



Darwin Initiative Innovation: Final Report

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

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

Submission Deadline: no later than 3 months after agreed end date.

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line.

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	DARNV009
Project title	Developing and testing a sustainability assessment framework for wildlife use
Country(ies)	Tanzania, South Africa, Indonesia
Lead Organisation	IIED
Project partner(s)	TRAFFIC, EPIC Biodiversity, Endangered Wildlife Trust
Darwin Initiative grant value	£78,268
Start/end dates of project	01 June 2022 – 31 March 2024
Project Leader’s name	DILYS [REDACTED]
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.iied.org/assessing-sustainability-wild-species-use
Report author(s) and date	Dilys [REDACTED] 26 June 2024

1 Project Summary

Sustainable use of wild species is one of three pillars of the CBD as well as being supported by other biodiversity conventions including CITES, CMS and RAMSAR and highlighted as a key element of SDG 15. SU is an essential part of sustainable development in the Global South. In South Africa, for example, SU underpins the country’s national “Biodiversity Economy” strategy and is seen as a vehicle both for national economic development and social upliftment. In the wake of Covid-19, however, concerns have been raised regarding the lack of regulatory frameworks governing SU. For example, there are few globally recognised standards overseeing the links that exist between wild animal resources, zoonotic disease risks and animal welfare. As a result, the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework now includes targets to ensure the use of biodiversity is not only sustainable and legal, but also safe.

In reality, however, there is no straightforward way to determine if this is the case. Sustainability science is complex and technically challenging to assess. Safety in the form of zoonotic disease risk is equally difficult to assess. Nevertheless, an approach is needed that cuts through the complexity, is accessible to conservation practitioners and policy makers and increases confidence that alignment with the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework is being achieved.

A useful starting point is the existing single or multi-discipline frameworks that are already deployed to assess sustainability from different dimensions. Examples include the CITES Non-Detriment Findings process (which is largely based on ecological criteria); the BioTrade Principles and Criteria (ecological, economic and social criteria); the IUCN Wildlife Health

Specialist Group guidelines on wildlife disease risk analysis; and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) guidance on animal welfare standards.

The purpose of this small innovation project was to identify potentially useful existing frameworks and pull the relevant components into one comprehensive multi-dimensional framework that provides policy makers and practitioners with a single source of guidance to assess if use is "sustainable, legal and safe" in line with the requirements of the Global Biodiversity Framework. Our new framework, guided by experts, was intended to include social, environmental, economic, human health and animal welfare dimensions. The prototype framework was tested on case studies currently being collected by the IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group, as well as by practical situations that partners are currently dealing with including game ranching and reptile skin production.

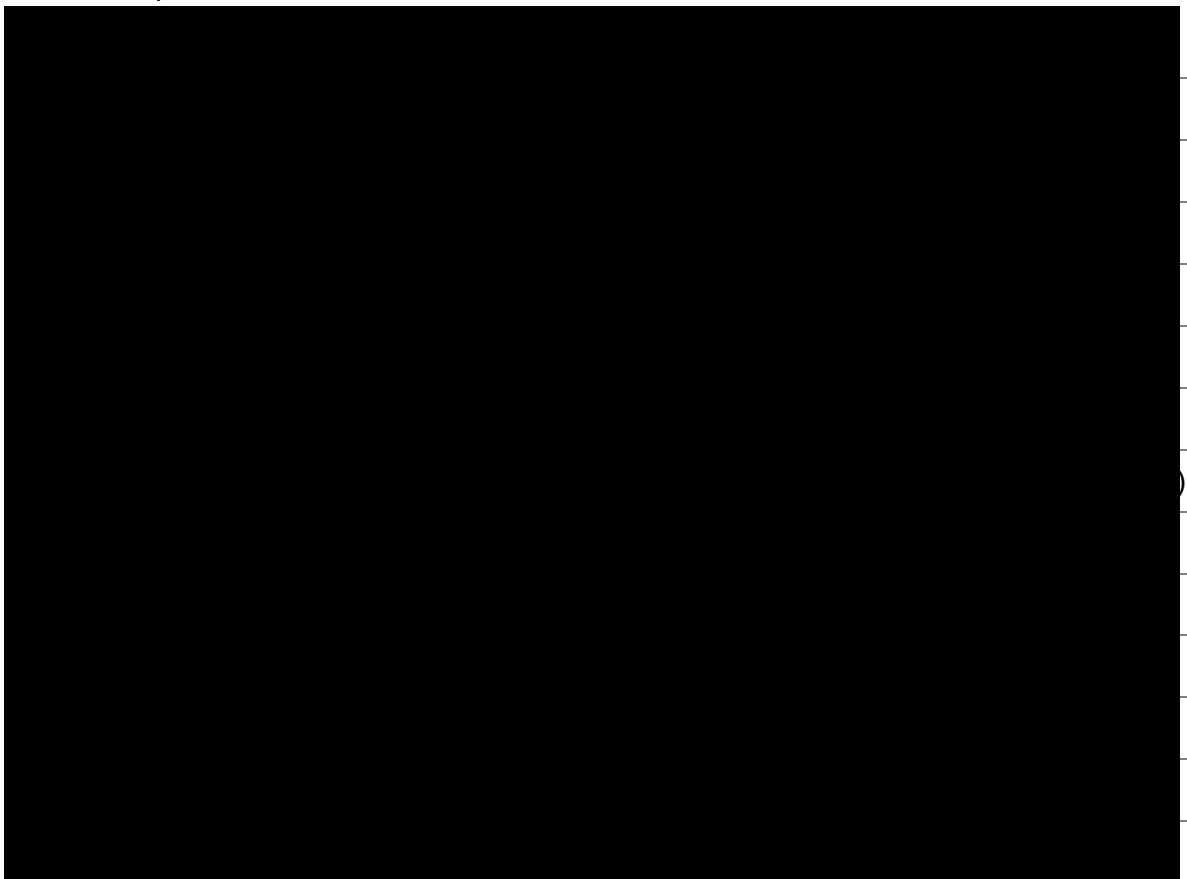
2 Project Partnerships

The partners in the project were:

