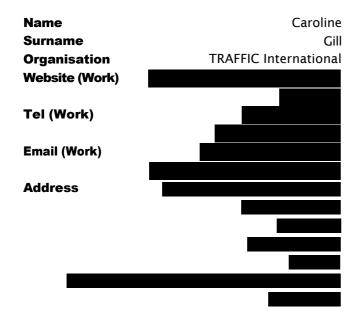Applicant: **Gill, Caroline**
Organisation: **TRAFFIC International**
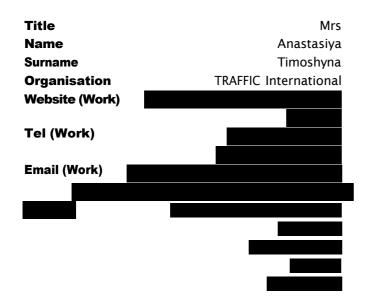Funding Sought: **£4,903,805.00**

DIR30EX\1124

Scaling conservation of Himalayan plants and fungi through sustainable trade

Local livelihoods and biodiversity in the high-alpine Himalaya are threatened by wild plant and fungi overharvesting, climate change, illegal trade and inequitable supply chains. This has an impact across the region. There are significant opportunities to improve both sustainability and trade of wild-harvested forest products, scaling up successful pilots in Nepal, linking to major markets (e.g. India and China). This project will improve local livelihoods, elevate traditional knowledge, and strengthen national and regional approaches to sustainable biodiversity-based trade.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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CONTACT DETAILS

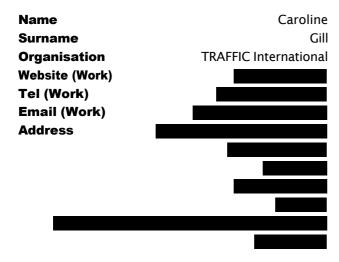|	
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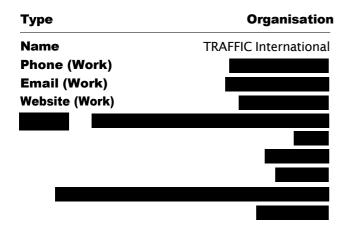
Section 1 - Contact Details

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GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
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Email (Work)	████████████
Website (Work)	████████

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Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

Q3. Title:

Scaling conservation of Himalayan plants and fungi through sustainable trade

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- ☐ 18/09/2023
- ☐ 16:46:01
- ☐ pdf 204.83 KB

Q4a. Is this a resubmission of a previously unsuccessful application?

☐ No

Q5. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

Select up to 3 biomes that are of focus, up to 3 conservation actions that characterise your approach, and up to 3 threats to biodiversity you intend to address, from dropdown lists.

Biome 1

Polar-alpine

Biome 2

Temperate-boreal forests & woodlands

Biome 3

Shrublands & shrubby woodlands

Conservation Action 1

Species Management

Conservation Action 2

Livelihood, Economic & Moral Incentives

Conservation Action 3

Legal & Policy Frameworks

Threat 1

Biological resource use (hunting, gathering, logging, fishing)

Threat 2

No Response

Threat 3

No Response

Q6. Summary of Project

Please provide a brief non-technical summary of your project: the problem/need it is trying to address, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking.

Local livelihoods and biodiversity in the high-alpine Himalaya are threatened by wild plant and fungi overharvesting, climate change, illegal trade and inequitable supply chains. This has an impact across the region. There are significant opportunities to improve both sustainability and trade of wild-harvested forest products, scaling up successful pilots in Nepal, linking to major markets (e.g. India and China). This project will improve local livelihoods, elevate traditional knowledge, and strengthen national and regional approaches to sustainable biodiversity-based trade.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q7. Country(ies)

Which eligible country(ies) will your project be working with?

Country 1	Nepal	Country 2	*No Response*
Country 3	*No Response*	Country 4	*No Response*

Do you require more fields?

☐ No

Q8. Project dates

Start date:	**End date:**	**Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):**
01 April 2024	31 March 2029	5 years

Q9. Budget summary

Darwin funding request	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	Total request
(April - March)	£947,290.00	£1,111,197.00	£1,016,436.00	£943,274.00	£885,608.00	£ 4,903,805.00

Q10a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

☐ Yes

Please ensure you clearly outline your matched funding arrangement in the budget.

Q11. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you will deliver the project if you don't manage to secure this?

Confirmed: TRAFFIC £▮▮▮▮▮ University of Copenhagen £▮▮▮▮▮ China Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine (CATCM) £▮▮▮▮▮ ANSAB (Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources) £▮▮▮▮▮ working alongside FECOFUN (Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal. Nepal Herbs and Herbal Products Association (NEPPHA) and FairWild Foundation will provide matching funding through operator support fund (towards certification).

Unconfirmed: There is not a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding. Private sector in Nepal and internationally contributing to certification costs and meetings/forums attendance costs. Ongoing work experience suggests this is highly likely matched contribution. Further funding applications will be submitted to complement and further scale-up work.

Q12. Have you received, applied for or plan to apply for any other UK Government funding for the proposed project or similar?

☐ No

Section 4 - Problem statement

Q13. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of <u>biodiversity and its relationship with multi-dimensional poverty</u>.

For example, what are the causes of biodiversity loss, preventing conservation, and/or keeping people in multi-dimensional poverty that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify the need for your project? Please <u>cite the evidence</u> you are using to support your assessment of the problem.

Nepal's alpine Himalayan forests and rangelands are exceptional global biodiversity hotspots, home to keystone species, including multiple plants and fungi. Over 40 key NTFPs are harvested and traded internationally, providing critical contributions to the incomes of the rural poor.

Despite the positive impacts of Nepal's pioneering community forestry approach(Ref.1,2) alpine NTFPs and associated landscapes face multiple threats of overharvesting, fire and uncontrolled grazing(Ref.3,4). Overharvesting is driven by increasing and diversifying international trade: to India for Ayurvedic products and cosmetic/food/religious uses, China for TCM, and elsewhere. Strengthened sustainable harvesting practices are urgently needed, including regenerative practices, which in recent models demonstrate major potential for long-term availability of resources(Ref.5). Challenges include inadequate information on sustainable harvest volumes and simple procedures for resource management, and an inadequate centralised approach to resource monitoring and trade regulation. Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) lack clear and transparent guidelines for decentralised alpine NTFP management.

This particularly impacts high-value NTFPs with established trade-driven conservation concerns including CITES Appendix-II/IUCN CR(Ref.6) Jatamansi/Spikenard (Nardostachys jatamansi), Himalayan Fritillary (Fritillaria cirrhosa)(Ref.7), and Kutki (Neopicrorhiza scrophulariiflora)(Ref.8). These species are among top six most vulnerable commercial medicinal species traded in/from Nepal(Ref.4); whenever market demands increase, risks of premature/over-harvesting grow. Local income potential is held back by low rates of value-addition and lack of direct access to international markets. It is also undercut by large-scale illegal exports of lower-quality products to India and increasing trade with China. This regional trade connecting Nepal, Bhutan, India and China presents the major threat to natural resources and habitats. Obstacles to legal and sustainable trade include inadequate regional trade agreements, and non-tariff barriers (import restrictions due to the lack of quarantine records, consistent stock assessments).

The overall estimated habitats of Jatamansi in Nepal cover c.460,000ha of forests and meadows. Ten project districts (population 1.17 million) stretch from North-West to North-East Nepal in the remote mountains, and are the most significant commercial producing areas for wild-harvested NTFPs (see map), across Karnali, Sudur Paschim, Gandaki and Koshi provinces. For most communities in these districts, NTFPs are the primary source of cash income without engaging in seasonal out-migration(Ref.9). Securing the resource base and increasing income from managed, sustainable access to NTFPs will reduce poverty. Despite improvements in Nepal's national multi-dimensional poverty index score(Ref.10), over half the population of Karnali and one third of Sudur Paschhim live below the poverty line. Despite the efforts of government and development agencies, poverty is not declining as expected. These provinces rank lowest for development indices on per-capita income, life expectancy, and basic infrastructure(Ref.11,12).

In the targeted districts, the project focus is 350 CFUGs, with 100,000 ha of forests and meadows and a population of approximately 140,000. The lack of viable livelihood options and socio-economic constraints create a strong reliance on local biodiversity, particularly wild NTFPs from common-property forests and meadows. This is the only accessible sources of livelihoods for the most disadvantaged, including poor, Dalit and indigenous households, and is key for economic development.

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q14. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q14a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below. Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported

 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
 Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)
 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
 Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q14b. National and International Policy Alignment

Using <u>evidence</u> where available, please detail how your project <u>will contribute to national</u> <u>policy</u> (including NBSAPs, NDCs, NAP etc.) and in turn <u>international biodiversity and development conventions</u>, treaties and agreements that the country is a signatory of.

The project contributes to the current Nepal's NBSAP's 35-year vision of "conservation of biodiversity for sound and resilient ecosystems and national prosperity"(Ref.13). It delivers against three national priorities for the Kailash Sacred Landscape: innovative livelihoods, ecosystems management, ABS. Project will contribute to any upcoming NBSAP review consultations.

Nepal's NAP 2021-2050 prioritises forests, biodiversity and watershed conservation; it also highlights the vulnerability to climate change of inhabitants of high mountain areas, and those reliant on natural resources(Ref.14).xiv This project complements this by contributing to conserving Himalayan NTFPs and improving incomes from these resources.

The project contributes to Nepal's delivery against GBF Targets:

Through stock inventories, improved CFUG operational plans, participatory species monitoring, Pest Risk Assessment and inclusion of species on quarantine exempt lists (5). Through harvester's registration systems enabling the access and use of natural resources, and fair and transparent trade agreements that implement FairWild requirements (9). Informing Nepal's forest management with accurate NTFP stock assessments (10). Integrating NTFP values into planning, poverty eradication, and other policies (14). Encouraging national and international companies to commit to sustainable trade practices, e.g. wildcheck.info (15). Knowledge-sharing to inspire sustainable consumption practices for food/cosmetic/medicinal/religious products containing wild ingredients (16). Making the case for NTFP trade to secure investments, e.g. through GCF, GEF (19). Technical and capacity-building, and learning/exchange locally to regionally (20). Data, information and knowledge around NTFP trade nationally and internationally and share with decision-makers (21). Equitable, effective and gender-responsive participation in NTFP management decision-making (22).

The project contributes to CITES Strategic Visions 2021-2030 (Res.Conf.18.3), by supporting best-practice, guidance and Community Forestry plans, for NTFP management and sustainable trade. It furthers Decisions 18.33–18.37 (Livelihoods) by demonstrating how sustainable use of CITES-listed species can contribute to local livelihoods at scale. In line with Decision 19.261 (Trade in medicinal and aromatic plants), the project assists with drafting NDFs (Non-Detriment Findings) by Nepal, and will "enhance awareness of CITES regulations and encourage sustainable use and trade in CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plants". Findings on NDFs, traceability, and voluntary certification, will be presented to CITES importing Parties. Darwin project (25-018) successfully clarified Nepal's CITES Act (which had inadvertently banned trade in all CITES-listed species), and ongoing project (28-026) contributed to the removal of Jatamansi from the Review of Significant Trade (2022).

Nagoya Protocol: Practical methodologies for equitable, sustainable management and trade of wild plants will showcase a practical benefit-sharing mechanism that integrates sustainability of NTFPs into harvesting communities, supporting Articles 5, 6, 7, 9, 15 and 17.

Project will contribute to following SDGs:

1 Increased income from premium prices, premium fund
3 Targeting species essential for medicine systems, end ensuring their safe trade
5 Empowering women through co-management of resources, and involvement in value-addition
8 Value-addition through certification, post-harvesting processing, increased quality
10 Reduced inequalities, through harvester's access to market prices, assistance with transparent/fair cost calculation

12 Sustainable management and use of natural resources and sustainable business practices

15 Landscape-level conservation through sustainable use of resources

17 Regional and national multi-stakeholder partnerships for resource management

Section 6 - Evidence for Scaling

Q15. Evidence for Scaling

Darwin Initiative Extra projects should utilise and build on evidence from past activities (from Darwin Initiative and beyond) to demonstrate why the approach will deliver. Please provide evidence on how your proposed project will do this.

Scaling-up builds on Nepal's well-established community forest management system, supported by ANSAB and FECOFUN. This demonstrates that CFUGs can manage timber(Ref.1) and NTFPs(Ref.15) without over-exploitation, using operational plans.

Through ongoing (28-026) and previous (25-018) Darwin Initiative projects, the partnership piloted FairWild implementation and scaled initial successes to achieve positive impacts on biodiversity and livelihoods. The ongoing project is generating modelling scenarios(Ref.16) for landscape-level conservation and resource management; these propose a combination of policy and regenerative harvesting to stabilise populations of commercially important and threatened NTFPs, while improving monitoring of associated plants and fungi. Project approaches to national and regional coordination, traceability, and value-chain actions build on evidence from those projects and the wider operating environment (e.g. Market Access workshop(Ref.17), China-Nepal Border Trade and Cooperation & Coordination Mechanism(Ref.18)).

In 2023, partners held a workshop in Kathmandu to build on the current project and decades of research and international support for NTFP trade (e.g. EU-funded Economic Growth for Social Justice: Supporting NTFP Trade and Business Development in Karnali, and Enterprise Based Biodiversity Conservation in Nepal (USAID-funded)). Communities/harvesters, CSOs, researchers, government and private sector set out a roadmap for five priority strategies(Ref.19). The proposed project integrates key elements of this.

