monitored. Additionally, hematological monitoring of vicuñas was conducted in coordination with the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés.

### 2.3 Field Schools on fiber selection and fiber collection and storage; and evaluation of their implementation with 11 regional associations.

For the 2023 season, the ARCMV and their CMV, facilitated by ACOFIVB, requested the Vice Ministry of Environment, Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Forest Management and Development (VMABCCGDF), as the competent authority, to conduct 374 vicuña capture and shearing events by the Managing Communities. [This request was approved through note MMAYA/VMABCCGDF No. 1097/2023](#). According to Bolivian regulations, the season for herding, capture, and shearing of vicuñas is from September 1st to December 15th each year.

The project, in coordination with ACOFVIB and DGBAP, organized two teams to provide support, technical assistance, and on-site training to the CMV and ARCMV during the herding, captures, and shearing of vicuñas. Priority support topics included reinforcement of training in the "Technical Guidelines for Vicuña Management," training in fleece management, and review of the vicuña fiber selection technique, as well as manual data recording and using the "Kobo Collect" application, among others. This technical assistance was scheduled in collaboration with ACOFIVB, ARCMV, and DGBAP.

After the vicuña shearing season, all CMVs from different ARCMVs carried out the selection of vicuña fiber, adding value to it for commercialization.

### 3.1 Field schools on conservation and monitoring of highland peatlands and associated wildlife species; and evaluation (dry and humid seasons).

[A methodological proposal for monitoring peatlands](#) (unique and highly fragile ecosystems of the high Andean zones), grasslands, and water sources in the country's ARCMV was developed. This includes monitoring water quality associated with macroinvertebrates, forage production offered by peatlands to local livestock and vicuñas, vegetation coverage, and key indicator species specific to peatlands. The proposal was presented at a national assembly of ACOFIVB for approval and subsequent field implementation in collaboration with each ARCMV. Field schools were conducted to provide training in this methodology.

### 3.2 Identify priority peatlands and indicator species to be monitored with each regional association.

At a meeting of the ARCMV and their Vicuña Managing Communities, each ARCMV identified 3 monitoring sites, considering: Peatlands and their water sources with high, medium, and low intensity of use, and 3 grassland sites and their water sources for ARCMVs that do not have peatlands, where monitoring field schools are being conducted. [Preliminary results of this monitoring are available to date](#), but it will continue to be carried out, both in the wet and dry seasons, to compare results.

### 3.3 Monitor size and water level of priority peatlands at the end of the wet season and end of the dry season.

In the peatlands and grasslands identified and selected by the ARCMV, [piezometers are being installed to monitor the water level available in the peatlands throughout the year](#). Piezometers are used to measure groundwater aquifers. Thanks to them, we will have a report on the water availability in the peatlands or grasslands prioritized by the different ARCMVs of the country.

### 3.4 Support ACOFIVB and regional associations work with local schools and monitor indicator species using iNaturalist)

Once the monitoring of the current wet season is completed, a baseline of priority monitoring species will be established so that ARCMVs across the country can conduct ongoing monitoring of these species. This monitoring will be carried out using the iNaturalist

application as a support tool. To facilitate monitoring for local communities, monitoring guides (booklets) applicable to local communities will be developed.

4.1 Support ACOFIVB develop a bottom-up methodology to evaluate and adjust the current regulations, including benefit distribution to establish a revolving fund.

[In coordination with ACOFIVB, an updated diagnosis of the current situation regarding the distribution and investment of resources from vicuña](#) shearing and the bottlenecks or limitations for these resources to be reinvested in the activity has been conducted. Likewise, alternative solutions are being proposed to ensure that greater benefits reach the managing communities.

4.2 Regional workshops to review current regulations and provide inputs for a manual of functions and administrative procedures.

In coordination with ACOFIVB and DGBAP, the adjustment and updating of current regulations are underway. This process has begun with the adjustment of technical guidelines for vicuña management and the update of the National Management Plan for the species, which expired in 2023. Both instruments will be presented for validation and approval in national workshops and assemblies. The aim is to have these instruments in place before the start of the new shearing period. Additionally, next year, the construction of regulations defining the specific administrative functions and procedures of the new ANMVB will take place. This will include, among other topics, the distribution of benefits from vicuña fiber sales.

4.3 Approval by regional organizations of adjustments to regulations and establishment of revolving fund.

Once the regulations and management instruments for the vicuña (Technical Guidelines and National Management Plan for the Vicuña), as well as the regulations for functions and administrative procedures for the ANMVB, are validated, their approval will be sought in an assembly.

### 3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1 Legal consolidation of ACOFIVB and their regional associations.

At the project's start, a [diagnosis of the legal situation of each ARCMV](#) was done, resulting in only one ARCMV having legally updated documentation. In response to this situation, the legal documentation (a notarized copy of the Legal Personality, Organic Statute and Internal Regulations, Notarial Power of Legal Representation, and identity card of the Legal Representative) of all the Regional Associations of Vicuña Managing Communities (ARCMV) associated with ACOFIVB has been collected and updated to [update their legal documentation](#) and, based on this, establish the National Association of Vicuña Handlers Bolivia (ANMVB).

On the other hand, [the foundation, election, and assumption of the Ad Hoc board of the ANMVB](#) have been carried out. [A general power of legal representation](#) and a [special power for the process of Legal](#) Personality have been granted to the Ad Hoc Board. Currently, [the name has been reserved with the Vice Ministry of Autonomies](#), and the process continues with the support of a legal consultant with extensive experience in civil and commercial law.

Output 2 Field schools implemented by ACOFIVB with regional associations on best practices for animal welfare, population census, capture, mechanical shearing, disease surveillance, fiber selection, fiber collection and sale.