- IIED
- TRAFFIC
- Endangered Wildlife Trust
- EPIC Biodiversity

IIED led the process to identify relevant frameworks, standards and principles and develop the prototype framework – in regular consultation with the other partners and under guidance from an international multi-disciplinary expert group with combined expertise in each of the 5 dimensions of sustainability in our framework and with certification and standards. The experts included:

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TRAFFIC, EWT and EPIC tested the framework in practical situations in places where they are already working – South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Indonesia. Christine Lippai (Wildlife Friendly Enterprise Network) also conducted an additional pilot test. The testing processes also required the engagement of on-the-ground actors working in the wildlife use initiatives that we examined. This varied hugely for each pilot case (and indeed the framework is designed to be applied by a single expert, by a group in a workshop setting or by an enterprise owner/manager). In South Africa, EWT worked with the owners of three wildlife ranches; in Tanzania, TRAFFIC worked with representatives from Game Meat Selling Advisory Committee (GMSAC), the Tanzania wildlife farmers and game meat selling association (TAWIFAGAMSA), the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), local hunters and game meat sellers. In Indonesia, EPIC Biodiversity worked with the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry, the Indonesian National Research and Innovation Agency, and the Indonesian Reptile Trade Association.

In addition to the core partners, the project collaborated with the IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group which has developed a database of case studies of wildlife use [REDACTED] ([/](#)). A selection of these were used to test the framework in a desk-based situation (as opposed to an on the ground “real life” species use initiative).

In September 2023, IIED presented the draft framework to a meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) - a partnership established under the CBD bringing together 12 international organisations who all work on wildlife management. As a result of this, UNEP, one of the CPW partners, agreed to provide some follow-up funding to the project partners to publish the framework and the testing results as journal articles and for it to become a tool to be used in a new “Wild Biodiversity Economy Initiative” that UNEP is currently developing. Members of the multidisciplinary expert group will contribute to co-authoring these articles, which will be completed in September 2024.

Meanwhile the core project partners are keen to continue working together and plan to develop a proposal for a Darwin Main project to roll out the framework to multiple different species use initiatives now that the piloting has been completed.

3 Project Achievements

3.1 Outputs

Output 1 for the project was: Existing sustainability assessment frameworks reviewed and draft multidimensional framework developed.

The indicators were:

1.1 By end of Q1 members of multidisciplinary expert group (MEG) convened and starting to identify useful existing frameworks

1.2 By end of Q2 existing frameworks identified and synthesised into zero draft sustainability assessment framework and reviewed by MEG

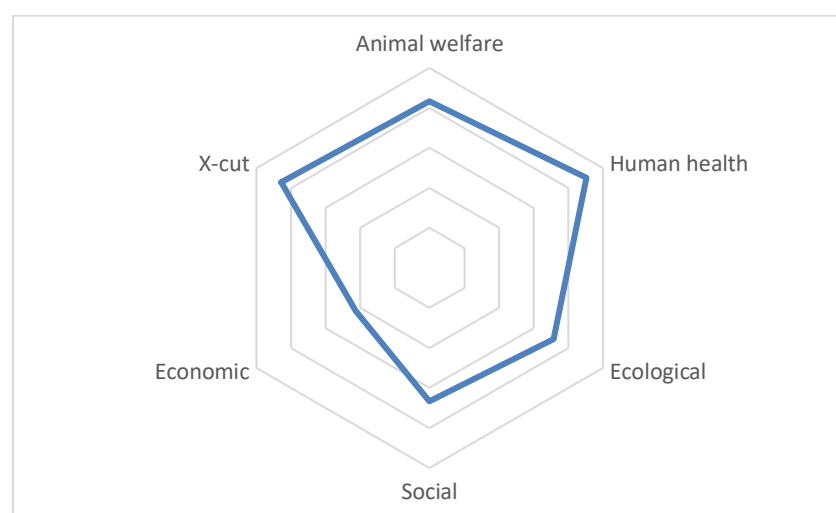
Both of these indicators were achieved although with some delays to the overall timing.

With regard to indicator 1.1: Section 2 above details the individuals who formed the MEG and the spread of expertise across the five dimensions of sustainability (animal welfare, human health, environmental, social, economic) between them.

With regard to indicator 1.2: We finished reviewing existing sustainability frameworks and synthesising these into a draft “5-D Sustainability Assessment Framework” (5-D SAF) by the end of October 2023. This process involved multiple meetings of our multidisciplinary expert group (MEG) as well as a series of bilateral exchanges with experts related to specific dimensions of sustainability in order to review, refine and finalise our framework. As a result of these discussions as well as individual experts contributing to fine tuning and editing of each of the principles, we agreed on a framework that has 7 principles for each of our 5 dimensions of sustainability, plus 7 cross-cutting principles. The Framework is included as an annex to this report (Annex 5.1).