Section 7 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q16. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your Impact. Provide information on:

- **how you have reflected on and incorporated <u>evidence and lessons</u> learnt from past and present similar activities and projects in the design of this project.**
- **the specific approach you are using, supported by <u>evidence</u> that it will be effective, and <u>justifying why you expect it will be successful</u> in this context.**
- **how you will undertake the work (activities, materials and methods).**
- **what will be the main activities and where will these take place.**
- **how will you manage the work (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).**

LESSONS-LEARNED

Darwin projects (25-018 and ongoing 28-026) piloted combined market-oriented and regulatory approaches to improve conservation and livelihood outcomes from NTFP trade in Western Nepal, positively impacting >5,000

harvesters. Those projects changed policies, developed approaches to integrate NTFPs in Community Forestry operational plans, and brought the first third-party FairWild-certified Kutki and Jatamansi to market. This project will scale up along supply chains, aligned to multi-stakeholder consensus in the Jadibuti Declaration(Ref.19) to high biodiversity value mountain ecosystems across Nepal's Himalayan range. We will also share evidence and knowledge in Bhutan.

Recognising the key driver of natural resources utilisation pressure is commercial demand in India (estimated 90% of Nepali wild plants and fungi exports – many informal/illegal), China and elsewhere, we will focus on addressing barriers, and incentivising good practices, along those value chains. The tangible impacts of FairWild certification on people, species and landscapes(Ref.20) inform an opportunity for scaled-up use, confirmed by buyers' and harvesters' interest. Global markets for sustainably-verified products grow(Ref.21), alongside regulatory requirements to demonstrate legality, traceability and human rights(Ref.22). A planned traceability pilot will use learning from the forestry sector in East and Central Africa(Ref.23), given similarities with Nepal where weak governance persists despite increasing regulatory efforts and market interest in verified-sustainable products(Ref.24,25,26).

RATIONALE

The project scales up:

-In a landscape context – by applying the approach tested in five districts of Western Nepal to all mountainous areas with major commercial harvesting of priority NTFPs, from West to East of Nepal, with stock assessment and follow-up management responses for the flagship Jatamansi at a national/landscape level;
-Through a systems-change approach – targeting trade and policy barriers to sustainability within Nepal, regionally and internationally; and enabling traceability systems and partnerships that will enable sustainable trade in the long-term;
-By increasing capacities and capabilities - of organisations, national and regional coordination bodies (multistakeholder forums); and
-Attracting additional finance – private and public funding.

ACTIVITIES/METHODS

The project focuses on five areas, combining capacity-building, livelihoods-focussed, regulatory and market-based approaches:

1- Improve conservation, resource management and sustainable trade capacities and capabilities with particular attention to excluded groups.

ANSAB and FECOFUN will build capacity of local resource persons (LRPs) in 10 target districts. LRPs in turn will roll-out training on sustainable harvesting and monitoring, good post-harvesting and processing techniques, to CFUGs. FECOFUN and ANSAB will also train CFUG executive committees on organisational governance, book-keeping and accounting, gender and social inclusion (e.g. through welfare sub-committees), and reduce the bottleneck of accessing third-party certification auditing. FairWild Foundation and ANSAB will support local enterprises by building skills for market access, business-skills, FairWild and organic certification, and use of technology. ANSAB and TRAFFIC will support government staff, civil society organisations in Nepal with capacity and knowledge on CITES requirements and species inventory methodology.

2- Develop pathways to improve livelihoods of harvesters from long-term, sustainable, equitable trade in wild plants and fungi.

ANSAB will engage District Forest Offices (DFOs), FECOFUN, and CFUGs to develop and roll out sustainable

livelihoods management plans (informed by a socio-economic baseline assessment). ANSAB, FECOFUN and DFOs will implement a harvesters' registration system and bring more harvesters into CFUGs. ANSAB will provide technology upgrades (storage, pressing, drying, distillation) for better quality and sustainability of the process. ANSAB and FairWild Foundation will assist implementation of an equitable trade mechanism, document management, the CFUG-level enterprise (or group) certification, and fund to assist with implementing certification.

3- Deploy participatory land and species management and monitoring approaches.

ANSAB and the Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE) will engage multiple stakeholders to develop a resource inventory toolkit, and apply this at district level for a participatory stock assessment of plants and fungi of high economic and conservation value. A district and national-level resource inventory will be published. Together with research on regenerative species management and harvesting practices, this will inform updates to CFUG operational plans. ANSAB and FECOFUN – through the LRPs – will support implementation of these operational plans, to guide monitoring and management practices into the future, and will integrate wild plants and fungi issues into Community Forestry across mountainous districts of Nepal.

4- Enable sustainable Himalayan wild plant and fungi products value chains from harvest to consumers, based on traceable, certifiable trade.

A project influence plan will guide all project messaging. TRAFFIC will coordinate publication of trade analyses, including value-chain mapping, and regional/international consumer surveys (India, China), by WWF-India and universities of Tribhuvan, Oxford, Copenhagen and (UT-IOF, UoC, UoOx). These will analyse barriers and opportunities for sustainable trade and traceability, e.g. accessibility of voluntary certification, fair pricing. The partners will address those, including by piloting a traceability system/technology (TRAFFIC and ANSAB) and planning its national-level roll-out, with government, communities and private sector. ANSAB and TRAFFIC will re-establish the collection and consolidation of monthly wholesale market prices in Nepal, China and India for sharing with harvesters in Nepal and Bhutan. FairWild Foundation, ANSAB, NEPPHA and CATCM will run match-making events with international businesses, supporting the signing and implementation of trade agreements.

5- Amend policies, trade agreements, and legal frameworks along the trade chains from Nepal to consumer countries to include provisions for sustainable, traceable trade in wild plant and fungi ingredients, in line with CBD and CITES commitments.

TRAFFIC will coordinate a policy frameworks assessment, and develop policy briefs (such as relating to CITES NDFs, Pest Risk Assessment and Cartagena Biosafety Protocol). All partners will agree priority trade barriers and opportunities at national, regional and international levels. ANSAB will assist MOFE and other stakeholders to re-instate the National Coordination Committee across sectors in Nepal. Alongside this, TRAFFIC will facilitate a regional multi-stakeholder forum for Himalayan plants and fungi trade sustainability, and enable the presentation of Nepal's interests in international meetings, e.g. side-events and submissions of information and case-studies to regional fora, CBD and CITES meetings.

PROJECT ROLES AND MANAGEMENT

The central partners are TRAFFIC (leading overall project coordination, management and M&E, including the monthly partnership calls focusing on the project activities delivery), ANSAB and FECOFUN (leading on-the-ground implementation in Nepal). Please see the activity list following the logframe for a detailed breakdown.

Q17. Capability and Capacity

How will the project support the strengthening of capability and capacity of identified local and national partners, and stakeholders during its lifetime organisational or individual levels? Please provide details of what form this will take, who will benefit (noting GESI considerations), and the post-project value to the country.

Improving capacities and capabilities of stakeholders, with particular attention to women and excluded groups, to enable improved conservation, resource management and sustainable trade, is key throughout the project.

ANSAB will scale up its approach to training local CFUGs and FECOFUN members as LRPs (at least half women), to operate as trainers in 10 target districts, focussing on species identification, sustainable harvesting techniques and timing, post-harvesting handling and processing of wild plants and fungi. Additionally, these trainers will be supported with GESI, governance, and book-keeping/accounting skills. These trainers (>200), FECOFUN and ANSAB will roll-out capacity-building to local harvesters, CFUG-level enterprises (existing and established), processors and traders. This will empower and engage community members in updating/developing operational plans, to include harvest, trade and monitoring of NTFPs.

ANSAB and TRAFFIC will deliver training sessions for government staff on NTFP inventory methodology, CITES (including NDFs), and other trade issues. While there is a high-level of staff turn-over in government agencies, transferrable materials will be developed, learning documented and made available to new staff. The national-level coordination committee (multistakeholder), alongside the regional forum, will ensure transferability of knowledge and capacities, and post-project value to Nepal.

FECOFUN and ANSAB will build institutional capacity of CFUGs, including their executive committees, and facilitate the roll-out of harvesters' registration systems, increasing the number of harvesters benefitting from CFUG membership and clarified tenure and access rights over the natural resources. A national-level inventory for most commercially important and threatened species (Jatamansi, Kutki, Himalayan Fritillary, Morels, and other NTFPs), and detailed district-level inventory will benefit CFUGs through improved information to develop/revise/implement operational plans. DFOs will utilise knowledge and resources from the project (such as the resource inventory toolkit) to approve and oversee operational plans; they can apply these skills to other parts of districts. TRAFFIC, ANSAB will contribute to CSOs' capacity on NTFP management, and issues related to CITES/CBD implementation in the context of the wild species trade threats.

District and national-level dialogues among FECOFUN, ANSAB, MoFE on challenges and solutions in high-mountain community forestry and NTFP management, will lead to the development of guidelines for community forestry management in these areas. This will be used by FECOFUN for systematic updates to the CFUG operational plans.

FECOFUN and ANSAB will support the upgrade of equipment for improved processing of NTFPs. Alongside the CFUG capacities for record-keeping, traceability, the harvesters will benefit from value-addition through improved quality of products, access to markets and transparent cost calculation, increased prices from FairWild/organic certified products.

FairWild Foundation will train ANSAB and FECOFUN on applying the updated Standard 3.0(Ref.27). Certification bodies' capacities in Nepal will be further enhanced, enabling them to implement certification in Nepal, into the future. Match-making activities and direct engagement with associations and companies in buying markets will enable market access and long-term trading agreements.

Three universities (Tribhuvan, Copenhagen and Oxford) will build research capacity in Nepal, including through a PhD student researching consumer trends, and will develop knowledge products and contribute case-studies to IUCN's Species Use Database(Ref.28).

Q18. Gender equality and social inclusion

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to promoting equality between persons of different gender and social characteristics. Explain your understanding of how individuals may be excluded from equal participation within the context of your project, and how you seek to address this. You should consider how your project will proactively contribute to ensuring individuals achieve equitable outcomes and how you will engage participants in a meaningful way.

Our previous work in Nepal (25-018, 28-026) demonstrated that while women frequently harvest some NTFPs including Himalayan Fritillary, harvesters of Jatamansi and Kutki are often male, due to long/overnight harvesting expeditions, and precipitous rocky habitats (Ref.29). Women participate in processing, but often with no access to good technologies. CFUG executive committees require half of members to be women, however, compliance is inconsistent.

The project will have direct and indirect impacts on inequality between persons of different gender, income-level and ethnicity in high-mountain communities. It will target at least 20,000 wild-harvesters of high-priority plant species in 350 CFUGs. At least 40% of beneficiaries are expected to be women (as with the previous Defra-funded work). Jatamansi alone has contributed between 40-60% of annual household income in surveyed Jumla and Mugu CFUGs. Building on current work, the project will improve women's position within the value chain, with emphasis on participation in capacity building for sustainable management, and improved quality and processing. The expansion across wider areas and additional species of conservation and commercial importance, will extend the benefits to more women. They will participate in decision-making in CFUG/cluster-level enterprises, and certification schemes that directly increase sales prices and stabilise income-generation.

The project will track its contribution to gender equality through a gender assessment, as part of the baseline and final evaluation (further clarifying gender roles in the NTFP value chains, and assessing the relative change project generates for men and women). It will collect and monitor disaggregated data to improve appropriate measures to empower and enable women.

At the institutional level, ANSAB has an organisational standard code of conduct, defining zero-tolerance to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH). Organisational Gender and Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) Policy provides an institutional setup for SEAH complaints and grievance. See Q31 for further safeguarding details

Q19. Change expected

Detail the expected changes to both biodiversity and poverty reduction, and links between them, this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended).

When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit, differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used.

Short-term:

Impacts on poverty and livelihoods in harvesting areas:

-20,000 harvesters benefit from ANSAB/FECOFUN training; within the project period 15,000 of these apply their knowledge in forest and NTFP management, and 10,000 (at least 40% women) improve their income and food security through sustainable trade in wild plant and fungi ingredients.
-At least 3,600 CFUG members (at least 40% women) participate in wild harvesting improvement projects on the pathway to the voluntary certification.

-20 sustainable livelihood enterprises will benefit from technology upgrades at local level.
-At least 200 community member LRPs (50% women) trained on sustainable resource management and good business practices, and in turn deliver training to over 20,000 harvesters.
-280 CFUGs (about 80% of 350 target CFUGs), 10 district and national FECOFUNs, 10 DFOs, 20 producer enterprises) and other local and national community, public and private sector organizations will apply new capabilities in forest resource management, sustainable and equitable trade.
-Operational plans of 60 CFUGs are updated/developed to include the sustainable management, regenerative practices, community monitoring; and approved by DFOs; guidance on plans update rolled-out to all target CFUGs.
-Benefits will reach ten districts in Nepal: Darchula, Bajhang, Bajura, Humla, Dolpa, Jumla, Mugu, Rukum East, Gorkha and Taplejung, identified as most commercially important for sourcing and trade in target species.

Impacts on natural resources:

-Stock assessment of high-value Himalayan wild plants and fungi published covering about 1.5 million ha forests and meadows, creating the basis for interventions and resource monitoring and management.
-Over 100,000ha of high-altitude Himalaya are sustainably managed through participatory land and species management and monitoring approaches.
-Jatamansi (Nardostachys grandiflora) is the flagship species (IUCN CR/CITES App II listed). The management practices (set out in CFUG operational plans) and stock assessment will however cover further species, which are all under pressure from commercial harvesting in the same community forests: Kutki (Neopicrorhiza scrophulariiflora), Setochini (Polygonatum cirrhifolium), Banlasun (Fritillaria cirrhosa), Atis (Delphinium himalayai), Satuwa (Paris polyphylla), Sugandhawal (Valeriana jatamansi), Morels (Morchella conica), Padamchal (Rheum australe), Dactoloriza (Dactylorhiza hatagirea), Yarsagumba (Ophiocordyceps sinensis). The project will enable CFUGs to apply their proven natural resource management capacity (Ref 1,15) to conserve stocks of these species.