[Nine field schools have been conducted on vicuña population estimation, in 4 ARCMV](#) (Villazón, Tomave, Wila Kollo, Apolobamba), 2 CMV (Quebrada Honda Tarija and Malla La Paz), and 3 Protected Areas (Sama, Eduardo Avaró, and Sajama). As a result, 1,020 people participated (24% women and 76% men), with a recorded population of 61,657 vicuñas. The social structure of vicuñas was: 61% family groups, 35% male herds, 1% solitary vicuñas, and 3% undifferentiated vicuñas. The family structure of vicuñas consists of 61% females (mothers), 25% offspring, and 14% males (jañachos or breeders). 168 vicuñas with scabies were identified in the ARCMV. The birth rate and vitality of vicuña offspring at the time of population estimation were 42%. The male-to-female vicuña ratio at the family level was 1:4.4. In the following year, 2024, 8 field schools will be held in those ARCMV that were not conducted in 2023, covering the entire region where vicuña management is carried out nationwide.

[Three field schools have been conducted](#) in Oruro, Uyuni (Potosí), and El Alto (La Paz) to reinforce the application of the "Technical Guidelines for Sustainable Utilization of Vicuñas", especially regarding herding, capture, and shearing of vicuñas, fleece management, health, and animal welfare in general. These involved 204 participants (153 males - 75% and 51 females - 25%) from the 11 ARCMV and their respective CMV grouped according to their geographical proximity.

Thanks to the management carried out by ACOFIVB, a [Training Course in Mechanized Shearing of vicuñas](#) was conducted at the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) in Abra Pampa, Jujuy, Argentina, with the aim of having local community resources for the application of this technique. 38 young shearers from the 11 regional associations of the country participated.

During the vicuña fiber harvesting season (September 1st to December 15<sup>th</sup> 2023), the ARCMV and their CMV carried out 230 capture and shearing events out of the [374 requested and approved by the National Biodiversity Authority](#). Two teams were organized to provide technical assistance and reinforce on-site training to the CMV and ARCMV during herding, captures, and shearing of vicuñas. Between 2 to 3 field schools were held in each ARCMV. [At the national level, there were 30,854 vicuñas at capture sites, of which 17,582 vicuñas were captured and 12,223 vicuñas were sheared](#) (70% of captured vicuñas). Of these, 6,363 vicuñas (52.1%) were sheared using traditional manual scissors and 5,869 vicuñas (47.9%) were sheared with electric shearing machines, resulting in a total of 2,472.02 kilograms (about 5449.86 lb) of raw vicuña fiber. After the pre-selection to remove hairs and dirt from the fiber, a total of 2,179.03 kilograms of selected vicuña fiber (with added value) ready for commercialization was obtained. The social participation in the 230 herding, capture, and shearing events of vicuñas was 8,978 people, 5,664 men (61%), and 14,642 women (39%).

[The prevalence of sarcoptic mange has been monitored in vicuñas](#) in seven ARCMVs: Apolobamba, Quri Karwa, Wila Khollo, Colcha K, Sud Lipez, Tomave Villazón and the CMVs of Malla and Altamachi, where the overall prevalence of this disease at the national level was 1.79%.

Output 3 Field schools implemented by ACOFIVB and regional organizations on peatland and wildlife monitoring

The proposal for monitoring peatlands, grasslands, and water sources in the country's ARCMVs has been developed and shared with the ARCMVs. This proposal includes water quality associated with macroinvertebrates, forage production, vegetation coverage, key peatland species, and water level availability in peatlands. Currently, [the monitoring protocol is being implemented by each ARCMV](#) in three selected peatlands or grasslands and their water sources. The results of this monitoring will be presented in the next report.

Output 4 Vicuña regulations reviewed by ACOFIVB and revolving fund established.

In coordination with ACOFIVB, [the diagnosis of the current situation regarding the distribution and investment of resources from vicuña](#) shearing and the bottlenecks or limitations for reinvesting these resources into the management activity has been updated, and alternatives have been identified and proposed. Additionally, in coordination with ACOFIVB and DGBAP, the adjustment and updating of existing regulations, such as the technical guidelines for vicuña management and the National Species Management Plan, which expired in 2023, are being carried out. These documents will be presented for validation and review in national workshops and approved in a national assembly.

### 3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

**Outcome: Consolidate ACOFIVB capacity to support sustainable and informed management of vicuña, increasing benefits to 5500 Indigenous households and monitoring capacity of critical biodiversity habitat within highland pastures over 12M hectares.**

- 0.1 Regulations of ACOFIVB include monitoring of critical biodiversity habitat within 12M hectares of highland pastures.

The establishment of a [monitoring system for peatlands, grasslands, and water sources](#), as well as the selection of indicator species of wildlife and flora, is underway. The monitoring will be done by the local communities. Three representative peatlands or grasslands were identified in each ARCMV for the monitoring implementation. The spatial distribution of these peatlands and their representativeness will allow extrapolating the results to the entire area of vicuña management in Bolivia, which is around 12 million hectares.

- 0.2 Income of 5500 vicuña herder households increases by 30% by Year 2, from a baseline of USD119 a year.

With the implementation of the project, the number of [beneficiary families participating in the management and utilization of vicuña fiber has increased from 5500 at the beginning of the project to over 7160 families \(30%\)](#). Currently, the sale and commercialization of the fiber are underway, so by the second year, we will have the results of economic income per family.

- 0.3 ACOFIVB governance capacity is consolidated by Year 2.

The governance capacity of the ACOFIVB board is being strengthened through the updating of the [legal documentation of the Regional Associations of Vicuña Managing Communities](#) (ARCMV) associated with ACOFIVB. [The foundation, election, and assumption of the Ad Hoc board of the ANMVB](#) have been completed, [and a general power](#) of legal representation and [special power for establishing the Legal](#) Entity have been granted. Currently, [the name has been reserved with the Vice Ministry of Autonomies](#). With the conclusion of this entire process, we expect to consolidate the governance capacity of ACOFIVB within the framework of establishing the ANMVB.