In order to be able to apply the 5-D SAF to wildlife use initiatives, for each principle we developed 4 indicators denoting bad, emerging good practice, good practice and exemplar practice. The list of principles and indicators is included as an annex to this report (Annex 5.2). We then developed an Excel-based tool to apply the framework. This allows users to allocate a score to each principle, to provide details of why that score was allocated, and to suggest improvement actions in cases where low scores were awarded. The tool automatically sums the scores for each dimension of sustainability and presents the results in the form of a radar chart, which clearly shows which of the 5 dimensions an initiative is performing well against and which it is performing less well - the figure below provides an example for a hypothetical case. Our tool was inspired to a large extent by the well-established Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), which allocates a score per principle and demonstrates how a PA is performing compared to a maximum possible score with provision for identifying areas for improvement. We were also inspired by the newly developed South African Sustainable Wildlife Economy Standard – which scores principles against three levels of continuous improvement. In the end we modelled our scoring mechanism on a combination of the two – adopting an Excel-based scoring sheet approach very similar to the METT but with scores reflecting levels of continuous improvement from 0 (bad practice) to 3 (exemplar practice). The tool is included as an annex (Annex 5.3)

Figure: Radar chart illustrating the relative performance of a hypothetical wildlife use initiative against the five dimensions of sustainability



Output 2 was Zero draft framework field tested against ongoing wildlife use initiatives

The indicators were:

2.1 By end of Year 1 pilot testing completed

2.2 By end of Yr 2 Q1, Zero draft framework revised based on testing

Again, these indicators were both achieved albeit with some delays compared to the original anticipated timing.

Pilot testing was carried out as follows:

- EWT tested the framework against wildlife ranching in South Africa focussing on three different ranches with different mixes of activities (including hunting, tourism and meat production)
- TRAFFIC tested the framework against the game meat industry in Tanzania, focussing on the entire value chain from hunting to processing
- EPIC tested the framework on python skin production in Indonesia, crocodile skin production in Zimbabwe and crocodile trophy hunting in Zimbabwe

In addition to these partner field sites, IUCN SULi tested the framework against a number of different written case studies in the Species Use Database.

One MEG member – Christine Lippai from the Wildlife Friendly Enterprise Network – tested the framework against a guanaco shearing enterprise in Argentina in order to compare it with Wildlife Friendly’s own certification scheme.

In all cases the framework was found to be generally applicable and useful, but all testers found that not all principles applied equally to each type of initiative. For example, the animal welfare principles were found to be difficult to apply in the case of python skin production where individual producers are capturing snakes in the wild at very small scales. In Tanzania, TRAFFIC also found it difficult to apply the welfare principles because, again, most of the game animals that are currently supplying the meat industry are wild sourced rather than ranched, so it is difficult to ascertain the welfare status of wild animals. We have sought to accommodate “irrelevant” principles in our tool because we recognize that wildlife use initiatives are going to be hugely diverse and so not all principles will be relevant to all initiatives. In those cases users are instructed to provide an explanation as to why the principle is not relevant and has not been scored and the overall scores are adjusted to reflect this.

Overall, the feedback did not lead us to think that the framework needed major revision. We plan to further tighten the language on some of the principles for clarity but not to undertake more substantive changes.

All of the test applications are included as Annexes to this report (Annex 5.4).

Output 3 was: *Guidance for application of the framework developed and disseminated*

The indicators were:

3.1 By end of Yr 2 Q1 User friendly guidance developed

3.2 By end of project, framework and guidance disseminated to at least 100 policymakers and practitioners and feedback collected

3.3 By end of project potential for further development scoped

Indicator 3.1 was fully met. We developed a short document to explain the framework and to provide instructions on how to use the tool (included as an annex to this report). The background document is available on the project page of the IIED website with links to the tool (https://www.iied.org/sites/default/files/uploads/2023/11/5DSAF_background_paper_Nov23.pdf) and is also attached as an annex to this report (Annex 5.5).

We have also recorded a short presentation to explain the use of the tool: (<https://www.iied.org/assessing-sustainability-wild-species-use>)

Indicator 3.2 was largely met. We have presented the tool to policymakers and practitioners in three separate events – a webinar organised by IUCN Post-2020 Taskforce, focussing on its utility to contribute to the Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 5 and 9; a meeting of the Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessey (LVMH) scientific committee; and at the IUCN Regional Conservation Forum for Africa. These presentations are included as annexes to this report (annex 5.6). We also prepared a news story about the framework and the tool and publicised it via the IIED, TRAFFIC and IUCN-SULi websites (see <https://www.iied.org/50-shades-sustainability-new-tool-for-assessing-sustainability-wild-species-use>).

Indicator 3.3 was partially met. We have identified some minor tweaks to some of the principles that need to be considered (although we need to ensure that the tweaks are not simply responses to one specific pilot context and are widely applicable). We would like to roll out the tool for application in a wider variety of settings to fully test its general applicability, but we have not had the time or resources to do this within this very low-budget project. We intend to apply

for a Darwin Main project in 2025 in order to do this. We are also involved, through the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, in an initiative to develop a global wildlife economy programme and to develop indicators for GBF Targets 5 and 9. In both cases we will continue to explore the use of the 5D SAF, but the timeframes for these initiatives are beyond the timeframe of this project.