Impacts on policy and enabling systems:

-Himalayan NTFP trade analysis and value-chain mapping of source to consumers in main markets (India, China, Europe, US) inform design for interventions.
-Pilot traceability system for one value chain provides data (from harvest, through processing and transport) on origins, legality, sustainability along the critical points.
-At least 50 companies from markets in China, India, Europe and US attend matchmaking events with producer enterprises and exporters, fostering the development of trading agreements including price premiums.
-An increase in the volume (tonnes) of internationally traded sustainable Himalayan wild NTFP products (flora and fungi) complying with CITES requirements, and/or provisions of FairWild Standard.
-At least three relevant policies and legal frameworks of countries along the value chains amended to reflect the importance of sustainable, traceable, equitable trade.

Long-term:

-Illicit, informal trade in wild plant and fungi products from Nepal will gradually be replaced by legal, sustainable, traceable trade, building on the convincing evidence of improved governance and revenues, through the traceability pilot and regional cooperation.
-Based on new capacities, incentives, commercial relationships, and a regional cooperation platform, the sustainable management of target species and landscapes will continue beyond the project term and area, maintaining harvesters' access to species, contributing to their income and health.
-Harvesters and CFUGs nationally benefit from practical guidance on integrating wild plants and fungi harvesting and monitoring into operational plans, and guidelines on decentralised high-altitude natural resource management; ultimately benefitting > 6,600 CFUGs (30% of >22,000 CFUGs) nationally, including >600,000 harvesters.

-The high-altitude area under community forestry in Nepal expands, and the number of harvesters and their households benefitting from clarified tenure, access and use rights increases across all mountainous districts.
-Jatamansi and associated high-value NTFPs are sustainable in the long-term across their range in Nepal, ultimately extending to China, India, Bhutan, with lessons learnt and stabilised populations.
-Consumer confidence in purchasing wild-harvested products will increase, with provenance, sustainability of harvesting and how people benefit becoming more transparent – this consumer demand will further incentivise industry shifts to more responsible wild plant-sourcing.
-The changes in policy and practice promoted by the project will strengthen conservation of commercial medicinal plant species throughout the country and the region. National and regional government policy and decisions will be based on an improved understanding of the importance of NTFPs, and best practices, further improving the long-term prospects for sustainable household incomes

Q20. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline <u>why and how</u> you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, in the longer term, your expected Impact.

Our theory of change takes a systems-based approach to wild-plant and fungi supply chains, from community benefits for harvesters, to the key markets of TCM and Ayurveda. This takes account of business incentives and national and regional policy environments.

If harvester communities have the resources and knowledge for biodiversity management, business development, and value-addition, then with support from key partners, they will be able to negotiate more equitable and fair trading arrangements while maintaining natural resources. If ANSAB and FECOFUN have relevant resources, shared with robust CFUGs that have strong and inclusive governance processes, then they can provide this support: for improved harvesting practice, market access, and to monitor key harvested species. If markets, prices, trade routes and drivers of trade to China and India are better understood, and supply chain stakeholders are brought together, then trading arrangements and markets for sustainable and ethical wild-harvested herbs and fungi can grow. If certification and traceability innovations are in place along these supply chains, then pricing is fair, and producers, buyers and consumers can have confidence in a high-value product. If there is a well-evidenced, strategic focus on relevant national, regional and global regulatory frameworks, then policy work can support an enabling environment for market-based approaches for sustainable livelihoods of harvester communities.

In this way, livelihoods are secured, and biodiversity conserved. This leads to benefits locally and throughout the wild-plant and fungi supply chain.

The project can achieve these changes because it will focus on the most pertinent and influenceable elements of the trade: it will be based on national-to-regional consensus (the regional forum for Himalayan wild-harvested plants and fungi); use robust evidence (from the previous Darwin investments, supplemented by briefing papers and value-chain mapping); and project partners bring diverse skills to facilitate sustainable and equitable trade locally and internationally.

Q21. Sustainable benefits and scaling potential

Q21a. How will the project reach a point where benefits can be sustained post-funding? How will the required knowledge and skills <u>remain available</u> to sustain the benefits? How will you ensure your data and evidence will be accessible to others?

There are four pathways for long-term benefits:

National-level stock assessment and sustainable harvesting methods will inform CFUG operational plans. Alongside business enterprise plans and hands-on support with implementation, these enable CFUGs to operate sustainably post-funding.

Capacity building of permanent institutions (DFOs, district and local level FECOFUNs), and upskilled LRPs will provide regular, ongoing support to CFUGs, local traders and processors. The permanent presence of ANSAB and FECOFUN in Nepal will provide technical expertise after the project finishes.

Addressing systemic challenges to sustainable and legal trade through policy changes will ensure benefits are long-term and sustainable; TRAFFIC will continue to co-facilitate regional and national coordination mechanisms.

Local enterprises set-up or assisted by the project will continue to benefit from improved processing/storage, capacities for documenting production processes, and the group-level FairWild certification. Linkages to business partners and piloting traceability will enable sustainable wild-plants/fungi value chains in the long-term.

Q21b. If your approach works, what potential is there for scaling the approach further? Refer to Scalable Approaches (Landscape, Replication, System Change, Capacitation) in the guidance. What might prevent scaling, and how could this be addressed?

Landscape: the approach is applicable across Hindu-Kush Himalayan region; the regional coordination mechanism will help identify scaling opportunities.

Replication: the combination of market-based and regulatory approaches, underpinned by clear data, will be applicable to many geographies and plant/fungi species. Wild harvesting improvement projects and pilot group certification will be relevant for multiple-user landscapes around the world.

Systems: knowledge sharing on identifying and reducing trade and regulatory barriers in the South Asia international context (e.g. via CITES, CBD meetings), will create pathways to integrate sustainable wild plants and fungi use and trade into national and regional policies. Currently, such policies are minimal.

Capacitation: Nepali organisations will continue operating in-country, and government agencies will have improved engagement and representation of Nepal in negotiations.

The project will develop further investment opportunities and attract financial resources e.g. through allocations for GBF implementation (such as through GEF), GCF, and bilateral donors.

If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps or references etc., as a PDF using the File Upload below:

- ☐ TRAFFIC Darwin Nepal Refs & Map
- ☐ 18/09/2023
- ☐ 18:51:42
- ☐ pdf 268.43 KB

Section 8 - Risk Management

Q22. Risk Management

Please outline the 6 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the Risk Guidance. This should include at least one Fiduciary, one Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Fiduciary Mishandling of funds due to fraud, corruption or misunderstanding of procedure	Major	Possible	Major	Clear financial processes and accountability measures in place and followed. Follow up swiftly if irregularity. Training for all partners at start of project and refreshed as required. TRAFFIC has worked successfully with partners for a long time.	Minor
Safeguarding Health and safety of harvesters and processors at risk due to unsafe working conditions	Moderate	Possible	Major	Certification standards training (covering fire safety, PPE, sanitation etc) building capacity of CFUGs to implement measures. Partner health and safety practice and risk mitigation review. Verify government and processing contractors meeting their responsibilities.	Moderate
Delivery Chain Large exchange rate fluctuations could reduce or increase the level of funding available to partners	Moderate	Possible	Major	Maintain regular communication via monthly project meetings with partners to discuss any exchange rate fluctuations and adjust the delivery modality based on the fund availability if there is a significant deviation.	Moderate
Risk 4 Natural disaster such as early snowfall, avalanche, flooding or earthquake in project area	Major	Possible	Major	Maintain close contact with project partners and associates. Monitor news regularly and Foreign Commonwealth Office advice. Ensure the project team is aware of national disaster risk alerts in Nepal, China, India.	Moderate
Risk 5 Long-term impacts of COVID-19/public health emergencies affect international trade	Major	Possible	Major	Maintain communication with potential trading entities, processors, buyers. Keep abreast of impacts. Maintain a watching brief of World Health Organisation updates in participating countries.	Moderate

| **Risk 6** Changes to personnel mean delays in project delivery | Minor | Likely | Major | Ensure project documentation is up to date. Ensure partners aware of responsibility to inform of changes to staff. Onboarding of new staff to project is swift and thorough. | Minor |

Q23. Project sensitivities

Please indicate whether there are sensitivities associated with this project that need to be considered if details are published (detailed species location data that would increase threats, political sensitivities, prosecutions for illegal activities, security of staff etc.).

☑ Yes

Please provide brief details

Some project outputs are confidential, linked to commercial information and should not be published (e.g. certification reports). The project may receive sensitive information about illegal trading practices, which would need to be managed appropriately.

Please upload your Risk Register, with Delivery Chain Risk Map, here.

☐ TRAFFIC Darwin Nepal Risk Assessment
☐ 18/09/2023
☐ 18:34:50
☐ xlsx 104.46 KB

Section 9 - Workplan

Q24. Workplan

Provide a project workplan that shows the key milestones in project activities.

☐ Workplan PDF
☐ 18/09/2023
☐ 13:44:31
☐ pdf 486.28 KB

Section 10 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q25. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Describe how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the project's M&E.

Darwin Initiative projects are expected to be adaptive and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the delivery of the project including its management. M&E is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive

impact. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see Finance Guidance).

Darwin Initiative Extra Projects are required to commission an <u>Independent Final Evaluation</u> **to report by the time that the project completes. The cost of this should be included in the project budget, and within the total project cost for M&E.**

M&E is integral to maximise reach, effectiveness and learning. The following elements, with logframe indicators, will ensure a 'real-time' approach to monitoring and enabling adaptive management.

-An inception meeting with all partners
-District-level inception meetings and national-level semi-annual review and planning meetings by ANSAB and FECOFUN
-Monthly project calls for implementation updates and open communication
-Quarterly monitoring of high-level progress, risk management, and adjustments to any unintended negative impacts
-Overall supervision by the Project Leader complemented by TRAFFIC and ANSAB's M&E expertise
-Periodic monitoring from MoFE and DFOs
-Project evaluation (mid-term and final) from the governmental Social Welfare Council
-Lessons learnt and national/district-level closing workshops
-Under TRAFFIC systems, senior staff regularly review project timeliness, conservation impact and expected outcomes, legacy and sustainability, and budget efficiency. Annual Reports will capture intermediate (and final) results and recommendations for adaptive management

Key elements of M&E for project outputs are as follows.

Output 1: The capacity/knowledge gaps assessment, and district/national-level inception workshops, will identify capacity-building baselines and needs. Training reports and post-training surveys will evaluate the effectiveness of capacity-building, participants composition, and guide improvement. An evaluation including harvesters, CFUGs, government and CSOs will assess the application of their training in resource management, sustainable and equitable trade.

Output 2: A baseline inventory in Y1 will assess NTFPs contributions to livelihoods. Alongside co-creation, this informs sustainable livelihoods management plans at a district-cluster level, and sets out baselines for monitoring and implementation. The evaluation in Y5 will identify changes in household income, food security, health and other impacts. Harvesters' registers' updates and the set-up of sub-committees on fair trade and equitable benefit-sharing will be monitored to assess the level of participation in decision-making at CFUG-level.
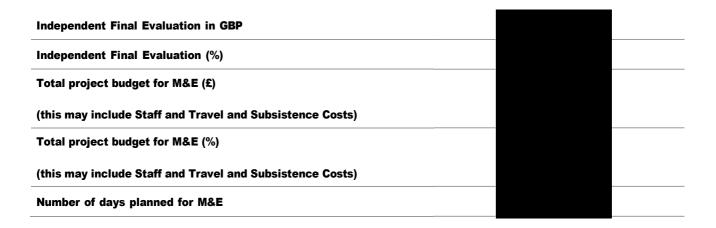
Output 3: The results of the national and district-level resource inventories will inform CFUG operational plans setting out harvesting methods (timing, methods, quantity). Existing DFO oversight will be supplemented by participatory monitoring; FairWild certification audit documentation will provide additional evaluation and verification of project practices and ecological impacts in select districts.

Output 4: Trade and value-chain analysis will underpin the identification of barriers to sustainable and legal trade, setting baselines to track change. Value chain improvements will be measured, including through FairWild certification audits (group/CFUG-level), and documentation of species/products flow in established traceability approach. The number of trading agreements will indicate the success of long-term market engagement. The increase in sustainable verified trade in Himalayan plants and fungi will indicate the improvements in resource management.

Output 5: Policy and legislative reviews at national and regional/international levels will identify baselines for change, followed by targeted research and policy briefs. We will measure the policy change through published modifications in regulations, and documenting the longer-term impacts through the regional coordination

Forum, with will present a governance mechanism (including beyond the project end), and will measure the participation of multiple stakeholders, included those traditionally excluded, in decision-making.

Gender-segregated data will be collected to inform project activities through planning, implementation, M&E, especially on access and control over resources, ability to make change, division of labour and impact.

Independent Final Evaluation in GBP	███████
Independent Final Evaluation (%)	
Total project budget for M&E (£)	
(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)	
Total project budget for M&E (%)	
(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)	
Number of days planned for M&E	

Section 11 - Logical Framework

Q26. Logical Framework (logframe)

Darwin Initiative projects will be required to monitor and report against their progress towards their Outputs and Outcome. This section sets out the expected Outputs and Outcome of your project, how you will measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

- ☐ TRAFFIC Nepal Logframe and TOC
- ☐ 18/09/2023
- ☐ 18:21:02
- ☐ pdf 248.13 KB

Impact:

Sustainable management of Himalayan wild plants and fungi, with value chains that incentivise equitable trade, increase value-addition, reduce poverty, and conserve species and ecologically-fragile landscapes.

Outcome:

Floral and fungal diversity in 10 mountainous Himalayan districts is conserved through sustainable, traceable and equitable trade, based on empowered and resilient communities, strengthened policies and responsible value chains.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Capacities and capabilities of stakeholders - in particular women and excluded groups - are improved to enable improved conservation, resource management and sustainable trade.

Output 2:

Over 10,000 harvesters benefit from improved livelihoods from long-term, sustainable, equitable trade in NTFPs.