### 3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

1. Changes in government authorities do not prevent coordination for legal consolidation of ACOFIVB and its regional organizations.

At the beginning of the project, there was a change in the ACOFIVB board, which necessitated re-socializing the project. While this caused a slight delay in project execution, the new Board quickly assumed responsibility for project execution with full support and leadership, serving as our main partners and allies. They worked to engage with regional associations and vicuña managing communities and to coordinate with the

competent national authority and other stakeholders involved in vicuña use and conservation.

2. Vicuña fiber market is not affected by global recession or any other macro-economic disruption.

The marketing of vicuña fiber is underway. Certification has been done by the competent national authority, and direct invitations have been extended to international and national companies to submit proposals and purchase offers. However, there are concerns about potential repercussions on the price and demand for fiber purchase due to the [conflict involving the company Loro Piana](#) (the world's largest) in the neighboring country of Peru, sparked by an investigation conducted by Bloomberg. Nevertheless, the ownership of vicuña management in Bolivia represents a clear alternative to the model outlined by Bloomberg and highlighting this model represents an answer to mitigate this risk.

3. Political conflicts do not prevent travel across Bolivian highlands.

During the project implementation, there have been no national political or social conflicts recorded. However, there were more localized conflicts that delayed the coordination and execution of the project at the local level. Faced with this situation, the technical team found ways to coordinate and execute the project in the best possible manner, modifying its schedule in coordination with ACOFIVB.

4. Economic crisis and increase of illegal hunting of vicuñas do not threaten implementation of the legal and sustainable national vicuña management program.

The economic crisis has affected the project, especially due to the lack of fuel in the local market. For periods of time, there has been a shortage of fuel throughout the country, hindering the normal development of field activities. However, this has not prevented the completion of the planned activities, but it has required adjustments to the schedule. Illegal hunting occurs outside the areas of legal management. By increasing the number of participating communities and strengthening the vicuña managers associations the threat from illegal hunting is reduced.

### 3.5 Achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty reduction

- **What impact was in your original application form?**

The capacity of the national association of vicuña handlers to carry out better vicuña and habitat management practices is increased, including census tools, shearing, and marketing, as well as habitat monitoring approaches (for example, peatlands). These best practices have been developed through regional associations and their communities, which will leverage them to achieve national-scale impact in order to build the institutional framework to support local livelihoods and conserve species associated with highland peatlands and grasslands, such as Andean flamingos and Andean hairy armadillos.

- **What contribution is your project making to the higher-level impact on biodiversity conservation?**

The project is contributing to biodiversity conservation at a higher level by increasing the capacity of the national association of vicuña managers to replicate best practices for vicuña and habitat management. Through partnerships with stakeholders like the Association for the Commercialization of Vicuña Fiber of Bolivia (ACOFIVB) and regional associations, the project aims to build an institutional framework supporting local livelihoods and conserving species associated with highland peatlands and pastures. These efforts include developing regulations, conducting field schools on population census, capture, shearing, disease surveillance, and fiber selection, and monitoring critical biodiversity habitats within highland pastures. By increasing benefits to 5500 indigenous households and enhancing monitoring capacity over 12 million hectares of critical habitat, the project contributes significantly to biodiversity conservation and



sustainable management practices. Additionally, the overlap of several vicuña management areas with protected areas supports strengthening protected area management and in some cases promotes connectivity between protected areas and neighboring Indigenous lands, supporting implementation of improved practices that may in future be recognized as Other Effective Conservation Measures for achieving Target 3 of the CBD.

- **What contribution is your project making to a higher-level impact on human development and wellbeing (poverty reduction)?**

The project is contributing to a higher-level impact on human development and wellbeing, specifically poverty reduction, in several ways:

**Increased Livelihood Opportunities:** By enhancing the capability of the national association of vicuña managers and supporting sustainable vicuña and habitat management practices, the project creates additional livelihood opportunities for indigenous households involved in vicuña management. This contributes to poverty reduction by diversifying income sources and improving economic resilience.

**Empowerment of Indigenous Communities:** Through partnerships with stakeholders like the ACOFIVB and regional associations, the project empowers indigenous communities by involving them in decision-making processes and providing training and support in vicuña management practices. This empowerment leads to greater self-reliance and autonomy, which are essential elements for poverty reduction.

**Income Generation:** The project aims to increase the income of 5500 vicuña herder households by 30% by Year 2. By facilitating the sale and commercialization of vicuña fiber and enhancing the efficiency of vicuña management practices, the project directly contributes to boosting household incomes. This increase in income can have a significant positive impact on poverty reduction among indigenous communities, lifting them out of extreme poverty.

**Capacity Building and Governance:** The project strengthens the governance capacity of organizations like the ACOFIVB and establishes the National Association of Vicuña Handlers Bolivia (ANMVB). By improving governance structures and capacities, the project enhances the effectiveness and efficiency of vicuña management initiatives, ultimately leading to better outcomes for indigenous communities. This contributes to sustainable development and poverty reduction by ensuring that resources are utilized effectively and transparently to benefit the target population.

#### **4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements**

This project directly and indirectly contributes to, and respects national and international obligations, norms, agreements, treaties, and conventions related to the conservation and sustainable use of the vicuña and its habitat.

Under the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS): supporting indigenous ownership and fair and equitable use of a wild species.

Under CITES: through sustainable management and utilization of vicuña fiber, conservation protection of a large wild population of vicuñas included in Appendix II of CITES is supported, and it ensures that the commercialization of their fiber has the respective authorizations issued by CITES for this purpose.