3.2 Outcome

The anticipated outcome for this project was that by the end of the project “*A novel tool for assessing sustainability of wildlife use from multiple perspectives including ecological (conservation), social/economic (livelihoods) and health (zoonosis risk/welfare) has been developed and tested and made widely available*”.

The indicators for the outcome were:

0.1 By end of project, zero draft assessment framework has been developed and tested in at least 3 different contexts (against baseline of 0)

0.2 By the end of the project, at least three wildlife management organisations (govt, private sector, civil society) has reported positively on potential of framework to improve supply chain management to mitigate risks to biodiversity conservation as a result of assessment findings

0.3 By the end of the project, at least three wildlife management organisations (govt, private sector, civil society) has reported positively on potential of framework to improve supply chain management to enhance contributions of wildlife use to poverty alleviation and improved livelihoods

0.4 By the end of the project, at least three wildlife management organisations (govt, private sector, civil society) has reported positively on use of framework to mitigate animal or human health risks

0.5 By end of the project feedback has been collected by at least 50 actual or potential users and scope for further development into a standard assessed

Indicator 0.1 has been clearly met. We have an assessment framework consisting of 42 principles, each with 4 indicators denoting level of alignment. We have a tool for applying the framework, for displaying the results and for identifying where improvements are needed. The framework and tool has been tested in more than 3 different contexts – the game meat industry in Tanzania; three different types of wildlife ranches in South Africa involving hunting, tourism and meat production; two uses of crocodiles in Zimbabwe; one use of snakes in Indonesia. In addition it has been tested by a certification body (Wildlife Friendly) against their standard for guanaco shearing in Argentina and against a range of documented case studies the Species Use Database.

Indicators 0.2-0.4 are more difficult to assess because the users of the framework and tool reported back in different formats and on different issues. In Tanzania alone, the framework was tested by 5 different types of wildlife management organisation – the Game Meat Selling Advisory Committee (GMSAC), the Tanzania Wildlife Farmers and Game Meat Selling Association (TAWIFAGAMSA), the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), local hunters and a game meat selling facility. They didn't report separately on the potential of the tool to contribute to conservation, poverty/livelihoods and human/animal health. They agreed that the framework was a helpful checklist in assessing the overall sustainability of the Tanzania game meat industry but queried whether sustainability really did extend beyond impacts on wildlife. They found the social dimension and the animal welfare dimension difficult to assess on the basis that a) there is limited local community involvement (wildlife and land are owned by the state, meat is destined for urban markets, local people are not involved in hunting); b) the meat is largely wild sourced so not possible to determine welfare aspects (“animal welfare does not apply during hunting”.) See Tanzania case study, Annex 5.4.

In South Africa the tool was tested by 3 X private landowners. It was found that that the principles were largely valid and useful . The test results were based on the collection of primary data via

a questionnaire aligned with the 5D SAF. The outcomes of the evaluation in terms of sustainability scores largely met the expectations of the two testers. The framework was applied to privately owned land and all three facilities scored very highly on ecological principles and well on the human health and economic dimensions. Game ranches operating as commercial game meat producers scored higher than those limited to private game meat hunting. This makes sense because commercial game meat producers need to comply with high national standards laid out in the Game Meat Strategy of South Africa. By comparison, low scores for the social principles reflect the fact that the facilities are privately owned with no land claims or community requirements that necessitate the inclusion of communities (other than employees) in management processes. As such, the social dimension showed the most potential to improve sustainable use scores. Due to the time constraints of the project, the testers were not able to discuss, let alone follow-up, any improvement measures with the three tested facility owners/managers.

In Indonesia and Zimbabwe the framework was testing through assessment by individual trade actors and so it is not possible to quantify the number of wildlife management organisations reporting back. Nevertheless, as with the other tests the overall feedback was on the applicability of the framework as a whole and it was considered to be useful but with queries raised as to the applicability of the animal welfare principles to wild harvesting situations.

Indicator 0.5 was partly met. We set up a feedback form (link is available in the news story on the IIED website) but we received very little feedback other than that from the test situations – as reported above. We were however able to explore the potential of the framework with a certification body – Wildlife Friendly. We had a positive response from their testing but also it is clear we need to test the framework against many other cases before we can refine it in any meaningful way and explore further development. An excerpt from the feedback from Wildlife Friendly is below:

“For comprehensiveness, yes, the table did cover a lot of the various elements that we also cover in our Standards...and the applicability seemed very appropriate to the scenario under review. I do wonder how it might apply to any other Certified Wildlife Friendly programs, especially those involving plants...I'll give it another go for the essential oil production program in Madagascar and see what it delivers. I might come up with some thoughts on comprehensiveness once I test-drive other programs we have at our side...

Useability - incredibly easy! It was a bit daunting to begin with as the instructions mention '49 principles'...but I found I could fly through the table fairly quickly knowing my subject.”

3.3 Monitoring of assumptions

The outcome level assumptions were:

0.1 Relevant stakeholders see value in framework and are willing to test it.

This assumption proved to be true with testing happening in 3 planned cases as well as additional – unplanned - testing by the Wildlife Friendly Enterprise Network

0.2 -0.4 Relevant wildlife supply chain managers are willing to acknowledge findings of assessment and take action based on findings.

This assumption was partly upheld. The testing did reveal that wildlife supply chain managers acknowledged the findings of the assessment – as documented in the test case studies including in Annex 5 – but we were not able to get to the stage of being able to agree, and document progress against, follow up actions. This is something we would want to explore in further roll out of the tool.