Output 3:

Over 110,000 ha of high-altitude Himalayas are sustainably managed through participatory land and species management and monitoring approaches

Output 4:

Sustainable Himalayan wild NTFP value chains enabled from harvest to consumers based on traceable, certifiable production systems

Output 5:

Policies, trade agreements, and legal frameworks along the trade chains from Nepal to consumer countries include provisions for sustainable, traceable trade in wild plant and fungi ingredients, in line with CBD and CITES commitments

Do you require more Output fields?

☐ No

Activities

Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

Output 1. Capacities and capabilities of stakeholders - in particular women and excluded groups - are improved to enable improved conservation, resource management and sustainable trade

1.1 Organise inception and closing workshops at district and national levels, semi-annual review and planning meetings at national level (ANSAB/FECOFUN/TRAFFIC)
1.2 Assess capacity needs across all stakeholder groups (government agencies, harvesting communities, private sector, CSOs) and develop capacity building plan (ANSAB)
1.3 Training of trainers (ToT) for local resource persons (LRPs) (including FECOFUN and DFO officials) on species identification, sustainable harvesting, organic production, FairWild Standard and post-harvest processing and handling (ANSAB/FECOFUN/FairWild Foundation/)
1.4 Assist in forming CFUG sub-committee for harvesters' welfare and develop and execute harvesters' registration at CFUG level (FECOFUN/ANSAB)
1.5 Build capacity of LRPs including FECOFUN district chapters on GESI and governance, bookkeeping and accounting (FECOFUN/ANSAB)
1.6 Organize roll-out trainings to ~350 CFUGs on standards/sustainable forest management, and more focused trainings to 90 CFUGs to enable meeting certification requirements (FECOFUN/ANSAB)
1.7 Build capacity of CFUG executive committees in all target districts on organizational governance, book-keeping and accounting, gender and social inclusion (FECOFUN)
1.8 Build capacity of local certification body (CBs) to audit for sustainability* in Nepal, and of ANSAB to support implementation of wild harvesting improvement and FairWild Standard guidance (FairWild Foundation) (*FairWild, organic, other)

1.9 Build capacity of local CFUG-level enterprises on business skills and planning, FairWild certification and associated document-management (ANSAB/FECOFUN/FairWild Foundation)
1.10 Deliver new and top-up training to trading/exporting enterprises in Nepal on FairWild Standard, organic

certification, market access (FairWild Foundation/NEHHPA/ANSAB)

1.11 Deliver training sessions for government staff on NTFP inventory methodology, CITES (NDFs, and other requirements), and other sustainable trade issues (ANSAB/TRAFFIC)

1.12 Document wild species use and trade case-study to the IUCN SULi Species Use Database (TRAFFIC/UoC/IOF/ANSAB)

Output 2. harvesters benefit from improved livelihoods from long-term, sustainable, equitable trade in NTFPs

2.1 Baseline and endline survey of community harvesting practices and livelihood strategies, and overall socio-economic context (ANSAB/FECOFUN).

2.2 Develop a sustainable livelihood management plan at district level considering all target CFUGs, including female harvesters and workers identifying sustainable NTFPs enterprise opportunities (e.g. improved drying, pressing, distillation, storage). (ANSAB/FECOFUN)

2.3 Enable for a sustainable livelihood management plan being discussed and adopted by respective line agencies (incl. DFOs), municipalities, district FECOFUNs, CFUGs and other CSOs (FECOFUN/ANSAB)

2.4 Facilitate the roll-out of harvesters' registration system by local FECOFUNs, including the expansion of harvesters and their households included in CFUGs (FECOFUN/ANSAB).

2.5 Provide technology upgrade or installation to enable improved post-harvest handling and processing (storage, drying, pressing, distillation) of NTFPs (ANSAB/ FECOFUN)

2.6 Support the roll-out of the equitable trade mechanisms with reference to FairWild social guidance, including on premium fund (ANSAB/FECOFUN/FairWild Foundation)

2.7 Enable record keeping, documentation and accountability procedures at the level of producer enterprises towards certification, and along the wild harvesting improvement guidelines (ANSAB/FECOFUN/FairWild Foundation)

2.8 Establish group/CFUG-level enterprise certification pilot, and fund associated with assistance to certification costs (ANSAB/FairWild Foundation)

2.9 Organise learning visits for enterprises/CFUGs on efficient processing technologies (ANSAB)

Output 3. Over 100.000 ha of high-altitude Himalayas are sustainably managed through participatory land and species management and monitoring approaches

3.1 Complete and publish the resource inventory toolkit standardising and building on participatory approaches (ANSAB/MoFE-/DPR/DFOs)

3.2 Undertake stock (resource) assessment of key high-value and conservation importance plants and fungi (Jatamansi and associated species) in 10 districts as well as at national level (ANSAB/DFO/FECOFUN)

3.3 Publish national-level resource inventory (ANSAB/DPR/MoFE)

3.4 Undertake research on sustainable harvesting practices, regeneration management approaches and domestication potential (ANSAB/MoFE/DPR)

3.5 Develop best practice guides for the management and harvesting of focal species (ANSAB/MoFE)

3.6 Organize dialogues on major issues and solutions for mountain forests at districts and national levels – focusing on CFUGs and NTFPs (FECOFUN/ANSAB)

3.7 Develop guideline document for community forest management in mountainous regions including sustainability standards)(ANSAB/MoFE/FECOFUN)

3.8 Organize meetings/ AGM – as part of CFUG management plan revision (FECOFUN/ANSAB)

3.9 Support 60 CFUGs in forest management plan updating or development including application of district level stock assessment and updating provisions for sustainable harvesting and monitoring of NTFPs (ANSAB/FECOFUN)

3.10 Support CFUG for the implementation of management plan via mobilized LRPs (FECOFUN/ANSAB)

3.11 Develop an updated Nardostachys grandiflora NDF based on 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and publish (TRAFFIC/MoFE/DPR/ANSAB)

Output 4. Sustainable Himalayan wild NTFP value chains enabled from harvest to consumers based on traceable, certifiable production systems

4.1 Develop Influence Plan for project (TRAFFIC/all partners)

4.2 Undertake and publish trade analyses for major consumer markets for a selection of NTFPs, including value chain mapping and consumer demand (China, India, other) (TRAFFIC/WWF India/UoC/IOF/UoOx)

4.3 Identify underpinning sustainable and equitable trade barriers and opportunities, with the focus on implementation of voluntary certification standards (e.g. certification audit capacity), fair pricing, and market access, and confirm ways to address those (TRAFFIC/ANSAB)

4.4 Expand the framework for the Bayesian model with the focus on the trader and demand side, publish results and integrate across activities under Output (UoOx/TRAFFIC/ANSAB)

4.5 Undertake critical control point value chain analysis for Jatamansi from one of the main producing districts (ANSAB/TRAFFIC)

4.6 Pilot the traceability system and technology in one district (TRAFFIC /ANSAB)

4.7 Based on the pilot, develop sustainable value-chain/national-level roll-out plan with relevant (government, private sector, community) stakeholders (TRAFFIC/ANSAB).

4.8 Develop and roll-out wholesale market price collection (in Nepal, China and India) and share with harvesters and other stakeholders in Nepal and Bhutan (ANSAB/TRAFFIC).

4.9 Identify and engage with buyers and relevant industry associations in China and India, alongside those in European/US markets selected due to interest and engagement in sector (TRAFFIC/WWF India/ANSAB/NEHHPA/FairWild Foundation).

4.10 Facilitate meetings between prospective buyers and producers in Nepal (at trade fairs, through webinars, 1-2-1 meetings) (ANSAB/FairWild Foundation/TRAFFIC/NEHHPA).

4.11 Develop communication materials, investment cases, knowledge products, and disseminate across relevant social media, peer-review publications, and other appropriate channels (TRAFFIC (GLO, China)/ANSAB/FairWild Foundation)

4.12 Establish and support appropriate match-making and marketing platform for producers, businesses and investors (e.g. linked to Wild Plants 4 Wildlife, www.wildcheck.info, wild harvesting improvement projects, partner websites and social media) (TRAFFIC (GLO and China)/ANSAB/FairWild Foundation)

Output 5. Nepal's, regional, and key importing countries' policies, trade agreements, and legal frameworks include provisions for sustainable, traceable trade in wild plant and fungi ingredients, in line with CBD and CITES commitments

5.1 Undertake a policy framework assessment to identify trade and management barriers and opportunities at national, regional and international levels (TRAFFIC coordination/ TRAFFIC China/WWF India/ANSAB)

5.2 Revive and update the Coordination Committee across sectors in Nepal, focusing on reducing sustainable trade barriers – MoFE, MoALD and MoICS (ANSAB/NEHHPA/FECOFUN)

5.3 Establish a regional cross-agency Forum and support operationalisation (TRAFFIC/WWF India).

5.4 Develop policy briefs based on 5.1 for discussion/ action in the regional Forum (TRAFFIC/ANSAB/WWF India)

5.5 Facilitate a regional multi-stakeholder Himalayan plant/fungi trade sustainability forum (Ayush Ministry India, MoFE, Ministry of Industries, Commerce and Supplies, MoALD, CATCM, NEPPHA, etc) (TRAFFIC)

5.6 Facilitate development of a Pest Risk Assessment for at least three priority species (ANSAB)

5.7 Participate in regular meetings of China-Nepal Border Trade and Cooperation & Coordination Mechanism, share findings of 5.1,5.4, 5.6 (TRAFFIC)

5.8 Organise three multi-stakeholder meetings (SATCM, CITES MA/SA, Customs, Ministry of Commerce) to review, revise and promote official approval of the category with additional species (TRAFFIC)

5.9 Facilitate two multi-stakeholder roundtables in Nepal & China to update import/export lists for wildlife products for legal entry of target species to China (TRAFFIC with Nepali Embassy in China/ANSAB)

5.10 Submit documents and case-studies to CITES and CBD calls for evidence and processes, including in

support of RST process, NDF development, CITES & Livelihoods WG (TRAFFIC/ANSAB).

5.11 Support the presentation of Nepal's interest in international CITES, CBD and regional meetings, facilitate side-events (TRAFFIC/MoFE/ANSAB)

Section 12 - Budget and Funding

Q27. Budget

Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application and ensure the Summary page is fully completed. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

- ☐ MASTER Darwin Extra Budget_Donor Final
- ☐ 18/09/2023
- ☐ 22:01:16
- ☐ xlsx 102.33 KB

Q28. Alignment with other funding and activities

We expect projects to clearly demonstrate that they are additional and complementary to other activities and funding in the same geographic/thematic area or region.

Are you aware of any other organisations/projects carrying out or planning activities, or applying for funding for similar work in this geography or sector?

☐ Yes

Please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional, avoiding duplicating and conflicting activities and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and share lessons learnt for mutual benefit.

The proposed work does not duplicate ongoing or planned efforts. It scales-up 28-026 (led by TRAFFIC, ending June 2024), which built on 25-018. The proposal also uses lessons learnt from TRAFFIC-led DARNV013 and IIED-led DARNV009 – utilising the wild harvesting improvement projects to enable certification, implementing IIED's multi-dimensional sustainability framework, and contributing to IUCN's Species Use Database.

Discussions with other Defra-funded projects in Nepal include DAREX008, in very different, lower altitude areas: potential similarities are limited, beyond efforts to develop and implement national-level conservation policies. In discussions with DARCC002 in Bhutan (implemented by RBGE and Department of Forest and Park Services) we agreed to share learnings and guidance on sustainable NTFP management in Bhutanese rangelands. We will also build on learnings from IWT083 on orchid trade in Nepal, through our shared partner (University of Oxford).

Discussions with ICIMOD, headquartered in Nepal, on their programme of adapting and transforming livelihoods and economies, which includes focus on medicinal and aromatic plants, identified no similar planned work. Collaboration at the regional level will be sought throughout the project.

The USAID Biodiversity programme in Nepal will implement conservation measures within biodiversity-rich, terrestrial, and freshwater ecosystems (2023-27). ANSAB is a partner on this project; no overlap of project activities is expected; however, where it will be beneficial to connect on stakeholder consultations (e.g. enterprise option study) then we will aim to collaborate (potentially including joint branding).

ANSAB is an implementing partner on GIZ's Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems (GRAPE) project in Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces, focused on agricultural (not wild) supply chains. There is a potential connection through private sector actors in Nepal and identifying channels for market access, which will be explored in 2024. ANSAB will also explore complementarity with the International Climate Initiative project they implement in Nawalparasi East (Gandaki Province) until Aug24.

Q29. Value for Money

Please demonstrate why your project is good value for money in terms of impact and cost-effectiveness of each pound spend (economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity). Why is it the best feasible project for the amount of money to be spent?

The project provides value for money by generating multiple positive changes efficiently: livelihood benefits to >10,000 low-income harvesters; sustainable use of threatened plants and fungi in fragile mountainous habitats; increased capacity and capabilities of stakeholders; stock assessment of high-value and threatened Himalayan wild plant and fungi at the landscape level (and about 1.5 million ha of sensitive and biodiverse forests and meadows); and systemic shifts in trade and policy enabling in-country and regional environment. Skills from the training can be applied across harvesters' activities. Cost-efficient processing equipment (upgrade rather than purchasing where possible) will maximise value-addition impacts.

The project builds on partners' project management and technical expertise in value-chains, trade and conservation, and business development. ANSAB has an excellent track record in project implementation in Nepal, with an established office in Kathmandu and pre-existing relationships with the government and communities, and efficient, equitable approaches to developing capacities of LRPs in districts (clusters of districts). The project uses training materials and documents already translated into Nepali for 28-026, while expanding the partnerships and practices, to start-up effectively.