Under the Ramsar Convention: by monitoring peatlands (fragile and unique ecosystems of the high Andean zone), grasslands, and their water sources, motivation is provided for the protection and conservation of the habitat where they coexist with domestic species typical of local communities.

With the project's support, the legal updating of regional associations, the establishment of the national association of vicuña handlers, the updating of the national vicuña management

plan, and national technical guidelines for species management are being carried out. These latter instruments are essential for vicuña management and utilization and must be approved by the communities and the Vice Ministry of Environment, Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Forest Development and Management, thus directly supporting the national program for vicuña utilization and conservation in Bolivia. The documents, such as the management plan and technical guidelines, serve as the fundamental basis for implementing conservation actions and strategies for the benefit of the local population, supported by Supreme Decree 0385 regarding the Vicuña Sustainable Management Program, included in the National Biodiversity Strategy.

The project contributes to protecting, restoring, and promoting the sustainable use of local terrestrial ecosystems of the communities and combating desertification and biodiversity loss. It directly addresses the monitoring, conservation, and sustainable use of wetlands (unique and fragile ecosystems of the high Andean region), grasslands, and water sources, as well as the protection, conservation, and sustainable utilization of the vicuña included in Appendix II of CITES.

The management and utilization of vicuña fiber, as a community based natural resource management activity, directly supports equality within the community, ensuring that all men and women, usually poor and vulnerable, have equal rights to participate in vicuña management activities and have equitable access to the economic resources generated by the sale and commercialization of vicuña fiber.

The management and utilization of the vicuña are conservation activities, as shearing prevents them from becoming victims of poachers targeting the species, as there would be no sense in hunting sheared vicuñas as they would have no value. The utilization of the vicuña, which has been developed experimentally in Bolivia since 1998 and commercially since 2007, has had a direct and significant impact on reducing poaching and trafficking of the valuable vicuña fiber, as evidenced by the population growth recorded in the censuses conducted.

Regarding the commercialization of vicuña fiber, only 8% enters the state according to Supreme Decree 0385 (3% to the DGB, 2% to municipalities, and another 2% to departmental governments and/or protected areas), while the remaining 92% is distributed to local communities where vicuña fiber management and utilization take place.

The project also contributes to "Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere", directly supporting the improvement of the livelihoods of local indigenous communities, especially contributing to the following sustainable development goals:

- By 2030, ensuring equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technologies, and financial services, including microfinance.
- By 2030, increasing the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reducing their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social, and environmental shocks and disasters.

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

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board <sup>1</sup> .	In the Project team, there is a participation of 43% women (including technical staff, consultants, and administrative support).
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which	WCS Bolivia is led by a woman, however only one of the vicuña management associations include women in their boards.

<sup>1</sup> A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women <sup>2</sup> .	
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GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
<b>Not yet sensitive</b>	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
<b>Sensitive</b>	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	
<b>Empowering</b>	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	X
<b>Transformative</b>	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

The Project, by carrying out communal activities jointly, has motivated greater participation of women and men, as many activities, such as fleece management, require special attention and care, and women perform it with dedication and capability. Vicuña management activities are characterized by providing space for all ages, from children to the elderly, and its regulations encourage the global participation of the community and the recovery of ancestral communal practices without discrimination based on age, social, economic status, or gender. Perhaps no other productive activity in the country is as inclusive as communal vicuña management.

During the project's development, several training activities, field schools, workshops, and others were held, with massive participation from local communities. The main events were:

- On August 10th, 12th, and 14th, training workshops (field schools) were conducted in the cities of Oruro, Uyuni, and El Alto to reinforce the application of technical guidelines during vicuña fiber utilization. [204 people participated, including 51 women \(25%\) and 153 men \(75%\).](#)
- During the months of May, June, and July, training workshops (field schools) and the execution of the vicuña census were conducted in 4 ARCMV, 2 CMV, and 3 Protected Areas of the country to strengthen capacities and methodologies for vicuña population estimation, [with the participation of 1020 people, including 256 women \(25%\) and 764 men \(75%\).](#)
- Between September and December, the ARCMV and their CMV executed 230 capture and shearing events. Between 2 to 3 field schools were conducted in each ARCMV nationally, with social participation in the 230 herding, capture, and shearing

<sup>2</sup> Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

events [reaching 8,978 people, including 5,664 men \(61%\) and 14,642 women \(39%\), representing a total of 7,161 families.](#)

## 6. Monitoring and evaluation

The fulfillment of the project's monitoring and evaluation plan has been overseen by the project coordinator, with the support of the technical team and the participation of the ACOFIVB Board of Directors. The current evaluation and monitoring plan remain as established in the proposal document. Information is provided to ACOFIVB through constant communication and implementation of activities in partnership between both organizations.

The achievement of the project Outcome will be verified by obtaining high scores in a governance capacity assessment, using the questionnaire to assess legality, legitimacy, representativeness, and capacity included in the toolkit for territorial management (<https://herramientasqti.org/#/modulo/2/26>), as well as by including critical biodiversity monitoring in the internal regulations of ACOFIVB and increasing the income of 5500 vicuña handler households.

## 7. Lessons learnt

### *Co-Implementation Approach and Legitimacy:*

The ongoing coordination with the ACOFIVB board, its regional associations (ARCMV), and vicuña managing communities (CMV) is one of the most noteworthy aspects, spanning from the national level down to the regional and local levels of vicuña managing communities. This is complemented by excellent coordination with the central government through the DGBAP and, in the case of protected areas, with SERNAP, as well as coordination with departmental and municipal governments, especially during roundup, capture, and shearing events within their jurisdictions.

The most important difficulty was the change in authorities of ACOFIVB, as well as of the vicuña managing communities and regional associations, and the traditional authorities of local communities. However, they quickly agreed and committed to the project's actions and activities, not posing an obstacle to its progress. On the contrary, there was great acceptance of the project by all local communities.

