

Darwin Initiative Main and Post Project Annual Report

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

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2019

Darwin Project Information

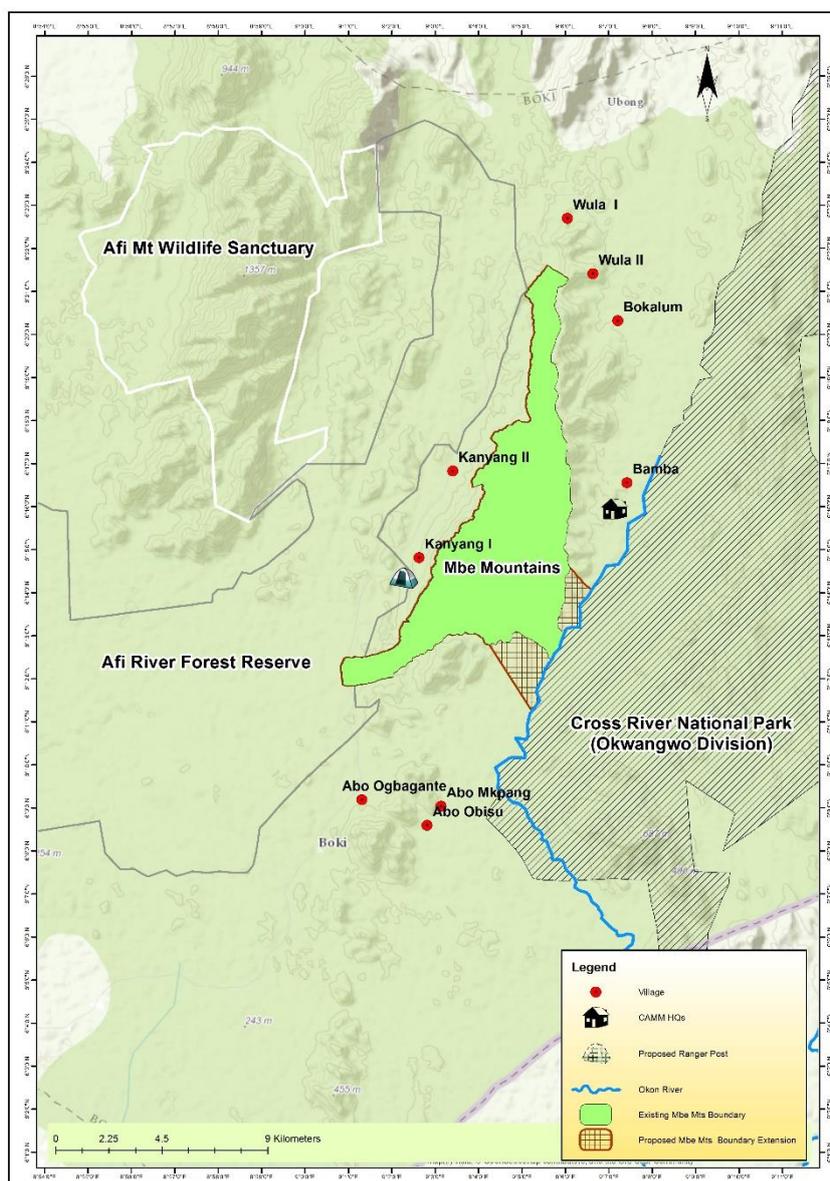
Project reference	24-001
Project title	Improving forest governance for Cross River gorillas and Nigerian farmers
Host country/ies	Nigeria
Lead organisation	Wildlife Conservation Society
Partner institution(s)	1) Conservation Association of Mbe Mountains; 2) Cross River State Ministry of Climate Change and Forestry; 3) Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN); 4) Boki Local Government Area
Darwin grant value	£303,641
Start/end dates of project	1 April 2017
Reporting period (e.g., Apr 2018 – Mar 2019) and number (e.g., Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2018 – March 2019 Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Inaoyom Imong
Project website/blog/Twitter	Website: https://nigeria.wcs.org/ Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CRgorilla/ Twitter: https://twitter.com/WCS_Nigeria
Report author(s) and date	Inaoyom Imong, Ogechi Nwachukwu, Andrew Dunn; April 2019