Copenhagen and Oxford universities' research time will be complemented by researchers in Nepal – including through the University of Tribhuvan PhD student (joint programme with Copenhagen), as well as Greenhood Nepal. This both builds the efficiency and equity of the research processes, and increases Nepal's national capacity in the long term. FairWild Foundation will strengthen the capacity and technical knowledge of ANSAB and FECOFUN to roll-out the trainings and support to CFUGs and enterprises through the project and beyond. National collaborators, such as NEPPHA, and regional (CATCM in China, WWF-India's TRAFFIC programme) will assist with developing sustainable markets and value-addition. The strengthened capacity on reducing the threats of unsustainable trade/demand will come from TRAFFIC staff members, which will however be hosted in Nepal, ensuring cost-efficiency, and reducing travel. The project will support piloting the group/CFUG-level FairWild certification and roll out the application of the wild harvesting improvement projects, alongside the set-up of a community-support certification fund; however, funding for roll-out will be secured from private sector and investment community (with initial confirmation from businesses interested in purchasing sustainable Nepali products).

Every effort has been made to minimise running costs. The project has 4% matched funding and seeks additional resources to increase impact. In-kind supports draw on existing expertise and skills of engaged staff, and of collaborators. Travel costs will be kept to a minimum with conference calls.

TRAFFIC has policies and systems for financial efficiency. Competitive pricing is sought for all purchases, including multiple quotes prior to decisions on suppliers and travel. Travel is planned well in advance where possible, and kept to a minimum, using the cheapest economy airfare. TRAFFIC reimburses reasonable actual expenses when travelling and generally does not issue per diems apart from small daily allowances for incidentals in line with HMRC guidelines. TRAFFIC's Project Support Unit works alongside project managers to monitor project spend; transactions are reviewed on a monthly and quarterly basis.

Q30. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin Initiative funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.

Project's capital equipment budget is under 5% of the total request. The items included under this budget line are for the purchase of laptops for staff in Nepal (16), tablets for field data monitoring for field staff in the project areas (6), cameras (2), printers, multimedia projector.

For the forest inventory, the equipment include: vertex, GPS, compasses, tape and calliper; plus smart phones (~10,tbc) and RFID (radio frequency identification) tags for piloting the traceability technology.

The project will assist low-income harvesters through CFUGs to upgrade and purchase processing and warehousing equipment for NTFPs. For the movement of field staff in the project districts, we have planned 7 motorbikes. Also, there is a procurement plan for 12 sets of basic office furniture (10 sets for district offices, 1 set each for field project office in Surkhet and Kathmandu office).

Following the project end, capital items will support expansion of conservation work in other areas. Resource inventory equipment (25% depreciation pa) will be continuously used by ANSAB and FECOFUN for forest inventory work in future. Motorbikes (20% depreciation pa) will be handed over to ANSAB and in similar nature programs in Nepal. Computers and printers (25% depreciation pa) will remain in use by ANSAB, or passed to local FECOFUNs. Furniture (15% depreciation pa) at field level will be handed over to local FECOFUNs. Local CFUG enterprise upgrade equipment will be handed over to local enterprises/groups.

Section 13 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q31. Safeguarding

All projects funded under the Biodiversity Challenge Funds must ensure proactive action is taken to promote the welfare and protect all individuals involved in the project (staff, implementing partners, the public and beneficiaries) from harm. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have specific procedures and policies in place.

Please upload the following required policies:

- **Safeguarding Policy: including a statement of commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse.**
- **Whistleblowing Policy: which details a clear process for dealing with concerns raised and protects whistle blowers from reprisals.**
- **Code of Conduct: which sets out clear expectations of behaviours – inside and outside the workplace – for all involved in the project and makes clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards, including compliance with IASC 6 Principles.**

If any of these policies are integrated into a broader policy document or handbook, please upload just the relevant or equivalent sub-sections to the above policies, with (unofficial) English translations where needed.

Please outline how (a) beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff are made aware of your safeguarding commitment and how to confidentially raise a concern, (b) safeguarding issues are investigated, recorded and what disciplinary procedures are in place when allegations and complaints are upheld, (c) you will ensure project partners uphold these policies.

If your approach is currently limited or in the early stages of development, please clearly set out your plans address this.

This project will follow the Safeguarding approach outlined in TRAFFIC's safeguarding statement(Ref.30). TRAFFIC is committed to preventing and remedying any harm that may result from coming into contact with the organisation and their work.

TRAFFIC ensures that safeguarding expectations and processes are well understood by all staff, trustees, contractors, volunteers, consultants and partners. A due-diligence assessment addressing safeguarding policy and process is undertaken with all potential partners. TRAFFIC expects all partners to adhere to process and policy, raising any issues throughout project implementation via the online contact form or by contacting the Project Leader or Programme Director. Safeguarding standards are reflected in all subcontracts.

Training is provided via a dedicated session on safeguarding and risk assessment during project inception. Project staff and partners sign to confirm their understanding and compliance with the procedures in place. All team members are responsible for safeguarding. The Project Leader is responsible for adaptive management in relation to risk and social safeguards. Projects are also reviewed for risk concerns on a quarterly basis by the Senior Management Team with risk escalation as appropriate. Reflecting their legal responsibility, TRAFFIC maintains a serious incidents register for reporting to the appropriate authorities.

Q32. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the <u>key principles of good ethical practice</u>, as outlined in the guidance.

The project will meet key principles of good ethics:

-Meeting legal and ethical obligations of countries and organisations, including access and benefit sharing legislation pertaining to the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in Nepal.
-Through FECOFUN partnership, and CFUGs involvement, we ensure communities perspectives, interests and knowledge are incorporated.
-The participatory resource management is inclusive of traditional knowledge and practices, alongside international scientific methods. The implementation of good practices in harvesting and trade, builds on international standards, and traditional practices.
-We use Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) principles with communities, and respect rights, privacy, and safety of people impacted by project activities.
-The Project Leader will ensure that concerns from project participants are understood and addressed, that research approaches used are credible, and that information gathered is accurately recorded and carefully verified.
-We will protect the health and safety of staff and ensure that the same rigorous standards for assessing risks are applied to all individuals engaged in this project, regardless of gender, nationality or ethnicity. TRAFFIC has a comprehensive set of policies and procedures to encourage and support the highest standards of conduct and professional ethics from its staff; ensuring safety and being good stewards.

Section 14 - British Embassy or High Commission Engagement

Q33. British embassy or high commission engagement

It is important for UK Government representatives to understand if UK funding might be spent in the project country/ies. Please indicate if you have contacted the relevant British embassy or high commission to discuss the project and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

☐ Yes

Please attach evidence of request or advice if received.

- ☑ FCDO correspondence
- ☑ 18/09/2023
- ☑ 13:56:13
- ☑ pdf 277.89 KB

Section 15 - Project Staff

Q34. Project staff

Please identify the core staff (identified in the budget), their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Anastasiya Timoshyna	**Project Leader**	10	Checked
Cara Flowers	Project coordination, including M&E (TRAFFIC)	50	Checked
Himalayan NTFPs Trade Programme Manager	Project activities management; coordination regional trade, policy (TRAFFIC)	100	Checked
Puspa Lal Ghimire	Nepal project management (ANSAB)	33	Checked

Do you require more fields?

- ☑ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Nabin Raj Joshi	Field and sustainable forest management implementation (ANSAB)	100	Checked
Basudev Neupane	Financial and administrative management (ANSAB)	40	Checked
Birkha Bahadur Shahi	CFUG Social Mobilization Coordinator (FECOFUN)	60	Checked
Merwyn Fernandes	India trade and policy engagement (WWF India - TRAFFIC programme)	20	Checked
Zhang Ke	TCM sector coordination (TRAFFIC China)	29	Checked

Amy Hinsley	Himalayan species trade and demand sustainability model (University of Oxford)	10	Checked
Carsten Smith-Hall	Project knowledge consolidation; trade chain/consumer research coordination (University of Copenhagen)	15	Checked
Deborah Vorhies	FairWild Standard and market access (FairWild Foundation)	5	Checked

Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the project staff listed above as a combined PDF.

- ☐ Darwin Combined CVs
- ☐ 18/09/2023
- ☐ 16:41:36
- ☐ pdf 1.08 MB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

- ☐ Yes

Section 16 - Project Partners

Q35. Project Partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner who will administer the grant and coordinate delivery of the project), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far.

| Lead partner name: | TRAFFIC International |
| Website address: | www.traffic.org |

	Role: TRAFFIC leads on the overall project implementation: administration, management, M&E, partners coordination, and especially policy and trade barriers to sustainable and legal trade. TRAFFIC staff in Nepal, hosted by ANSAB, will have key roles. TRAFFIC's office in China will facilitate exchanges, linkages and promoting sustainability for Nepal-China trade through established TCM collaboration, e.g. CATCM and the China Standard Conformity Assessment.
Why is this organisation the Lead Partner, and what value to they bring to the project? **(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**	Capacity: TRAFFIC is a leading NGO, with over 180 staff, working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. TRAFFIC provides direct stakeholder engagement pathways in the key markets for NTFPs, including via TRAFFIC-China. TRAFFIC promotes best practice in the wild plants and fungi trade sector to support conservation and livelihoods. Staff have extensive experience in CITES and CBD implementation. TRAFFIC helped co-develop the FairWild Standard, and is a founding partner of the FairWild Foundation. Anastasiya Timoshyna (Project Leader) is a Co-Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission Medicinal Plant Specialist Group. As lead organisation, TRAFFIC has coordinated proposal development and established the partnerships to enable this work. TRAFFIC leads current project 28-026, which provides basis for scaling-up.
International/In-country Partner	☐ International
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	£▮▮▮▮▮▮▮
Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure)	☐ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from the Lead Partner?	☐ Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

☐ Yes

1. Partner Name:	ANSAB (Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources)
Website address:	www.ansab.org.np

	Role: ANSAB will lead on Nepal activities primarily outputs 1, 2 & 3, while contributing to 4 & 5: -Fieldwork, including stock assessment of high-value NTFPs, participatory resource inventories at district/CFUG levels. -Building capacity of FECOFUN, NEHHPA, government stakeholders, entrepreneurs, and LRPs. -Mobilising trained personnel (mainly LRPs) to build capacity of 20,000 harvesters/processors on sustainable harvesting and trade based on organic and FW standards. -National-to-local government liaison to facilitate legislation enabling export of CITES-listed species.
What value does this Partner bring to the project? **(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**	ANSAB will apply expertise in practical methods and tools for biodiversity monitoring, sustainable forest management, enterprise development, value-chain development and marketing. ANSAB will support the government and other stakeholders' compliance with CBD and CITES. Capacity: ANSAB is a civil society organisation committed to biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvement in South Asia. ANSAB has implemented programmes in >30 districts of Nepal, and provided policy inputs to governments and development partners in seven Asian countries. ANSAB introduced FSC certification in Nepal, supported enterprises in organic and wildlife-friendly certification, supported NTFPs collector groups and producer enterprises with management practices complying with FairWild standards, and led successful on-the ground implementation of 25-018/28-026. ANSAB and other partners have co-developed project ideas since 2013 focusing on sustainability of NTFP trade.
International/In-country Partner	☐ In-country
Allocated budget:	£▮▮▮▮▮▮▮
Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure)	☐ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	☐ Yes

2. Partner Name:	FECOFUN (Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal)
Website address:	http://fecofun.org.np/

	Role: FECOFUN will take part in train-the-trainer, and roll out trainings on sustainable forest management, community forest operational plan revision, gender & social inclusion, and governance at CFUG level.
What value does this Partner bring to the project? **(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**	FECOFUN will organise policy dialogues on mountain forests and NTFP-related issues from local to national levels. At CFUG-level they will integrate gender and social inclusion, organise meetings to update CFUG operational plans. They are responsible for development of the harvesters register, and will facilitate group to be a part of FW premium fund. Capacity: Established in 1995, FECOFUN is CFUGs' main representative organisation, with one central office, 7 for provinces, 77 district offices and 555 local levels. FECOFUN has grown into a social movement organisation with about 14 million forest users with 22,415 CFUGs covering 2.9 million households and protecting over 2.3 million hectares of forests. It is dedicated to promoting and protecting users' rights by: promoting cooperation and mutual good-will among CFUGs through sharing of experiences; coordination with external partners (government agencies and NGOs); promoting inclusiveness and good governance in CFUGs. FECOFUN has been a part of the 28-026 in an advisory capacity, developing policy review reports, supporting the policy discussions, and participated fully in the present proposal development.
International/In-country Partner	☐ In-country
Allocated budget:	£▬▬▬▬▬
Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure)	☐ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	☐ Yes

3. Partner Name:	Worldwide Fund for Nature India
Website address:	https://www.wwfindia.org/

	Role: The TRAFFIC India programme is legally part of WWF-India. Via the TRAFFIC programme, WWF India will especially support outputs 4 & 5:
What value does this Partner bring to the project? **(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**	Output 4: WWF India will undertake and contribute towards the publication of a set of trade analyses for a selection of NTFPs, including value-chain mapping, and consumer demand, focussing on the Indian consumer market. WWF India will also identify and engage with buying companies and sectoral industry associations in India, alongside those in Chinese, European and US markets. Output 5: WWF India will undertake a policy framework assessment to identify trade and management barriers and opportunities at national, regional and international levels. They will develop policy briefs based on the recommendations identified for action via the regional multi-stakeholder forum, and national government agencies. They will help establish this regional forum and support its operation. Capabilities and capacity: WWF-India, and in particular through its TRAFFIC programme, works on wildlife trade with government agencies, scientific institutions, and civil society organisations. These alliances strive to address the common goal of conserving biodiversity, sustainably using natural resources, and maintaining ecosystems and ecosystem services for the future of wildlife and people
International/In-country Partner	☐ International
Allocated budget:	£▇▇▇▇▇▇▇
Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure)	☐ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	☐ Yes