The strengthening of vicuña management capacities, with an emphasis on animal welfare, the implementation of mechanized shearing, value-added fleece management through selection and cleaning of fleeces, health monitoring of vicuñas, and the application and assessment of traditional medicine for mange, are all actions that have been eagerly accepted by vicuña manager communities, as well as national authorities.

The joint, coordinated, and well-organized work with the competent national authority DGBAP and ACOFIV, as well as the ARCMV and CMV, has allowed the establishment of lines of work focusing on strengthening and equipping ARCMV and CMV on good practices in species management, animal welfare, implementation of mechanized shearing, value-added fleece management, health monitoring, preventive measures against contagion, as well as the use of traditional medicine for mange.

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

The present report corresponds to the first year of the project. In the report for the first semester, we have not had any observations that can be considered for the current one. Once this report is accepted, the necessary adjustment measures will be taken according to the review and recommendations received. It will be included in the semi-annual report and/or in the annual and final report of the Project.

## 9. Risk Management

[Total change of the ACOFIVB](#) board carried out in March, and changes in the boards of some regional associations and in vicuña managing communities, almost coinciding with the start of the project supported by Darwin, have required investing time and effort to restart all the work from scratch and bring the new board members up to date on the proposed plan, motivating their commitment to executing everything proposed in the project.

This year, because of Climate Change and El Niño, there has been an intense drought throughout the Bolivian highlands and low temperatures. This has led to the [postponement of shearing](#) to safeguard the well-being of the vicuñas at the request of some regions that were most affected by this.

Economic problems at the national level have affected the normal availability of fuels, which has generated some difficulties in fulfilling the planned field activities. However, the impact has been minimal.

## 10. Sustainability and legacy

The monitoring of vicuña populations, as well as community-based management, in their natural habitat, is a significant contribution to the conservation and protection of the species. Consequently, there is great anticipation in understanding the management model by countries like Peru and Argentina. Additionally, there is market interest (partners of Pelama Chubut) in acquiring fiber from Bolivia due to the management model that aligns with the social responsibility of companies dedicated to the sector.

After 17 years, and several attempts by ACOFIVB to consolidate the legal status of a National Association of Vicuña Handlers of Bolivia (ANMVB), the Project is making progress in this legal process by [updating the legal documentation of the ARCMV](#) and generating all the requirements for its legalization and legal recognition through the procedure of obtaining its legal personality. With this, we hope to consolidate the organization of vicuña handlers in the country, their governance capacity, and their management capacity.

The strengthening of technical capacities for vicuña management by ACOFIVB, ARCMV, and local CMVs, to comply with the technical guidelines established by the competent national authority, with previous support from Darwin through WCS, improves the sustainable utilization of the vicuña each year, applying good practices of animal welfare, mechanized shearing with trained local personnel, and proper fleece management, to enhance their chances of future sustainability.

The monitoring of peatlands, grasslands, and their water sources by local communities, associated with the presence of biodiversity indicator species, combined with the update of technical guidelines and the national management plan for the vicuña, are management tools that will allow decision-makers in vicuña managing communities to outline strategies and actions that enable the establishment and application of good practices in animal welfare, health, and vicuña management.

## 11. Darwin Initiative identity

The Darwin Initiative identity has been acknowledged in communications related to vicuña management activities by adding the logo where appropriate. The Darwin logo has been included in all documents resulting from workshops and in technical documents prepared as part of project activities. Lastly, the Darwin logo is included in all participant lists, workshop reports, and field reports. The funding from the Darwin Initiative is presented as a separate project within WCS reports to national authorities. As a result, the authorities of the General Directorate of Biodiversity and Protected Areas (DGBAP), our partners ACOFIVB and their ARCMVs, are familiar with this project and its funding.

## 12. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No
Have any concerns been reported in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes. Kantuta [REDACTED] and Lilian [REDACTED]
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	Yes. All staff received training on the WCS safeguarding policy and Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) on 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2023. In August and September 2023 all WCS Bolivia staff received training in 4 different groups on gender and workplace harassment.
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 100% [5]. As part of an overall training to all WCS Bolivia staff Planned: 100% [5]. We will continue to provide training to all WCS Bolivia staff on the institutional safeguarding policy.
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.	<i>None related to the project directly, but female staff have requested we develop protocols to improve our capacity to address risk of harassment in the field.</i>
Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify.	<i>Kantuta Lara is developing a protocol to address harassment to WCS staff in the field, because of safety concerns raised by female staff in other projects in the region. We have also included clauses in all our cooperation agreements to share with our partners the GRM, as well as our safeguarding policy.</i>
Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and number of participants.	<i>None specifically on safeguards. However, at the end of presentations we share our GRM.</i>
Have there been any concerns around Health, Safety and Security of your project over the past year? If yes, please outline how this was resolved.	<i>Not specifically related to the project but, more generally in terms of improving the protocols to deal with harassment to our staff.</i>

### 13. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
<b>TOTAL</b>	99.987	99.987	0	

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

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
<b>TOTAL</b>	99.987	99.987	0	

### 14. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

For the control and prevention of scabies (a parasitic disease affecting the health of vicuñas and camelids), ancestral knowledge is being valued through the application of medicinal plants to control the disease. This approach has been widely accepted by local communities, as these traditional medicines revive ancestral practices and knowledge that were being lost. These treatments are made from plants and used topically, they do not harm the health of vicuñas or diminish their natural ability to resist diseases, unlike chemical dosages administered in Peru.

A training course on Mechanical Shearing of vicuña took place in Abra Pampa, Argentina with the participation of 38 young shearers from each of the 11 regional associations. Mechanical shearing is key to improving the welfare of vicuñas during handling, as it directly reduces the stress levels of vicuñas by decreasing the handling and shearing time from 20-30 minutes (with scissors) to a maximum of 3 minutes. Additionally, mechanical shearing provides a uniform cut, resulting in greater commercial value, and increased yield per animal and per community. The training was carried out pro bono by the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) of Argentina. ACOFIVB complemented this training by donating 11 shearing machines, one per

Regional Association. On the other hand, the project has provided 11 power generators for the use of the shearing machines.