1. Project rationale

The Cross River gorilla (CRG) is the most threatened ape in Africa, with a total remaining population of less than 300 individuals. Hunting to supply the bushmeat trade is the most significant direct threat to the species, and although CRGs are protected in Nigeria, they are still occasionally killed by hunters when snares placed in the forest for smaller mammals inflict potentially fatal injuries. Given the small size of the remaining CRG population, the loss of even a few individuals to hunting represents a serious threat to the long-term survival of the species. Although many CRGs are found within formal protected areas such as national parks, approximately 100 CRGs (one-third of the remaining population) survive on community land that lacks any legal protection, such as the Mbe Mountains in Nigeria. In 2005, the nine communities surrounding the Mbe Mountains agreed to manage the landscape as a community wildlife sanctuary (though not yet formally recognised by the government) to protect its 25-30 resident gorillas and promote local development. The Mbe forest is critical to the livelihood of approximately 12,000 people living around Mbe. Farmers in the area traditionally clear small

plots of forest each year to plant cash crops; the deforestation rate within the landscape is 2.2% per annum, among the highest anywhere in the world. Continued forest loss threatens local watersheds and livelihoods – through loss of water security, soil stabilization, and reduced resiliency to climate change – further exacerbating levels of rural poverty. Habitat loss and fragmentation also pose a serious threat to the forested corridor that currently links the Mbe Mountains to the adjacent Cross River National Park. If this corridor is destroyed and opportunities for natural dispersal are lost, the CRGs in the Mbe Mountains would become genetically isolated and their long-term survival will be unlikely.

The Mbe Mountains are located in southeast Nigeria close to the border with Cameroon. Rising to heights of 900 meters, they are a critical link between an increasingly isolated subpopulation of gorillas in the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary and those in the Okwangwo Division of Cross River National Park in Nigeria and other sites in Cameroon. Mbe is located within a recognized biodiversity hotspot of global significance that is home to many other endangered species such as the drill (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*) and the Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes ellioti*). Mbe currently lacks formal protection status. However, in 2005, the nine communities living around the mountain resolved to manage the area themselves for wildlife conservation. Since that time, WCS Nigeria has been working with the local people through the community-based Conservation Association of the Mbe Mountains (Camm) and the Cross River State Forestry Commission (CRSFC) to set aside and manage a core area at the heart of the Mbe Mountains for the purposes of biodiversity protection.



Map 1: Location of the Mbe Mountains within the Cross River gorilla landscape in Nigeria

2. Project partnerships

On this project, WCS is partnering with the Conservation Association of Mbe Mountains (CAMM), the Cross River State Ministry of Climate Change and Forestry (MCCF), Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN), and the Boki Local Government Area (Boki LGA).

CAMM is playing the critical role of mobilizing the community buy-in and support for the project that is necessary for its sustainability. CAMM comprises of the nine communities that surround the Mbe Mountains and claim traditional ownership of the forest. CAMM has a governance structure that consists of General Assembly, Board of Trustees, Management Committee, and a Technical and Stakeholder Supervisory Group, with females represented in the different arms. This governance structure makes CAMM an ideal platform for engagement with the local communities given the representation of different interest groups. WCS has worked closely with CAMM this past two years to implement project activities including law enforcement, development and formalization of bylaws to protect the Mbe Mountains, legal gazettelement of the Mbe conservation area, and training of men and women's groups in improved cocoa farming and bush mango collection, storage and marketing.

WCS is working with the MCCF on the process to officially recognize the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary. As the government agency with responsibility for the management of all forests within Cross River State, the MCCF is helping to facilitate engagement with the Cross River State Government on the gazettelement process.