4. Partner Name:	Institute of Forestry, University of Tribhuvan (UT-IOF)
Website address:	https://www.iof.edu.np/

What value does this Partner bring to the project? **(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**	Role: hosting a PhD student, with teaching, supervision and practical support; technical expertise on community forestry and NTFPs. Capacity: UT-IOF was created in 1972 via a merger of the University of Tribhuvan with the Nepal Forestry Institute. It is dedicated to academic and practical training in forest research and management. The university been involved in proposal development.
International/In-country Partner	☐ In-country
Allocated budget:	£▮▮▮▮▮▮
Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure)	☐ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	☐ Yes

5. Partner Name:	University of Oxford (UOXF), and University of Copenhagen (UCPH), Department of Food and Resource Economics
Website address:	https://www.ox.ac.uk https://ifro.ku.dk/english/

	UOXF: expansion of research models of trader and demand-side drivers, publish results and integrate across outputs 4 and 5. Contribution to policy papers and lessons-learnt reviews.
	UCPH: research on sustainable harvesting and regeneration/cultivation practices (Output 3). Trade analysis between India and Nepal, including value-chain mapping, and demand in main consumer markets; publication of lessons-learned via policy paper and peer-reviewed journal (Output 4). Engaging a PhD student in Nepal will facilitate this.
What value does this Partner bring to the project? **(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**	Capacity: UOXF is a world-leader in social research into sustainability issues related to wildlife trade. Dr Hinsley's research includes evaluating changing markets, to identify policies to reduce risks and promote sustainable trade, e.g. the impacts of TCM demand on species. UCPH: research and development-oriented activities for medicinal plants from Nepal over the past 25 years includes investigating production/trade networks, publication of an annotated bibliography. The universities been involved in proposal development and in implementation of projects 25-018 and 28-026. Budgets: ███████████ ███████████
International/In-country Partner	☐ International
Allocated budget:	£███████
Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure)	☐ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	☐ Yes

6. Partner Name:	FairWild Foundation
Website address:	https://www.fairwild.org/

	Role: FairWild Foundation will support stakeholders to implement the FairWild certification system for sustainable and equitable trade in wild ingredients. Their communication platform and events will provide a channel for disseminating project lessons learned.
What value does this Partner bring to the project? **(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**	Output 1: Build capacity of stakeholders on FairWild Standard and certification system, including CSOs, local certification bodies, and Nepali enterprises. Training will cover new approaches developed through the current revision process for the FairWild Standard. Output 2: Support implementation of the FairWild Standard for harvesters and enterprises, including establishment of equitable trade mechanisms, document systems and processes, and piloting of group certification approaches. Output 4: Secure prospective buyers for certified ingredients from the enterprises in Nepal, through engaging industry in key markets. Capacity: FairWild Foundation is a Swiss-based non-profit organisation established in 2008 with the mission to enable transformation of resource management and business practices to be ecologically, socially and economically sustainable throughout the supply chain of wild-collected products. Through the FairWild Standard and third-party audited certification scheme, FairWild provides a worldwide framework for implementing a sustainable, fair and value-added management and trading system for wild-collected natural ingredients and products. FairWild Foundation has been involved in proposal development, and implementation of projects 25-018 and 28-026.
International/In-country Partner	☐ International
Allocated budget:	£■■■■■■■■
Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure)	☐ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	☐ Yes

If you require more space to enter details regarding Partners involved in the project, please use the text field below.

Department of Plant Resources (DPR) and the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) of Nepal will facilitate sustainable forest management and legal NFTP trade through local and federal-level institutions, and expertise where needed for monitoring/inventories. MoFE will facilitate legislative processes for sustainable trade. MoFE is responsible for formulating and enforcing policies for forest management and product supply, and includes Nepal's CITES and CBD focal points.

Industry associations: Nepal Herbs and Herbal Products Association (NEHHPA) http://www.nehhpa.org.np/ and China Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine (CATCM) www.catcm.org.cn/english/index.asp represent

Workplan: Scaling conservation of Himalayan plants and fungi through sustainable trade

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (24/25)				Year 2 (25/26)				Year 3 (26/27)				Year 4 (27/28)				Year 5 (28/29)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1	**Capacities and capabilities of stakeholders - in particular women and excluded groups - are improved to enable improved conservation, resource management and sustainable trade**																					
1.1	Organise inception and closing workshops at district and national levels, semi-annual review and planning meetings at national level (ANSAB/FECOFUN/TRAFFIC)	2																				
1.2	Assess capacity needs across all stakeholder groups (government agencies, harvesting communities, private sector, CSOs) and develop capacity building plan (ANSAB)	3																				
1.3	Training of trainers (ToT) for local resource persons (LRPs) (including FECOFUN and DFO officials) on species identification, sustainable harvesting, organic production, FairWild Standard and post-harvest processing and handling (ANSAB/FECOFUN/FairWild Foundation/)	6																				
1.4	Assist in forming CFUG sub-committee for harvesters' welfare and develop and execute harvesters' registration at CFUG level (FECOFUN/ANSAB)	6																				
1.5	Build capacity of LRPs including FECOFUN district chapters on GESI and governance, bookkeeping and accounting (FECOFUN/ANSAB)	6																				
1.6	Organize roll-out trainings to ~350 CFUGs on standards/sustainable forest management, and more focused trainings to 90 CFUGs to enable meeting certification requirements (FECOFUN/ANSAB)	18																				
1.7	Build capacity of CFUG executive committees in all target districts on organizational governance, book-keeping and accounting, gender and social inclusion (FECOFUN)	12																				
1.8	Build capacity of local certification body (CBs) to audit for sustainability* in Nepal, and of ANSAB to support implementation of wild harvesting improvement and FairWild Standard guidance (FairWild Foundation) (*FairWild, organic, other)	2																				
1.9	Build capacity of local CFUG-level enterprises on business skills and planning, FairWild certification and associated document-management (ANSAB/FECOFUN/FairWild Foundation)	6																				
1.10	Deliver new and top-up training to trading/exporting enterprises in Nepal on FairWild Standard, organic certification, market access (FairWild Foundation/NEHHPA/ANSAB)	3																				
1.11	Deliver training sessions for government staff on NTFP inventory methodology, CITES (NDFs, and other requirements), and other sustainable trade issues (ANSAB/TRAFFIC)	3																				
1.12	Document wild species use and trade case-study to the IUCN SULi Species Use Database (TRAFFIC/UoC/IOF/ANSAB)	2																				

	Activity	Duration
Output 2	**Harvesters benefit from improved livelihoods from long-term, sustainable, equitable trade in NTFPs**	
2.1	Baseline and endline survey of community harvesting practices and livelihood strategies, and overall socio-economic context (ANSAB).	3
2.2	Develop a sustainable livelihood management plan at district level considering all target CFUGs, including female harvesters and workers identifying sustainable NTFPs enterprise opportunities (e.g. improved drying, pressing, distillation). (ANSAB/FECOFUN)	4
2.3	Enable for a sustainable livelihood management plan being discussed and adopted by respective line agencies (incl. DFOs), municipalities, district FECOFUNs, CFUGs and other CSOs (FECOFUN/ANSAB)	2
2.4	Facilitate the roll-out of harvesters' registration system by local FECOFUNs, including the expansion of harvesters and their households included in CFUGs (FECOFUN/ANSAB).	10
2.5	Provide technology upgrade or installation to enable improved post-harvest handling and processing (storage, drying, pressing, distillation) of NTFPs (ANSAB/ FECOFUN)	6
2.6	Support the roll-out of the equitable trade mechanisms with reference to FairWild social guidance, including on premium fund (ANSAB/FECOFUN/FairWild Foundation)	6
2.7	Enable record keeping, documentation and accountability procedures at the level of producer enterprises towards certification, and along the wild harvesting improvement guidelines (ANSAB/FECOFUN/FairWild Foundation)	6
2.8	Establish group/CFUG-level enterprise certification pilot, and fund associated with assistance to certification costs (ANSAB/FairWild Foundation)	12
2.9	Organize learning visits for enterprises/CFUGs on efficient processing technologies (ANSAB)	3
Output 3	**Over 100.000 ha of high-altitude Himalayas are sustainably managed through participatory land and species management and monitoring approaches**	
3.1	Complete and publish the resource inventory toolkit standardising and building on participatory approaches (ANSAB/MoFE/DPR/DFOs)	3
3.2	Undertake stock (resource) assessment of key high-value and conservation importance plants and fungi (Jatamansi and associated species) in 10 districts aswell as at national level (ANSAB/DFO/FECOFUN)	12
3.3	Publish national-level resource inventory (ANSAB/DPR/MoFE)	2
3.4	Undertake research on sustainable harvesting practices, regeneration management approaches and domestication potential (ANSAB/MoFE/DPR)	12
3.5	Develop best practice guides for the management and harvesting of focal species (ANSAB/MoFE)	5
3.6	Organize dialogues on major issues and solutions for mountain forests at districts and national levels – focusing on CFUGs and NTFPs (FECOFUN/ANSAB)	3
3.7	Develop guideline document for community forest management in mountainous regions including sustainability standards)(ANSAB/MoFE/FECOFUN)	3

#	Activity	
3.8	Organize meetings/ AGM – as part of CFUG management plan revision (FECOFUN/ANSAB)	5
3.9	Support 60 CFUGs in forest management plan updating or development including application of district level stock assessment and updating provisions for sustainable harvesting and monitoring of NTFPs (ANSAB/FECOFUN)	10
3.10	Support CFUG for the implementation of management plan via mobilized LRPs (FECOFUN/ANSAB)	18
3.11	Develop an updated *Nardostachys grandiflora* NDF based on 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and publish (TRAFFIC/MoFE/DPR/ANSAB)	4
Output 4.	**Sustainable Himalayan wild NTFP value chains enabled from harvest to consumers based on traceable, certifiable production systems**	
4.1	Develop Influence Plan for project (TRAFFIC/all partners)	2
4.2	Undertake and publish trade analyses for major consumer markets for a selection of NTFPs, including value chain mapping and consumer demand (China, India, other) (TRAFFIC/WWF India/UoC/IOF/UoOx)	12
4.3	Identify underpinning sustainable and equitable trade barriers and opportunities, with the focus on implementation of voluntary certification standards (e.g. certification audit capacity), fair pricing, and market access, and confirm ways to address those (TRAFFIC/ANSAB)	3
4.4	Expand the framework for the Bayesian model with the focus on the trader and demand side, publish results and integrate across activities under Output 4,5 (UoOx/TRAFFIC/ANSAB)	3
4.5	Undertake critical control point value chain analysis for Jatamansi from one of the main producing districts (ANSAB/TRAFFIC)	3
4.6	Pilot the traceability system and technology in one district (TRAFFIC /ANSAB)	10
4.7	Based on the pilot, develop sustainable value-chain/national-level roll-out plan with relevant (government, private sector, community) stakeholders (TRAFFIC/ANSAB).	3
4.8	Develop and roll-out wholesale market price collection (in Nepal, China and India) and share with harvesters and other stakeholders in Nepal and Bhutan (ANSAB/TRAFFIC).	4
4.9	Identify and engage with buyers and relevant industry associations in China and India, alongside those in European/US markets selected due to interest and engagement in sector (TRAFFIC/WWF India/ANSAB/NEHHPA/FairWild Foundation).	6
4.10	Facilitate meetings between prospective buyers and producers in Nepal (at trade fairs, through webinars, 1-2-1 meetings) (ANSAB/FairWild Foundation/TRAFFIC/NEHHPA).	6
4.11	Develop communication materials, investment cases, knowledge products, and disseminate across relevant social media, peer-review publications, and other appropriate channels (TRAFFIC (GLO, China)/ANSAB/FairWild Foundation)	6
4.12	Establish and support appropriate match-making and marketing platform for producers, businesses and investors (e.g. linked to Wild Plants 4 Wildlife, www.wildcheck.info, wild harvesting improvement projects, partner websites and social media) (TRAFFIC (GLO and China)/ANSAB/FairWild Foundation)	6

Output 5	Nepal's, regional, and key importing countries' policies, trade agreements, and legal frameworks include provisions for sustainable, traceable trade in wild plant and fungi	
5.1	Undertake a policy framework assessment to identify trade and management barriers and opportunities at national, regional and international levels (TRAFFIC coordination/ TRAFFIC China/WWF India/ANSAB)	6
5.2	Revive and update the Coordination Committee across sectors in Nepal, focusing on reducing sustainable trade barriers – MoFE, MoALD and MoICS (ANSAB/NEHHPA/FECOFUN)	3
5.3	Establish a regional cross-agency Forum and support operationalisation (TRAFFIC/WWF India).	4
5.4	Develop policy briefs based on 5.1 for discussion/ action in the regional Forum (TRAFFIC/ANSAB/WWF India)	4
5.5.	Facilitate a regional multi-stakeholder Himalayan plant/fungi trade sustainability forum (Ayush Ministry India, MoFE, Ministry of Industries, Commerce and Supplies, MoALD, CATCM, NEPPHA, etc) (TRAFFIC)	4
5.6	Facilitate development of a Pest Risk Assessment for at least three priority species (ANSAB)	6
5.7	Participate in regular meetings of China-Nepal Border Trade and Cooperation & Coordination Mechanism, share findings of 5.1,5.4, 5.6 (TRAFFIC)	2
5.8	Organise three multi-stakeholder meetings (SATCM, CITES MA/SA, Customs, Ministry of Commerce) to review, revise and promote official approval of the category with additional species (TRAFFIC)	3
5.9	Facilitate two multi-stakeholder roundtables in Nepal & China to update import/export lists for wildlife products for legal entry of target species to China (TRAFFIC with Nepali Embassy in China/ANSAB)	3
5.1	Submit documents and case-studies to CITES and CBD calls for evidence and processes, including in support of RST process, NDF development, CITES & Livelihoods WG (TRAFFIC/ANSAB).	4
5.11	Support the presentation of Nepal's interest in international CITES, CBD and regional meetings, facilitate side-events (TRAFFIC/MoFE/ANSAB)	3

Nepalese herbal producers, manufacturers and traders, and China's TCM sector, respectively. They will contribute to trade assessments, attend/promote national/regional meetings and producer-buyer matchmaking, disseminate findings (such as species information), and build member capacity for sustainability.