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

<b>File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)</b>	<b>File Name or File Location</b>	<b>Caption including description, country and credit</b>	<b>Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)</b>	<b>Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)</b>
JPG	<a href="#">Vicuña treatment with natural plant</a>	Vicuña treatment with natural plant. Bolivia JL_Mollericona@WCS	No	Yes
JPG	<a href="#">Vicuña with scabies lesion</a>	Vicuña with scabies lesion. Bolivia H_Alberto@WCS	No	Yes
JPG	<a href="#">Maycha plant</a>	Maycha plant (Senecio rufescens). Bolivia H_Alberto@WCS	No	Yes

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



## Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Indicators of Success for Financial Year 2023-2024

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Impact</b></p> <p>We will increase the capability of the association of vicuña managers to replicate best practices for vicuña and habitat management including censusing, shearing, and marketing tools, as well as habitat (e.g. peatland) monitoring approaches. These best practices have been developed through partnerships that will be leveraged for impact at the national scale to build the institutional framework to support local livelihoods and conserve species associated with highland peatlands and pastures, such as Andean flamingos and Andean hairy armadillos.</p>	<p>Best practices for vicuña and vicuña management practices are being replicated at a national scale and the institutional framework to support its implementation is being strengthened.</p>	
<b>Outcome</b>		
<p>Outcome indicator 0.1 Regulations of ACOFIVB include monitoring of critical biodiversity habitat within 12M hectares of highland pastures.</p>	<p>The establishment of a <a href="#">monitoring system for peatlands, grasslands, and water sources</a>, as well as the selection of indicator species of wildlife and flora, is underway. The monitoring will be done by the local communities. Three representative peatlands or grasslands were identified in each ARCMV for the monitoring implementation. The spatial distribution of these peatlands and their representativeness will allow extrapolating the results to the entire area of vicuña management in Bolivia, which is around 12 million hectares.</p>	<p>The evaluation of the wetlands during the dry season is planned to continue, as well as the monthly monitoring and follow-up with the communities.</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 0.2 Income of 5500 vicuña herder households increases by 30% by Year 2, from a baseline of USD119 a year.</p>	<p>With the implementation of the project, the number of <a href="#">beneficiary families participating in the management and utilization of vicuña fiber has increased from 5500 at the beginning of the project to over 7160 families (30%)</a>. Currently, the sale and commercialization of the fiber are underway, so by the second year, we will have the results of economic income per family.</p>	<p>Currently, the sale and commercialization of the fiber are underway, so by the second year, we will have the results of economic income per family</p>

<p>Outcome indicator 0.3 ACOFIVB governance capacity is consolidated by Year 2</p>	<p>The governance capacity of the ACOFIVB board is being strengthened through the updating of the <a href="#">legal documentation of the Regional Associations of Vicuña Managing Communities</a> (ARCMV) associated with ACOFIVB. <a href="#">The foundation, election, and assumption of the Ad Hoc board of the ANMVB</a> have been completed, <a href="#">and a general power</a> of legal representation and <a href="#">special power for establishing the Legal</a> Entity have been granted. Currently, <a href="#">the name has been reserved with the Vice Ministry of Autonomies</a>. With the conclusion of this entire process, we expect to consolidate the governance capacity of ACOFIVB within the framework of establishing the ANMVB.</p>	<p>Consolidate the Bolivian national association of handlers (ANMVB) recognised by all competent authorities.</p>
<p><b>Output 1</b> Legal consolidation of ACOFIVB and their regional associations.</p>		
<p>Output indicator 1.1 Internal regulations of 11 regional associations developed and approved by Yr 1.</p>	<p>At the project's start, a <a href="#">diagnosis of the legal situation of each ARCMV</a> was done, resulting in only one ARCMV having legally updated documentation. In response to this situation, the legal documentation (a notarized copy of the Legal Personality, Organic Statute and Internal Regulations, Notarial Power of Legal Representation, and identity card of the Legal Representative) of all the Regional Associations of Vicuña Managing Communities (ARCMV) associated with ACOFIVB has been collected and updated to <a href="#">update their legal documentation</a> and, based on this, <a href="#">establish the National Association of Vicuña Handlers Bolivia (ANMVB)</a>.</p>	<p>We will continue to support in the development of regulations and statutes for the formation of new regional associations and managing communities</p>
<p>Output indicator 1.2 ACOFIVB and 11 regional associations are legally established by Yr 2.</p>	<p>On the other hand, <a href="#">the foundation, election, and assumption of the Ad Hoc board of the ANMVB</a> have been carried out. <a href="#">A general power of legal representation</a> and a <a href="#">special power for the process of Legal</a> Personality have been granted to the Ad Hoc Board. Currently, <a href="#">the name has been reserved with the Vice Ministry of Autonomies</a>, and the process continues</p>	<p>Consolidate the Bolivian national association of handlers (ANMVB) recognised by all relevant authorities.</p>