CRIN provided technical advice and support for cocoa and bush mango training.

WCS is working with Boki LGA and CAMM to develop and formalize bylaws to protect the Mbe Mountains.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1. Local farmers have been trained to increase efficiency of existing cocoa farms

One hundred and forty cocoa farmers in Mbe have been trained to increase the productivity of their existing cocoa farms to reduce the need to clear new forest each year to expand their farms to increase cocoa production. Thirty-five trained farmers have so far been provided with improved, fast growing and high-yielding variety of cocoa purchased from the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) to replace old and unproductive cocoa trees on their farms. The training was conducted by the Cross River State Agricultural Development Agency.

Output 2. Local women's groups and young men trained in improved bush mango collection, processing, storage and marketing

The project supported 400 women trained in bush mango propagation with improved seedlings for planting on their farms and fallow areas to increase the production of bush mango. The women were also trained and supported to form cooperatives to facilitate access to market. The project will continue to provide capacity building support to the women's cooperatives to assist them add value to the product and increase income through improved storage and access to larger markets.

Output 3. Protection of the Mbe Mountains is enhanced and community land tenure secured through legal recognition of 127km² as a "Community Managed Wildlife Sanctuary".

WCS continued to provide technical support to CAMM to engage with the Cross River State Government in the process to officially recognize the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary, but with the government focused on preparations for the 2019 general elections in Nigeria, progress was slow. However, with the elections now over, WCS is working with CAMM to move forward with the gazettelement process. Working together with CAMM, each of the nine Mbe communities has signed a letter confirming donation of land in the Mbe Mountains to CAMM to be managed for biodiversity conservation. The letters will be submitted to the Cross River State Government in support of CAMM's application for gazettelement of the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary. We will continue to work with CAMM and relevant

government agencies to achieve official endorsement of the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary.

Output 4. The effectiveness of law enforcement interventions of WCS and local communities is improved for Mbe Mountains ecosystem.

WCS continued to support eco-guards in the Mbe Mountains to carry out law enforcement patrols, adapting patrol strategy based on information from previous patrols to improve effectiveness of law enforcement action. Using SMART, WCS monitored patrol effort (kilometers walked and the number of patrol days completed), as well as hunting pressure through measuring encounter rate of signs such as wire snares, hunting camps, and empty shotgun shells discarded by hunters. During this reporting period, WCS supported 70 anti-poaching patrols of the Mbe Mountains by 16 CAMM eco-guards, covering a total distance of 3,179 km over 2,492 person-days. A total of 35 people including 9 hunters were apprehended and reported to CAMM for sanctions – usually fines. In addition, 3,120 wire snares and 7 hunting camps were destroyed by patrols this period (Table 1). To improve their capacity, WCS provided refresher training in law enforcement techniques, including the use of SMART for law enforcement patrol planning and monitoring, for 16 eco-guards in the field each month alongside patrols. In January, we transitioned to a new cloud-based version of SMART (SMART-Connect) which allows integration of SMART data with data from other sources, and improved understanding of threats to wildlife and habitats and sharing of data, maps, and reports across entire protected area networks.

Table 1. Hunting signs recorded for the period April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019.

Sign	# of Observations	Encounter Rate/km
Gunshots heard	33	0.010
Set wire snares	3120	0.981
Unset wire snares	5	0.002
Empty cartridges	378	0.119
Hunting camps	7	0.002

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Outputs:

1. Local farmers have been trained to increase efficiency of existing cocoa farms.

One hundred and forty farmers have been trained in improved farming methods to increase productivity of existing cocoa farms rather than clearing more forest to establish new farms to increase cocoa production. The project is providing ongoing support to the farmers including refresher training and supply of improved seedlings to replace old, unproductive cocoa trees on existing farms. Thirty-five farmers have been provided with improved seedlings.

2. Local women’s groups and young men trained in improved bush mango collection, processing, storage and marketing.

A total of 400 women have been trained in bush mango propagation, processing, storage and marketing. The women have also been provided with improved bush mango seedlings to plant on farms and other degraded areas to increase production.