China Standard Conformity Assessment Co.Ltd. (CSCA) is the sole company able to award many certifications in China, including FairWild, EU and US Organic, Rainforest Alliance and UEBT. Having worked with TRAFFIC and FairWild for 10 years, they will support value-chain mapping, buyer engagement, certification, and promotion of FairWild products.
Terra Himalaya Pvt.Ltd is a private company established in Bhutan, with investment German company Primavera Life GmbH. It will support value chains for NTFPs, supporting market access and disseminating learning.

Please provide a <u>combined PDF</u> of all letters of support.

- ☐ <u>Darwin Combined LOS</u>
- ☐ 18/09/2023
- ☐ 14:55:26
- ☐ pdf 1.66 MB

Section 17 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q36. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded Biodiversity Challenge Funds (Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund) funding before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

☐ Yes

If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
IWT085	Sarah Ferguson	Social marketing to reduce demand for tiger products in Vietnam
DARINV013	Cara Flowers	Trialling Wild Harvest Improvement Projects for sustainable wild plant trade
28-026	Anastasiya Timoshyna	Himalayan plants for people: sustainable trade for biodiversity and development
IWTEV016	David Newton	Enhancing knowledge to tackle illegal trade of Madagascar's medicinal plants
IWT108	Ling Xu	Demand reduction and behaviour change along China's parrot supply chains
IWTEV009	Simone Louw	Gathering evidence to address illegal trade in African fish maw

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?

☐ Yes

Section 18 - Certification

Q37. Certification

If this section is incomplete the entire application will be rejected.

Please note if you do not upload the relevant materials below your application may be made ineligible.

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

TRAFFIC International

I apply for a grant of

£4,903,805.00

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.

(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

- **I have enclosed CVs for key project personnel, cover letter, letters of support, a budget, risk register (inclusive of delivery chain risk map), logframe, theory of change Safeguarding and associated policies, and project workplan (uploaded at appropriate points in the application).**
- **Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (covering three years) are also enclosed.**

Checked

Name	RICHARD SCOBEY
Position in the organisation	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Signature (please upload e-signature)	☐ TRAFFIC Nepal Certification - signed ☐ 18/09/2023 ☐ 17:30:09 ☐ pdf 127.92 KB
Date	18 September 2023

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

	FY21 Statutory Acts			TRAFFIC Accounts FY22-compressed
	18/09/2023			18/09/2023
	14:05:08			14:03:15
	pdf 3.23 MB			pdf 994.14 KB

Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct as a PDF

	Code of Conduct and Professional Es			Safeguarding Policy
	18/09/2023			18/09/2023
	14:10:47			14:07:09
	pdf 346.38 KB			pdf 528.74 KB

	whistleblowing_policy
	18/09/2023
	14:07:02
	pdf 564.24 KB

Section 19 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, **including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Standard Indicator Guidance", "Risk Guidance", and "Finance Guidance".**	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions **for this fund.**	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have attached the below documents to my application: • **a cover letter from the Lead Partner.**	Checked
• **my risk register, including delivery chain risk map, as an Excel file using the template provided**	Checked
• **my completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided and using "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance" and "Standard Indicator Guidance".**	Checked
• **my 1 page Theory of Change as a PDF which includes the key elements listed in the guidance**	Checked
• **my budget (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.**	Checked
• **a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts (covering three years) for the Lead Partner, or provided an explanation if not.**	Checked

• **my completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided.**	Checked
• **a copy of the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 31).**	Checked
• **1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 34, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.**	Checked
• **a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 35, or an explanation of why not, as a single PDF.**	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO in the project country(ies) and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
My additional supporting evidence is in line with the requested evidence, amounts to a maximum of 5 sides of A4, and is combined as a single PDF.	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Initiative website **immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.**	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Darwin Initiative and our sister grant scheme, the IWT Challenge Fund. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our quarterly project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the Forms and Guidance Portal.

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).

Project Title: **Scaling conservation of Himalayan plants and fungi through sustainable trade**

Logframe

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: **Sustainable management of Himalayan wild plants and fungi, with value chains that incentivise equitable trade, increase value-addition, reduce poverty, and conserve species and ecologically-fragile landscapes**			
Outcome: Floral and fungal diversity in 10 mountainous Himalayan districts is conserved through sustainable, traceable and equitable trade, based on empowered and resilient communities, strengthened policies and responsible value chains	0.1 15,000 harvesters and 280 CFUGs, 10 district and national FECOFUNs, 10 DFOs, 10 producer enterprises representing community, public and private sector organizations report the application of new capabilities in forest resource management, sustainable and equitable trade by 2029 (ongoing project reaching >5,000 harvesters with capacity-building) **[DI-A04]** **0.2** 10,000 harvesters (at least 30% women) improve their income (at least by 5%) and food security through sustainable trade in wild plant and fungi ingredients by 2029 (baselines: NTFPs contribute between 40-60% of annual income in districts surveyed by ongoing project) **[DI-D02]** 0.3 Over 110,000 ha of high-altitude Himalayas are sustainably managed through participatory land and species management and monitoring approaches; and national-level stock assessment (of ~1.5 million ha of forests and meadows) informs landscape-level conservation, by 2029 (baseline: no national-level stock assessment; ongoing	0.1 Project reports; disaggregated by gender for people; and types of stakeholder groups for organisations 0.2 Baseline report and final project evaluation report; project reports; disaggregated by gender and types of areas of improvement 0.3 District Forest Offices (DFOs) and CFUG reports; area disaggregated by areas under community forestry and outside 0.4 CITES annual reports; Department of Plant Resources reports; FairWild Foundation reports; disaggregated by standard used, product type and species 0.5 Government and media communications; policy/legislation pieces; disaggregated by type of policy mechanism.	Trade in wild-harvested plant and fungi ingredients continues, and demand further increases, fuelled by diversifying industry applications of ingredients and interest in natural products. The areas of North-Eastern Nepal continue to experience depopulation, related to the rural-urban outmigration, however Western Nepal remains a critical place for conservation interventions. Bilateral (India-Nepal; China-Nepal) and regional commitment (e.g. SAWEN) to sustainable wildlife trade practices translates into the trade in wild plants and fungi. Continued growth in consumer demand and policy pressure to demonstrate sustainability and transparency upstream of supply chains.

	project will cover ~33,000ha under sustainable management) **[DI-D01]** 0.4 Increased volume (tonnes) of internationally traded sustainable Himalayan wild NTFP products (flora and fungi) complying with CITES requirements, and/or provisions of FairWild Standard (baselines: one company FairWild certified, products volume TBC; ~360t of Jatamansi legally traded from Nepal in 2021) **[DI-B08]** 0.5 At least three relevant policies and legal frameworks of countries along the value chains (i.e. from Nepal to importers) amended to reflect on the importance of sustainable, traceable, equitable trade, by 2029 (policy review will establish baselines; framework agreements in place – not NTFP-specific) **[DI-D03]**		
Outputs: **1. C**apacities and capabilities of stakeholders - in particular women and excluded groups - are improved to enable improved conservation, resource management and sustainable trade	1.1 At least 200 community member local resource persons (LRP) trained on sustainable resource management, good business practices, governance, gender and social inclusion (by September 2025), and 50% of them deliver further training by March 2027 (baseline: 65 trained in resource inventory in ongoing project) **[DI-A05**] 1.2 At least 20,000 harvesters, and 100 people from business, CSO and government stakeholders trained in sustainable harvesting, improved handling and processing practices for value-addition by March 2027 (baseline:	1.1. Project reports; training reports; disaggregated by gender and stakeholder group representation 1.2. Project reports; training reports; disaggregated by gender, stakeholder group, and type of training delivered 1.3. Training evaluation reports; disaggregated by government organisation type (environment, CITES, forestry, commerce, quarantine) 1.4. Sustainable Use Database records available online.	Training of trainer models – with the focus on establishing the local resource persons (LPRs) from the districts/CFUGs - are effective at transmitting and retaining learning to remote communities. Government commitment to participation and readiness for capacity-development cultivated in the current project paves the way for effective representation of Nepal in international/regional negotiations, and informed support for sustainable and legal trade in wild species. This also builds on the existing government knowledge, associated

	3,268 trained in ongoing project; up to 5,000 by June 2024) [**DI-A01**] 1.3 At least 12 government institutions in Nepal have enhanced awareness and understanding of CITES requirements, sustainable trade in wild species and associated poverty and biodiversity conservation issues (baselines: engagement with DPR (MoFE) on CITES NDF issues) [**DI-A07**] 1.4 At least 50 records added to Species Use Database managed by IUCN SULi [**DI-C16**]		with the successful policy changes that previous and ongoing Darwin project secured.
2. Over 10,000 harvesters benefit from improved livelihoods from long-term, sustainable, equitable trade in NTFPs	2.1 10 district-level sustainable livelihood management plan(s), based on socio-economic baseline assessment and identified opportunities, for target harvesting communities developed, by September 2025 (baseline: zero livelihood management plans) [**DI-B04**] 2.2 Harvester's registration system rolled-out for 12,000 individuals providing a basis for recognised tenure (access and use), transparent trade and cost-calculation, to include harvesters' details, harvesting/sale quantities and locations, prices, trainings/ capacity-building, disaggregated by gender, by September 2027 (baseline: 3,212 harvesters are registered in ongoing project) [**DI-B06**] 2.3 3,600 people in CFUGs that participate in wild harvesting improvement projects on the pathway to the voluntary certification, by March 2028 (baseline: zero; however three CFUGs are involved in FairWild certified value chain) [**DI-B07**] 2.4 70% of 20 sustainable livelihood enterprises established at local level	2.1 Socio-economic baseline evaluation report; sustainable livelihoods management (plan); disaggregated by languages 2.2 Harvester's registers at CFUG levels; project reports; DFO reports; disaggregated by gender of harvesters; area under community forestry and tenure type (access/use) 2.3 Project technical reports; disaggregated by gender. 2.4 Project technical reports 2.5 Baseline and final socio-economic assessment reports; disaggregated by metric of livelihoods change	A sustainable livelihood management plan, forming a basis for co-created interventions will be further revised based on the results of Output 3 results, and towards the end of the project, to reflect the long-term monitoring of species and harvesting practices. While income and food security improvement have been identified as important livelihoods betterment needs, the project will be keeping track against the multi-dimensional poverty reduction framework of changes from the project. The metrics will be adjusted to the project context of wild harvesting and trade circumstances, for example we will track whether income from wild harvest meets living wage equivalency.

Project Title: **Scaling conservation of Himalayan plants and fungi through sustainable trade**

	during the project are functioning at project end (at least a year after establishment) (baselines: no known enterprises at CFUG/cluster level) **[DI-A10]** 2.5 7,500 households (in an average 2 people per HH) report improved income and food security associated with sustainable NTFPs harvest, processing and trade, against the baselines, by March 2029 (baseline: to be established for target districts in Y1) **[DI-D16]**		
3. Over 110,000 ha of high-altitude Himalayas are sustainably managed through participatory land and species management and monitoring approaches	3.1 Resource inventory toolkit for high altitude species based on participatory methods developed by 2025; applied for the project stock assessment, endorsed by the government and published in Nepali and English by September 2028 (baseline: no officially endorsed agreed toolkit) **[DI-C01]** 3.2 Participatory resource inventories results from 10 districts (est. 110,000 ha), and at the national-level (estimated 1.5 million ha), focusing on Jatamansi and associated flora and fungi species) are published and data collection plans linked to participatory monitoring approaches are confirmed by relevant government agencies and communities, by December 2026 (baseline: no national stock assessment; district-level inconsistent and approximated estimates) **[DI-C02]** 3.3 Results of research into the improved productivity of Jatamansi and other species related to various harvesting cycles, regenerative approaches, published by March 2026 (baseline:	3.1 Resource inventory toolkit; published in Nepali and English 3.2 Resource inventories reports at district and national levels; national RDL of Jatamansi. 3.3 Project research reports 3.4 Updated or developed operational management plans; 3.5 Project final report; disaggregated by gender and type of activity (e.g. over-harvesting; premature harvesting)	There is an effective collaboration between relevant government agencies/departments agreeing on resource inventory methodology, and appropriate use of resulting data to inform policy interventions The long-term sustainability of plant and fungi resources in target areas depends on participatory resource management, fully engaging CFUGs. We assume that impacts will be maximized by focusing on the 10 target districts (named in Q19) as these are most commercially important for sourcing and trade in Jatamansi and other species. This focus, alongside the national-level stock assessment for Jatamansi and associated species (covering 28 known mountainous districts, where the populations of Jatamansi have been recorded), will ensure long-term conservation at the landscape level.