0.5 Potential users are willing to provide feedback; standard developers are able to determine potential based on experience derived from project

This assumption was only partly upheld. Feedback from provided from the test cases but beyond these we only received one other set of feedback comments – from Wildlife Friendly. Wildlife Friendly is a standard developer and did report positively on the framework (as reported in the section above) but we have not had sufficient time to fully explore the potential of the framework to evolve into a standard at this stage.

Output 1 assumptions were:

1.1 Suitable experts can be identified and are willing to join MEG

This assumption was true – the full list of experts who joined the MEG has been provided earlier in this report.

1.2 It is possible to synthesise multiple different dimensions of sustainability into one framework.

This assumption was true, as evidenced by the development of the framework and our synthesis of principles from multiple sources into 7 principles per dimension and 7 cross-cutting principles.

The output 2 assumption was:

2.1 The framework is testable with the ongoing initiatives we are anticipating using as pilots.

This assumption was true as evidenced by the reports of the testings in different contexts – all reports provided in Annex 5

The output 3 assumption was:

3.1 Practitioners and policy makers are interested in the assessment framework and willing to engage in further testing or provide feedback.

This assumption was true as evidenced by Wildlife Friendly deciding to test the framework and to compare to its own standard and also by UNEP being willing to contribute additional funding in order to incorporate the framework as a key element of its Wild Biodiversity Economy Initiative. Ideally we would have had time to conduct more outreach and to collect additional feedback from a wider range of practitioners and policymakers but this proved to not be possible in the time available.

3.4 Impact

The anticipated impact that this project was intended to contribute to was: *Decisions on sustainable use of wildlife are based on robust analysis resulting in management interventions that balance conservation and livelihoods, human health and animal welfare.*

Our project has contributed to this impact through providing proof of concept that it is possible to incorporate animal welfare and human health into concepts of sustainability and that a fairly simple framework for doing so can be applied to a range of wildlife uses.

4 Contribution to Darwin Initiative Programme Objectives

4.1 Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

Since our project was agreed, Parties to the CBD have concluded negotiations of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the agreed framework includes two key targets –

Targets 5 and 9 – which both emphasise the need for use of wild species to be sustainable, legal and safe. Over the two years that the project has been running, the monitoring framework for the GBF has been under development and are still not concluded. We still anticipate that our framework will provide a useful contribution to monitoring progress towards Targets 5 and 9 and we are actively engaged in processes to develop indicators for these targets.

4.2 Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

Our project has always been clear that poverty alleviation impacts will only be felt beyond the duration of the project and will be very context specific depending on the particular type of wildlife use under investigation and the extent to which poor people are involved in that use. Nevertheless our framework provided clear guidance on best practice for ensuring the most equitable outcomes for poor and marginalised groups involved in wildlife use. The principles in the social dimension of the framework cover respect for rights, Free Prior and Informed Consent, social inclusion, fair employment conditions, contributions to wellbeing and livelihoods and avoidance of negative impacts including physical and economic displacement. The framework thus addresses multiple dimensions of poverty alleviation and – if implemented – has the potential to make significant contributions.

4.3 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	50% (4 women and 4 men on the board)
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women ² .	1 of the 4 core partner organisations is led by a woman 3 of the 4 have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women

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

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

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

The principles in the 5D SAF support gender disaggregated assessment of the sustainability of wild species use, providing users with information to improve the gender equity of their operations. For example, one of the principles against which wildlife use is in the social sustainability domain is “The use (harvesting, processing, sale etc) of the species does not involve any harmful discrimination (e.g., gender-based, race-based or any other barriers) to effective participation and leadership” (see Annex 5.1).

However, it was beyond the scope of this project to monitor and assess the uptake of activities suggested as ways to improve gender equity and social inclusion. This is an issue we would be interested to follow up on if we have an opportunity to further roll out the framework and testing tool.

4.4 Transfer of knowledge

The project has mainly been occupied with developing and testing a multi-dimensional sustainability assessment tool. However the process of testing that tool has resulted in a transfer of knowledge to wildlife practitioners – exposing them to wider concepts of sustainability than simply ensuring no detriment to wildlife populations. We have also sought to seize any opportunities available to present the framework to a broad set of stakeholders and have conducted presentations to the IUCN Species Survival Commission, the LVMH Scientific Committee, and participants in the IUCN Regional Conservation Forum (Africa). We have also published a news story and plan to publish two journal articles and briefing papers to further raise awareness about the framework (links to all provided earlier in this report and included in Annex 5).

4.5 Capacity building

This was not a capacity building project specifically – the aim was to achieve proof of concept of our framework – however the process of testing the framework resulted in exposure to a wider than normal concept of sustainability for those involved- as discussed in section 4.4 above

5 Monitoring and evaluation

Our project team met online on a number of occasions over the course of the project to review progress and, where needed, to adjust our implementation timetable. Due to a delay in the start of the project we were able to adjust the timing of our plans and submit a change request to reflect this (which was agreed).

We used the logframe as our key M&E tool to check overall progress of the project but during the testing process we also collected feedback from different wildlife use initiatives on the content and ease of applicability of the framework and tool. We also developed a feedback form to monitor uptake of the tool and feedback on its use but did not receive any responses via this route.

Our expert advisory group was also a crucial part of our M&E process, regularly providing feedback on each iteration of the principles within the framework and confirming our final set of principles was aligned with international best practice as far as each of their respective disciplines was concerned.