	with the support of a legal consultant with extensive experience in civil and commercial law.	
<b>Output 2.</b> Field schools implemented by ACOFIVB with regional associations on best practices for animal welfare, population census, capture, mechanical shearing, disease surveillance, fiber selection, fiber collection and sale.		
Output indicator 2.1 Eleven regional associations participate in field schools on vicuña census.	<p><a href="#">Nine field schools have been conducted on vicuña population estimation, in 4 ARCMV</a> (Villazón, Tomave, Wila Kollo, Apolobamba), 2 CMV (Quebrada Honda Tarija and Malla La Paz), and 3 Protected Areas (Sama, Eduardo Avaró, and Sajama). As a result, 1,020 people participated (24% women and 76% men), with a recorded population of 61,657 vicuñas. The social structure of vicuñas was: 61% family groups, 35% male herds, 1% solitary vicuñas, and 3% undifferentiated vicuñas. The family structure of vicuñas consists of 61% females (mothers), 25% offspring, and 14% males (jañachos or breeders). 168 vicuñas with scabies were identified in the ARCMV. The birth rate and vitality of vicuña offspring at the time of population estimation were 42%. The male-to-female vicuña ratio at the family level was 1:4.4. In the following year, 2024, 8 field schools will be held in those ARCMV that were not conducted in 2023, covering the entire region where vicuña management is carried out nationwide.</p>	In 2024, 8 field schools will be conducted in those ARCMVs that were not conducted in 2023, covering the entire region where vicuña management is carried out at the national level.
Output indicator 2.2 Eleven regional associations participate in field schools on vicuña capture, visual disease surveillance and mechanical shearing.	<p><a href="#">Three field schools have been conducted</a> in Oruro, Uyuni (Potosí), and El Alto (La Paz) to reinforce the application of the "Technical Guidelines for Sustainable Utilization of Vicuñas", especially regarding herding, capture, and shearing of vicuñas, fleece management, health, and animal welfare in general. These involved 204 participants (153 males - 75% and 51 females - 25%) from the 11 ARCMV and their respective CMV grouped according to their geographical proximity.</p> <p><a href="#">The prevalence of sarcoptic mange has been monitored in vicuñas</a> in seven ARCMVs: Apolobamba, Quri Karwa,</p>	Eleven regional associations are participating in field schools on vicuña trapping, visual disease surveillance, mechanical shearing, fleece handling and pre-selection or cleaning.  Monitoring of scabies disease in vicuñas continues in all regions and prevalence data is available in all regions..

	Wila Khollo, Colcha K, Sud Lipez, Tomave Villazón and the CMVs of Malla and Altamachi, where the overall prevalence of this disease at the national level was 1.79%.	
Output indicator 2.3 Eleven regional associations, 1,625 men and 875 (35%) women participate in field schools on fiber selection and fiber collection and storage.	During the vicuña fiber harvesting season (September 1st to December 15 <sup>th</sup> 2023), the ARCMV and their CMV carried out 230 capture and shearing events out of the <a href="#">374 requested and approved by the National Biodiversity Authority</a> . Two teams were organized to provide technical assistance and reinforce on-site training to the CMV and ARCMV during herding, captures, and shearing of vicuñas. Between 2 to 3 field schools were held in each ARCMV. <a href="#">At the national level, there were 30,854 vicuñas at capture sites, of which 17,582 vicuñas were captured and 12,223 vicuñas were sheared</a> (70% of captured vicuñas). Of these, 6,363 vicuñas (52.1%) were sheared using traditional manual scissors, and 5,869 vicuñas (47.9%) were sheared with electric shearing machines, resulting in a total of 2,472.02 kilograms (about 5449.86 lb) of raw vicuña fiber. After the pre-selection to remove hairs and dirt from the fiber, a total of 2,179.03 kilograms of selected vicuña fiber (with added value) ready for commercialization was obtained. The social participation in the 230 herding, capture, and shearing events of vicuñas was 8,978 people, 5,664 men (61%), and 14,642 women (39%).	The participation of the eleven regional associations in field schools on fibre selection and fibre collection and storage is strengthened.
<b>Output 3.</b> Field schools implemented by ACOFIVB and regional organizations on peatland and wildlife monitoring		
Output indicator 3.1 Eleven regional associations participate in field schools on conservation and monitoring of highland peatlands and associated wildlife species.	The proposal for monitoring peatlands, grasslands, and water sources in the country's ARCMVs has been developed and shared with the ARCMVs. This proposal includes water quality associated with macroinvertebrates, forage production, vegetation coverage, key peatland species, and water level availability in peatlands. Currently, <a href="#">the monitoring protocol is being implemented by each ARCMV</a> in three	by the following year 2024, the results of monitoring of the peatlands and their water sources will be reported.

	<p>selected peatlands or grasslands and their water sources. The results of this monitoring will be presented in the next report.</p>	
<p><b>Output 4.</b> Vicuña regulations reviewed by ACOFIVB and revolving fund established</p>		
<p>Output indicator 4.1 Participatory review of current regulations and inputs for a manual of functions and administrative procedures with regional associations.</p>	<p>In coordination with ACOFIVB, <a href="#">the diagnosis of the current situation regarding the distribution and investment of resources from vicuña</a> shearing and the bottlenecks or limitations for reinvesting these resources into the management activity has been updated, and alternatives have been identified and proposed. Additionally, in coordination with ACOFIVB and DGBAP, the adjustment and updating of existing regulations, such as the technical guidelines for vicuña management and the National Species Management Plan, which expired in 2023, are being carried out. These documents will be presented for validation and review in national workshops and approved in a national assembly.</p>	<p>in the following year, the corresponding results will be presented.</p>