	limited, speculative information on some species) **[DI-C01]** 3.4 Operational management plans of 60 CFUGs are updated or developed to include the sustainable management, regenerative practices, community monitories, and approved by DFOs, by September 2027 (select CFUGs don't' have management plans, or not updated to include NTFPs management) **[DI-B03]** 3.5 90 CFUGs and harvesting households report a decline in unsustainable practices as a result of project activities [**DI-B09]**, by September 2028 (baseline to be established by the project).		Over-exploitation will be avoided through community forestry participatory resource management, based on a proven system of CFUG operational plans approved by DFOs. This will be strengthened with additional capacities/capabilities, data from stock assessment and appropriate harvesting techniques, and third-party audits (for certified operations).
4. Sustainable Himalayan wild NTFP value chains enabled from harvest to consumers based on traceable, certifiable production systems	4.1 Project influence plan co-developed and endorsed by all stakeholders by March 2025 **[DI-C01]** 4.2 Himalayan NTFP trade analysis and value chains mapping source to consumers in main markets (India, China, Europe, US) published, informing design for interventions, by September 2025 (baseline: patchy information on supply chains and in particular demand drivers) [**DI-C01]** 4.3 Research underpinning sustainable trade barriers (e.g. Pest Risk Assessment, voluntary certification capacity) is complete to enable trade with China, India, UK, EU, US and other consumer countries (baseline: Pest Risk Assessment of 5 highly traded medicinal and aromatic plants) **[DI-C01]** 4.4 Pilot traceability system is implemented for one value chain, providing data (from harvest, through processing and transport) on origins, legality,	4.1 Project Influence Plan; disaggregated by type of stakeholders and influence 4.2 Project report 4.3 Project research reports 4.4 Project technical reports 4.5 Project technical reports; meeting minutes; disaggregated by nationality and type of companies, gender 4.6 Project case-studies on different communication/media platforms 4.7 Project technical reports; business reports; FairWild reports.	The project Influence Plan will elaborate the evidence to impact pathway around value-chain activities, as well as policy influence (Output 5) Quarantine regulations in China are at present restricting legal and sustainable trade from Nepal, DeFacto making much of current informal trade illicit and creating trade barrier for sustainable, legal practices. Research is necessary to underpin the change in regulations. The new traceability system, record keeping and use of technology will improve verified traceability and transparency of trade, in turn supporting sustainability, governance, and legality.

	sustainability along the critical points, by June 2027 **[DI-C07]**, and roll-out and sustainability plan developed with stakeholders by March 2028 (baseline: FairWild certification, organic – basic traceability is implemented for one supply chain) **[DI-C01]** 4.5 At least 50 companies from markets in China, India, Europe and US attend project events focussing on matchmaking with CFUGs and fostering the development of trading agreements including price premiums, by September 2027 (baseline: active interest from about 20 companies) **[DI-C14, not double-counting with Output 5.3]** 4.6 Benefits and opportunities of legal, sustainable, equitable, and traceable trade in Himalayan plant and fungi ingredients documented and presented at trade fairs, 1-on-1 meetings, online and social media platforms (Wild Plants for Wildlife, www.wildcheck.info, relevant national platforms in China, India, Europe/US), by September 2027 **[DI-C10]** 4.7 At least 70% of trading agreements between producer enterprises and buyers at markets in China, India, Europe and US are functioning by the project end (at least a year after establishment) (baseline: one equitable trade agreement between HBTL and CFUGs; up to five to international companies) **[DI-A10]**		
5. Policies, trade agreements, and legal frameworks along the trade chains from Nepal to consumer countries include	5.1 Policy and regulatory frameworks (at national, regional, international levels) affecting trade in plant and fungi reviewed and gaps identified, by June	5.1 Policy review reports 5.2 Policy briefs directed at policy/regulatory improvements; disaggregated	Intra and inter-governmental communication on wild harvested products is limited and trade barriers need to be tackled. Discussions with

provisions for sustainable, traceable trade in wild plant and fungi ingredients, in line with CBD and CITES commitments	2025 (baseline: national policies in Nepal reviewed by current project; regional/international barriers not understood clearly) **[DI-C19]** 5.2 At least three policy briefs developed for prioritized frameworks and institutions at national, regional and global levels, building on project evidence, by March 2026 (baseline: zero) **[DI-C07]** 5.3 At least 30 government officials from at least five countries from 15 ministries/departments, 50 companies from China, India, Europe/US, 100 community resource managers are engaged (including through regional multi-stakeholder Forums) to build regional and cross-government and multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms for sustainability data collection and sharing, by September 2026 (baseline: national Coordination committee in Nepal currently not operational; zero otherwise) [**DI-C14]** 5.4 At least 5 sets of insights and case studies contributing to CITES and CBD reporting processes and calls for evidence (such as NDF development (including linked to voluntary certification standards), RST process, CITES & Livelihoods, Sustainable Wildlife Management, GBF progress) setting policy influence pathways beyond the project end (baseline: CITES & livelihoods case-study; NDF & voluntary certification case-study) [**DI-C05]**	by local/national/international levels 5.3 Regional Forum reports; disaggregated by gender and stakeholder group representation of participants 5.4 Project technical reports; information documents to CITES and CBD meetings.	government agencies suggest that coordination mechanisms can assist with this.

Activities

Output 1. Capacities and capabilities of stakeholders - in particular women and excluded groups - are improved to enable improved conservation, resource management and sustainable trade

Project Title: **Scaling conservation of Himalayan plants and fungi through sustainable trade**

1.1 Organise inception and closing workshops at district and national levels, semi-annual review and planning meetings at national level (ANSAB/FECOFUN/TRAFFIC)

1.2 Assess capacity needs across all stakeholder groups (government agencies, harvesting communities, private sector, CSOs) and develop capacity building plan (ANSAB)

1.3 Training of trainers (ToT) for local resource persons (LRPs) (including FECOFUN and DFO officials) on species identification, sustainable harvesting, organic production, FairWild Standard and post-harvest processing and handling (ANSAB/FECOFUN/FairWild Foundation/)

1.4 Assist in forming CFUG sub-committee for harvesters' welfare and develop and execute harvesters' registration at CFUG level (FECOFUN/ANSAB)

1.5 Build capacity of LRPs including FECOFUN district chapters on GESI and governance, bookkeeping and accounting (FECOFUN/ANSAB)

1.6 Organize roll-out trainings to ~350 CFUGs on standards/sustainable forest management, and more focused trainings to 90 CFUGs to enable meeting certification requirements (FECOFUN/ANSAB)

1.7 Build capacity of CFUG executive committees in all target districts on organizational governance, book-keeping and accounting, gender and social inclusion (FECOFUN)

1.8 Build capacity of local certification body (CBs) to audit for sustainability* in Nepal, and of ANSAB to support implementation of wild harvesting improvement and FairWild Standard guidance (FairWild Foundation) (*FairWild, organic, other)

1.9 Build capacity of local CFUG-level enterprises on business skills and planning, FairWild certification and associated document-management (ANSAB/FECOFUN/FairWild Foundation)

1.10 Deliver new and top-up training to trading/exporting enterprises in Nepal on FairWild Standard, organic certification, market access (FairWild Foundation/NEHHPA/ANSAB)

1.11 Deliver training sessions for government staff on NTFP inventory methodology, CITES (NDFs, and other requirements), and other sustainable trade issues (ANSAB/TRAFFIC)

1.12 Document wild species use and trade case-study to the IUCN SULi Species Use Database (TRAFFIC/UoC/IOF/ANSAB)

Output 2. harvesters benefit from improved livelihoods from long-term, sustainable, equitable trade in NTFPs

2.1 Baseline and endline survey of community harvesting practices and livelihood strategies, and overall socio-economic context (ANSAB/FECOFUN).

2.2 Develop a sustainable livelihood management plan at district level considering all target CFUGs, including female harvesters and workers identifying sustainable NTFPs enterprise opportunities (e.g. improved drying, pressing, distillation, storage). (ANSAB/FECOFUN)

2.3 Enable for a sustainable livelihood management plan being discussed and adopted by respective line agencies (incl. DFOs), municipalities, district FECOFUNs, CFUGs and other CSOs (FECOFUN/ANSAB)

2.4 Facilitate the roll-out of harvesters' registration system by local FECOFUNs, including the expansion of harvesters and their households included in CFUGs (FECOFUN/ANSAB).

2.5 Provide technology upgrade or installation to enable improved post-harvest handling and processing (storage, drying, pressing, distillation) of NTFPs (ANSAB/ FECOFUN)

2.6 Support the roll-out of the equitable trade mechanisms with reference to FairWild social guidance, including on premium fund (ANSAB/FECOFUN/FairWild Foundation)

2.7 Enable record keeping, documentation and accountability procedures at the level of producer enterprises towards certification, and along the wild harvesting improvement guidelines (ANSAB/FECOFUN/FairWild Foundation)

2.8 Establish group/CFUG-level enterprise certification pilot, and fund associated with assistance to certification costs (ANSAB/FairWild Foundation)

2.9 Organize learning visits for enterprises/CFUGs on efficient processing technologies (ANSAB)

Project Title: **Scaling conservation of Himalayan plants and fungi through sustainable trade**

Output 3. Over 100.000 ha of high-altitude Himalayas are sustainably managed through participatory land and species management and monitoring approaches

3.1 Complete and publish the resource inventory toolkit standardising and building on participatory approaches (ANSAB/MoFE-DPR/DFOs)

3.2 Undertake stock (resource) assessment of key high-value and conservation importance plants and fungi (Jatamansi and associated species) in 10 districts aswell as at national level (ANSAB/DFO/FECOFUN)

3.3 Publish national-level resource inventory (ANSAB/DPR/MoFE)

3.4 Undertake research on sustainable harvesting practices, regeneration management approaches and domestication potential (ANSAB/MoFE/DPR)

3.5 Develop best practice guides for the management and harvesting of focal species (ANSAB/MoFE)

3.6 Organize dialogues on major issues and solutions for mountain forests at districts and national levels – focusing on CFUGs and NTFPs (FECOFUN/ANSAB)

3.7 Develop guideline document for community forest management in mountainous regions including sustainability standards)(ANSAB/MoFE/FECOFUN)

3.8 Organize meetings/ AGM – as part of CFUG management plan revision (FECOFUN/ANSAB)

3.9 Support 60 CFUGs in forest management plan updating or development including application of district level stock assessment and updating provisions for sustainable harvesting and monitoring of NTFPs (ANSAB/FECOFUN)

3.10 Support CFUG for the implementation of management plan via mobilized LRPs (FECOFUN/ANSAB)

3.11 Develop an updated *Nardostachys grandiflora* NDF based on 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and publish (TRAFFIC/MoFE/DPR/ANSAB)

Output 4. Sustainable Himalayan wild NTFP value chains enabled from harvest to consumers based on traceable, certifiable production systems

4.1 Develop Influence Plan for project (TRAFFIC/all partners)

4.2 Undertake and publish trade analyses for major consumer markets for a selection of NTFPs, including value chain mapping and consumer demand (China, India, other) (TRAFFIC/WWF India/UoC/IOF/UoOx)

4.3 Identify underpinning sustainable and equitable trade barriers and opportunities, with the focus on implementation of voluntary certification standards (e.g. certification audit capacity), fair pricing, and market access, and confirm ways to address those (TRAFFIC/ANSAB)

4.4 Expand the framework for the Bayesian model with the focus on the trader and demand side, publish results and integrate across activities under Output (UoOx/TRAFFIC/ANSAB)

4.5 Undertake critical control point value chain analysis for Jatamansi from one of the main producing districts (ANSAB/TRAFFIC)

4.6 Pilot the traceability system and technology in one district (TRAFFIC /ANSAB)

4.7 Based on the pilot, develop sustainable value-chain/national-level roll-out plan with relevant (government, private sector, community) stakeholders (TRAFFIC/ANSAB).

4.8 Develop and roll-out wholesale market price collection (in Nepal, China and India) and share with harvesters and other stakeholders in Nepal and Bhutan (ANSAB/TRAFFIC).

4.9 Identify and engage with buyers and relevant industry associations in China and India, alongside those in European/US markets selected due to interest and engagement in sector (TRAFFIC/WWF India/ANSAB/NEHHPA/FairWild Foundation).

4.10 Facilitate meetings between prospective buyers and producers in Nepal (at trade fairs, through webinars, 1-2-1 meetings) (ANSAB/FairWild Foundation/TRAFFIC/NEHHPA).

4.11 Develop communication materials, investment cases, knowledge products, and disseminate across relevant social media, peer-review publications, and other appropriate channels (TRAFFIC (GLO, China)/ANSAB/FairWild Foundation)

4.12 Establish and support appropriate match-making and marketing platform for producers, businesses and investors (e.g. linked to Wild Plants 4 Wildlife, www.wildcheck.info, wild harvesting improvement projects, partner websites and social media) (TRAFFIC (GLO and China)/ANSAB/FairWild Foundation)

Output 5. Nepal's, regional, and key importing countries' policies, trade agreements, and legal frameworks include provisions for sustainable, traceable trade in wild plant and fungi ingredients, in line with CBD and CITES commitments

5.1 Undertake a policy framework assessment to identify trade and management barriers and opportunities at national, regional and international levels (TRAFFIC coordination/ TRAFFIC China/WWF India/ANSAB)

5.2 Revive and update the Coordination Committee across sectors in Nepal, focusing on reducing sustainable trade barriers – MoFE, MoALD and MoICS (ANSAB/NEHHPA/FECOFUN)

5.3 Establish a regional cross-agency Forum and support operationalisation (TRAFFIC/WWF India).

5.4 Develop policy briefs based on 5.1 for discussion/ action in the regional Forum (TRAFFIC/ANSAB/WWF India)

5.5 Facilitate a regional multi-stakeholder Himalayan plant/fungi trade sustainability forum (Ayush Ministry India, MoFE, Ministry of Industries, Commerce and Supplies, MoALD, CATCM, NEPPHA, etc) (TRAFFIC)

5.6 Facilitate development of a Pest Risk Assessment for at least three priority species (ANSAB)

5.7 Participate in regular meetings of China-Nepal Border Trade and Cooperation & Coordination Mechanism, share findings of 5.1,5.4, 5.6 (TRAFFIC)

5.8 Organise three multi-stakeholder meetings (SATCM, CITES MA/SA, Customs, Ministry of Commerce) to review, revise and promote official approval of the category with additional species (TRAFFIC)

5.9 Facilitate two multi-stakeholder roundtables in Nepal & China to update import/export lists for wildlife products for legal entry of target species to China (TRAFFIC with Nepali Embassy in China/ANSAB)

5.10 Submit documents and case-studies to CITES and CBD calls for evidence and processes, including in support of RST process, NDF development, CITES & Livelihoods WG (TRAFFIC/ANSAB).

5.11 Support the presentation of Nepal's interest in international CITES, CBD and regional meetings, facilitate side-events (TRAFFIC/MoFE/ANSAB)