6 Lessons learnt

The project team worked well together – mainly because the partners (and individuals involved) were generally well known to each other and so it was straightforward to keep an active informal dialogue open.

However, because this was a small, low budget project, it was harder for it to remain high on the priority list for partners - hence some slippage in our timeframe. In hindsight we were probably overly ambitious both in our proposed timeframe and in our proposed budget. Nevertheless, all the partners remain very committed to the further development of the

framework and tool since we – as individuals and representatives of policy and practice organisations - see so much value in it. We are thus committed to exploring opportunities for funding its development and roll out and continuing to work together.

7 Actions taken in response to Annual Report reviews

No outstanding issues to comment on

8 Sustainability and legacy

During the lifetime of the project we have made presentations about the framework and tool in various international policy forums – as already described in previous sections and detailed in the annex. One key outcome is that the framework attracted the attention of UNEP who have contributed additional funding to promote it through two journal articles and who anticipate using it in their emerging Wild Biodiversity Economy Initiative if fundraising for that is successful and it develops into a fully-fledged programme of work. Going forward all of the project partners remain committed to further rolling out the framework and tool and continuing to raise awareness about its existence, including its potential to contribute to the monitoring framework of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

9 Darwin Initiative identity

The Darwin Initiative logo and/or acknowledgement text was used on all communications about the project and on all outputs and the funding source acknowledged.

10 Risk Management

There were no significant changes to the risks

11 Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes Anita [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	No - not specifically in the last 12 months
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	All project partners have a safeguarding policy and all project staff receive the organisational training that is specified in that policy
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses. No	
Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the lifetime of the project; include topics covered and number of participants. Not applicable to this project	
Have there been any concerns around Health, Safety and Security of your staff over the lifetime of the project? If yes, please outline how this was resolved. No concerns in the context of this project	

12 Finance and administration

12.1 Project expenditure

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24 Total actual Darwin Initiative Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				The consultancy costs were not exhausted due to the intended consultant no longer being available to work on this project. The work was carried out by the Project Lead so that there was no impact on the completion or quality of the outputs. A change request should have been submitted to reflect this.
Overhead Costs				This variance is because of the underspend across the project and particularly IIED staff costs.
Travel and subsistence				The travel budget remains unspent as it wasn't needed for the expert advisors. This did not impact the completion or quality of the project. A change request should have been submitted to move this budget to resources used under staff costs, but was not done so due to capacity issues.
Operating Costs				The budgeted operating costs for the lead partner were absorbed under IIED's overheads and so the funds under this budget line were not required. As with the other underspent funds, a change request should have been submitted to move these costs to the overheads line, where funds would have been spent as intended.
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	37,305.00	26,598.55		

Staff employed (Name and position)	Cost (£)
Anita Sohal, IIED Project Manager	
Anne Schulthess, IIED Comms	
Dilys Roe, IIED Project Lead	
Melanie Vaufrey, IIED Project Manager	
Christina Hiller, EPIC	
Andrew Taylor, EWT Programme Manager	
Anastasiya Timoshyna, TRAFFIC	
TOTAL	19,612.33

Capital items – description	Capital items – cost (£)

TOTAL	
Other items – description	Other items – cost (£)
TOTAL	

12.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project	Total (£)
Small scale funding agreement with United Nations Environment Programme	
TOTAL	

Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building evidence, best practices and the project	Total (£)
TOTAL	

12.3 Value for Money

The project was good value for money as more than 80% of the budget was allocated to resourcing the project with more than 50% of the budget spent on staff costs to focus on developing and testing the assessment tool. During the procurement process of partners, value for money and particularly the economy was considered for inputs. The project team ensured that staff, consultancy and overhead costs were equitable and competitive which also added to effectiveness, with outputs that were necessary and sufficient.

13 Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

No further issues to raise

14 OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

While not additional to that already reported, we consider it an outstanding achievement that we have managed to develop and get proof of concept of a new and innovative framework for thinking about the sustainability of different wildlife uses that addresses concerns about animal welfare and human health as well as the conventional social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability. The project time and resources were not intended to more than gain this proof of concept and we now need to promote and roll out the tool and framework as widely as possible. All partners remain convinced of the value of the framework and committed to its further promotion.

We do not have any high quality images to provide here but see the annex for a video presentation that could be used for promotional purposes.

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

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against final project logframe for the life of the project