**Annex 2: Project’s full current Indicators of Success as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)**

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Impact:</b> We will increase the capability of the association of vicuña managers to replicate best practices for vicuña and habitat management including censusing, shearing, and marketing tools, as well as habitat (e.g. peatland) monitoring approaches. These best practices have been developed through partnerships that will be leveraged for impact at the national scale to build the institutional framework to support local livelihoods and conserve species associated with highland peatlands and pastures, such as Andean flamingos and Andean hairy armadillos.</p>			
<p><b>Outcome:</b> Outcome (Max 30 words): Consolidate ACOFIVB capacity to support sustainable and informed management of vicuña, increasing benefits to 5500 Indigenous households and monitoring capacity of critical biodiversity habitat within highland pastures over 12M hectares.</p>	<p>0.1 Regulations of ACOFIVB include monitoring of critical biodiversity habitat within 12M hectares of highland pastures. 0.2 Income of 5500 vicuña herder households increases by 30% by Year 2, from a baseline of USD119 a year. 0.3 ACOFIVB governance capacity is consolidated by Year 2</p>	<p>0.1 ACOFIVB regulations including monitoring responsibilities.  0.2 List of beneficiaries amongst vicuña herders, disaggregated by gender.  0.3 Exit evaluation of governance capacity.</p>	
<p><b>Output 1</b> Legal consolidation of ACOFIVB and their regional associations.</p>	<p>1.1 Internal regulations of 11 regional associations developed and approved by Yr 1. 1.2 ACOFIVB and 11 regional associations are legally established by Yr 2.</p>	<p>1.1 Communal minutes approving internal regulations of regional associations. 1.2 Public registry of legal constitution of 11 regional associations and ACOFIVB.</p>	<p>Changes in government authorities do not prevent coordination for legal consolidation of ACOFIVB and its regional organizations.</p>
<p><b>Output 2</b> Field schools implemented by ACOFIVB with regional associations on best practices for animal welfare, population census, capture, mechanical shearing, disease surveillance, fiber selection, fiber collection and sale.</p>	<p>2.1 Eleven regional associations participate in field schools on vicuña census.  2.2 Eleven regional associations participate in field schools on vicuña capture, visual disease surveillance and mechanical shearing. 2.3 Eleven regional associations, 1,625 men and 875 (35%) women</p>	<p>2.1 Training materials and participant lists of field schools, disaggregated by gender. 2.2 Training materials and participant lists of field schools disaggregated by gender.</p>	<p>Political conflicts do not prevent travel across Bolivian highlands.</p>

	participate in field schools on fiber selection and fiber collection and storage.		
<b>Output 3</b> Field schools implemented by ACOFIVB and regional organizations on peatland and wildlife monitoring	3.1 Eleven regional associations participate in field schools on conservation and monitoring of highland peatlands and associated wildlife species. 3.2 Eleven regional organizations map priority peatlands and identify indicator species to be monitored. 3.3 Four monitoring reports on size and water level of priority peatlands. 3.4 At least 6 local schools monitor indicator species using iNaturalist.	3.1 Training materials and participant lists of field schools disaggregated by gender.  3.2 Maps of priority peatlands and lists of indicator species for 11 regional organizations.  3.3 Monitoring reports of priority peatlands. 3.4 Monitoring reports of indicator species.	Political conflicts do not prevent travel across Bolivian highlands.
<b>Output 4</b> Vicuña regulations reviewed by ACOFIVB and revolving fund established	4.1 Participatory review of current regulations and inputs for a manual of functions and administrative procedures with regional associations. 4.2 Adjusted regulations and establishment of a revolving fund with agreement of regional associations	4.1 Workshop meetings with suggested adjustments to existing regulations and inputs for manual of functions and administrative procedures. 4.2 Reviewed regulations and manual for management of revolving fund.	Economic crisis and increase of illegal hunting of vicuñas do not threaten implementation of the legal and sustainable national vicuña management program.  Vicuña fiber market is not affected by global recession or any other macro-economic disruption.
<b>Activities</b> (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)			
1.1 Develop internal agreement between ACOFIVB and its 11 regional organizations for the whole process. 1.2 Communal workshops with all regional organizations and at least 35% women participants to develop internal regulations. 1.3 Transcribe internal regulations in a statute and by-laws format and presented for approval by the regional associations. 1.4 Register internal regulations in the Public Registry and legal status for ACOFIVB and 11 regional organizations (Personeria Juridica). 1.5 Communication of legal status of ACOFIVB and vicuña management program with biodiversity and law enforcement agencies to increase awareness on the impact of wildlife traffic. 2.1 Field schools on vicuña censusing with 11 regional associations. 2.2 Field schools on vicuña capture, disease surveillance and mechanical sharing, and evaluation of their implementation with 11 regional associations. 2.3 Field Schools on fiber selection and fiber collection and storage; and evaluation of their implementation with 11 regional associations. 3.1 Field schools on conservation and monitoring of highland peatlands and associated wildlife species; and evaluation (dry and humid seasons). 3.2 Identify priority peatlands and indicator species to be monitored with each regional association.			

- 3.3 Monitor size and water level of priority peatlands at the end of the wet season and end of the dry season.
- 3.4 Support ACOFIVB and regional associations work with local schools and monitor indicator species using iNaturalist .)
- 4.1 Support ACOFIVB develop a bottom-up methodology to evaluate and adjust the current regulations, including benefit distribution to establish a revolving fund.
- 4.2 Regional workshops to review current regulations and provide inputs for a manual of functions and administrative procedures.
- 4.3 Approval by regional organizations of adjustments to regulations and establishment of revolving fund.



## Annex 3: Standard Indicators

**Table 1 Project Standard Indicators**

<b>DI Indicator number</b>	<b>Name of indicator</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Disaggregation</b>	<b>Year 1 Total</b>	<b>Year 2 Total</b>	<b>Year 3 Total</b>	<b>Total to date</b>	<b>Total planned during the project</b>
E.g. DI-A01	E.g. Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	People	Men	20	20	20	20	60
E.g. DI-A01	E.g. Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	People	Women	30	15	15	30	60
E.g. DI-B01	E.g. Number of new or improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	Number	New	1	1		1	2
E.g. DI-B01	E.g. Number of new or improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	Number	Improved	1	1	1	1	3

## Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the <b>correct template</b> (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and <b>deleted the blue guidance text</b> before submission?	Yes
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	Yes
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> If so, please discuss with <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	No
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Yes
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see Section 16)?	Yes
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	