Project summary	Progress and Achievements
<p>Impact</p> <p>Decisions on sustainable use of wildlife are based on robust analysis resulting in management interventions that balance conservation and livelihoods, human health and animal welfare.</p>	<p>Proof of concept achieved that it is possible to develop an easy to apply assessment framework that includes animal welfare and human health alongside social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability.</p>
<p>Outcome A novel tool for assessing sustainability of wildlife use from multiple perspectives including ecological (conservation), social/economic (livelihoods) and health (zoonosis risk/welfare) has been developed and tested and made widely available</p>	<p>The outcome was achieved. The tool has been developed and includes 5 different dimensions – social, economic, ecological, animal welfare and human health – as well as a cross-cutting element. It has been tested against a variety of wildlife uses and it has been made available via partner websites and promoted through presentations in a number of policy forums</p>
<p>0.1 By end of project, zero draft assessment framework has been developed and tested in at least 3 different contexts (against baseline of 0)</p>	<p>Assessment framework consists of 42 principles, a Excel-based tool has been developed to apply the framework and assess alignment; the tool and framework have been tested against game ranching, wild meat production, reptile skin production and crocodile trophy hunting. Evidence is provide in section 3.1 and Annex 5</p>
<p>0.2 By the end of the project, at least three wildlife management organisations (govt, private sector, civil society) has reported positively on potential of framework to improve supply chain management to mitigate risks to biodiversity conservation as a result of assessment findings</p>	<p>In all testing sites wildlife management organisations (and individuals) - totalling at least 8 – agreed the framework was useful and applicable but they did not report separately on its potential to mitigate risks to conservation, to enhance contributions to poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods or to mitigate animal welfare and human health risks. Please see detailed write up in Section 3.1 and the testing reports that are included in Annex 5</p>
<p>0.3 By the end of the project, at least three wildlife management organisations (govt, private sector, civil society) has reported positively on potential of framework to improve supply chain management to enhance contributions of wildlife use to poverty alleviation and improved livelihoods</p>	
<p>0.4 By the end of the project, at least three wildlife management organisations (govt, private sector, civil society) has reported positively on use of framework to mitigate animal or human health risks</p>	

0.5 By end of the project feedback has been collected by at least 50 actual or potential users and scope for further development into a standard assessed.	Feedback was collected from more than 50 individuals across the different testing sites – please see testing reports in Annex 5. In addition feedback was recieved from the certification body Wildlife Friendly – please see email excerpt in Section 3.2
Output 1. Existing sustainability assessment frameworks reviewed and draft multidimensional framework developed	
1.1 By end of Q1 members of multidisciplinary expert group (MEG) convened and starting to identify useful existing frameworks	Completed – see list of MEG members in Section 2
1.2 By end of Q2 existing frameworks identified and synthesised into zero draft sustainability assessment framework and reviewed by MEG	Completed – see section 3.2 and see also the framework of principles included in Annex 5
Output 2. Zero draft framework field tested against ongoing wildlife use initiatives	
2.1 By end of Year 1 pilot testing completed	Completed albeit with a delay to the timeline. See testing reports in Annex 5 and write up in Sectoin 3.1
2,2 By end of Yr 2 Q1, Zero draft framework revised based on testing	We found that some minor tweaks to some of the wording of some principles may be required but that there is no need for a revised framework. This is partly because we build into the tool the ability to ignore principles that are not relevant to a specific wildlife use without affecting the scoring system
Output 3. Guidance for application of the framework developed and disseminated	
3.1 By end of Yr 2 q1 User friendly guidance developed	Guidance document and a presentation are available on the IIED website and included in Annex 5 – see Section 3.1 for links.
3.2 By end of project, framework and guidance disseminated to at least 100 policy makers and practitioners and feedback collected	Presentations have been made in multiple policy forums. Attendance lists not available as evidence for external webinars and events but numbers easily exceed 100. See annex 5 for presentations.
3.3 By end of project potential for further development scoped	We had insufficient time to fully scope the potential for further development. The framework and tool need to be

	tested in a wider variety of contexts and we are keen to explore the potential for Darwin Main funding to do this
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Annex 2 Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: Decisions on sustainable use of wildlife are based on robust analysis resulting in management interventions that balance conservation and livelihoods, human health and animal welfare. (Max 30 words)</p>			
<p>Outcome: A novel tool for assessing sustainability of wildlife use from multiple perspectives including ecological (conservation), social/economic (livelihoods) and health (zoonosis risk/welfare) has been developed and tested and made widely available</p>	<p>0.1 By end of project, zero draft assessment framework has been developed and tested in at least 3 different contexts (against baseline of 0) 0.2 By the end of the project, at least three wildlife management organisations (govt, private sector, civil society) has reported positively on potential of framework to improve supply chain management to mitigate risks to biodiversity conservation as a result of assessment findings 0.3 By the end of the project, at least three wildlife management organisations (govt, private sector, civil society) has reported positively on potential of framework to improve supply chain management to enhance contributions of wildlife use to poverty alleviation and improved livelihoods 0.4 By the end of the project, at least three wildlife</p>	<p>0.1 Project reports; multi disciplinary expert committee meeting minutes; case study testing reports; web updates. 0.2 -0.4 Written records from authorities and end users of framework; meeting minutes; feedback from users survey 0.5 Feedback from users survey; feedback from standards developers</p>	<p>0.1 Relevant stakeholders see value in framework and are willing to test it. We think this is a reasonable assumption based on in-country discussions as well as informal discussions with CBD and CITES Secretariat staff 0.2 -0.4 Relevant wildlife supply chain managers are willing to acknowledge findings of assessment and take action based on findings. Longer term impacts on conservation, livelihoods and health/welfare risks are dependent on this assumption holding true, however we think this is a reasonable assumption based on informal discussions to date. 0.5 Potential users are willing to provide feedback; standard developers are able to determine potential based on experience derived from project</p>

	<p>management organisations (govt, private sector, civil society) has reported positively on use of framework to mitigate animal or human health risks</p> <p>0.5 By end of the project feedback has been collected by at least 50 actual or potential users and scope for further development into a standard assessed.</p>		
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Existing sustainability assessment frameworks reviewed and draft multidimensional framework developed</p>	<p>1.1 By end of Q1 members of multidisciplinary expert group (MEG) convened and starting to identify useful existing frameworks</p> <p>1.2 By end of Q2 existing frameworks identified and synthesised into zero draft sustainability assessment framework and reviewed by MEG</p>	<p>1.1. Project reports, meeting minutes and attendance lists,</p> <p>1.2. Literature review report; existence of draft framework</p>	<p>1.1 Suitable experts can be identified and are willing to join MEG</p> <p>1.2 It is possible to synthesise multiple different dimensions of sustainability into one framework.</p> <p>We do not anticipate a problem with either of these assumptions based on discussions we (IIED and TRAFFIC) have already held with veterinarians, epidemiologists and animal welfare specialists</p>
<p>2. Zero draft framework field tested against ongoing wildlife use initiatives</p>	<p>2.1 By end of Year 1 pilot testing completed</p> <p>2.2 By end of Yr 2 Q1, Zero draft framework revised based on testing</p>	<p>2.1 Reports of pilot testing, feedback from users, project updated</p> <p>2.2 Revised version of framework available</p>	<p>2.1 The framework is testable with the ongoing initiatives we are anticipating using as pilots. We expect this assumption to hold true based on the knowledge of the partners of these ongoing initiatives and their engagement with them</p>
<p>3. Guidance for application of the framework developed and disseminated</p>	<p>3.1 By end of Yr 2 q1 User friendly guidance developed</p>	<p>3.1 Project reports; guidance available on project web page</p>	<p>3.1 Practitioners and policy makers are interested in the</p>

	<p>3.2 By end of project, framework and guidance disseminated to at least 100 policy makers and practitioners and feedback collected</p> <p>3.3 By end of project potential for further development scoped</p>	<p>3.2 Dissemination records; references to the survey in specialist meeting reports eg the CITES Working Group on zoonotic diseases; user survey feedback; web download stats</p> <p>3.3 User survey feedback, minutes of meetings; project reports</p>	<p>assessment framework and willing to engage in further testing or provide feedback. We expect this assumption to hold true based on our ongoing discussions on this issue with key policy makers eg CITES Secretariat, CBD Secretariat and through our (IIED, TRAFFIC) involvement in the Collaborative Partnership on Wildlife (CPW)</p>
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Identify relevant experts and invite to join Multidisciplinary expert group (MEG) 1.2 Literature search and call out to experts via the MEG and SULi list serv and Wildlife Health Specialist Group List Serv for existing frameworks 1.3 Analysis and synthesis of existing frameworks to produce zero draft sustainability assessment framework 1.4 Review by MEG and finalisation 2.1 Testing against three ongoing initiatives in South Africa, Tanzania, Indonesia 2.2 Testing against documented case studies identified in literature through ongoing SULi project 2.3 Revision of draft framework 3.1 Development of framework guidance 3.2 Dissemination of framework and guidance 3.3 Dissemination of user feedback survey and analysis of feedback 3.4 Scoping of future development 			

Annex 3 Standard Indicators

NB: As highlighted last year, our project was intended to produce a beta version of a 5D sustainability assessment framework, guidance on applying the framework and three test applications. Without double counting the same output (ie the assessment framework) against multiple indicators it was not possible to identify five core indicators to which this project contributes. We identified 4 core indicators plus three additional indicators, but this is a very small (in terms of budget and timeframe) project with a very limited number of outputs. Furthermore, the standard indicators were not available at the time the project was planned so a certain amount of retro-fitting is required to address them but it seems counterproductive to retro fit to the extent that the indicators do not actually reflect what the project is seeking to achieve, hence we have not tried to force alignment with five core indicators.

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-A03	Number of local/national organisations with improved capacity as a result of the project	Number of wildlife user organisations who have tested the 5D framework and found it useful in improving practice	Organisations	None	0	8		0	3
DI-B02	Number of new/improved species management plans available and endorsed	Number of wildlife use initiatives with improved sustainable use procedures	Number	None	0	0		0	2
DI-C01	Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed	Multi-dimensional framework for assessing sustainability of wild species use available and endorsed	Number	None	0	1		0	1

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-C05	Number of projects contributing data insights and case studies to national MEA related reporting processes and calls for evidence	Number of case studies or other inputs based on the framework contributing to CITES and CBD processes	Number	None	0	1		0	2
DI -C14	Number of decision makers attending briefing events	Number of wildlife managers/users/decision makers reached through project outreach	Number	None	0	100		0	50
DI-C18	Number of papers published in peer reviewed journals	Number of papers submitted to peer reviewed journals	Number	None	0	1		0	1
DI – C19	Number of other publications produced	Number of other publications produced	Number	None	0`	2		0	2

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Five-dimensional sustainability assessment: developing and testing a new framework	Background paper	Dilys Roe and Anastasiya Timoshyna 2023	Female	UK	IIED< London	5DSAF background paper Nov23.pdf (iied.org)

Annex 5 Supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

Annex 5.1 : 5D Sustainability Assessment Framework

Annex 5.2: List of principles and indicators

Annex 5.3: Excel testing tool

Annex 5.4: Case studies (a Tanzania; b South Africa; c Indonesia pythons; d Zimbabwe croc farming; e Zimbabwe croc hunting; f Wildlife Friendly test)

Annex 5.5 Background paper and guidance

Annex 5.6 Presentations (a introduction to tool and guidance; b presentation to IUCN Species Survival Commission; c presentation to IUCN Regional Conservation Forum for Africa)

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	X
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	X
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line. All supporting material should be submitted in a way that can be accessed and downloaded as one complete package.	
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 14)?	n/a
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	X
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors?	X
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	X
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	