Output 3. Protection of the Mbe Mountains is enhanced and community land tenure secured through legal recognition of 127km² as a “Community Managed Wildlife Sanctuary”.

Signed letters of support from each of the nine Mbe communities confirming donation of land in the Mbe Mountains to CAMM to be managed for biodiversity conservation have been obtained. The letters will be submitted to the Cross River State Government in support of CAMM’s formal application to the Cross River State Government for gazettelement of the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary.

Output 4. The effectiveness of law enforcement interventions of WCS and local communities is improved for Mbe Mountains ecosystem.

Training in law enforcement techniques and support for anti-poaching patrols provided by this project is improving protection of Cross River gorillas and the Mbe forest. During this reporting period, the project supported 16 CAMM eco-guards to conduct 70 anti-poaching patrols of the Mbe Mountains covering a total distance of 3,179 km over 2,492 person-days. The patrols led to the arrest of 35 people including nine hunters, and a total of 3,120 wire snares and 7 hunting camps were destroyed. In January 2019, we upgraded to a new cloud-based version of SMART (SMART-Connect) which will help further improve law enforcement operations in Mbe. SMART-Connect allows integration of SMART data with data from other sources, and improved understanding of threats to wildlife and habitats and sharing of data, maps, and reports across entire protected area networks.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The expected outcome of the project is that critical habitat for Cross River gorillas in the Mbe Mountains is legally recognized and effectively co-managed, benefiting 12,000 people through improved cocoa production, bush mango harvesting and watershed protection. Achievement of this outcome will be indicated by; 1) no decrease in gorilla nest counts per km and a 10% increase in the area occupied by gorillas in the Mbe Mts by end of Y4 as compared to baseline; 2) no net loss of forest within the corridor and rate of forest loss in the buffer zone decreases by 30% by end of Y4; 3) household wellbeing indices increase by 10% due to improved cocoa production and bush mango collection by the end of Y4 when compared to baseline established in Y1. These indicators remain adequate for measuring this outcome.

During this reporting period, we continued to pursue the process for the legal gazettement of the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary by the Cross River State Government although progress has been delayed due to slow response from government during a long period of electioneering for the 2019 general elections in Nigeria. With the elections now over, WCS is working with CAMM to move the process forward. A total of 70 anti-poaching patrols were implemented to protect Cross River gorillas and their habitat in the Mbe Mountains while enhancing watershed protection and securing local livelihoods. Capacity building training and other support provided to cocoa farmers and women groups is expected to increase productivity of existing cocoa farms and increase income generation from bush mango collection.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: Benefits provided by improved cocoa techniques and sustainable bush mango collection, combined with effective law enforcement, are sufficient to influence local attitudes and behaviours towards CRG and their habitat.

Comment: This assumption remains valid, and will be confirmed in subsequent years of the project after benefits from improved cocoa techniques and sustainable bush mango collection begin to accrue, and their impact on the protection of the gorillas and forest in the Mbe Mountains can be evaluated against baseline.

Assumption 2: Communities and Cross River State Government are willing to embrace sustainable management of their forests for conservation purposes and there are no competing commercial interests such as logging or oil palm development.

Comment: This assumption is still considered valid and critical to the success of the project.

Assumption 3: Farmers actively and fully participate in and complete training

Comment: This assumption is still considered valid and critical to the success of the project.

Assumption 4: Weather conditions remain favourable for cocoa.

Comment: This assumption is still considered valid and critical to the success of the project.

Assumption 5: Market price for cocoa remains favourable keeping buyers interested.

Comment: This assumption is still considered valid and critical to the success of the project.

Assumption 6: Conservation contracts are socially accepted and provide sufficient incentive to protect the forest.

Comment: This assumption remains valid and critical to the success of the project.

Assumption 7: Bush mango value chain remains profitable for collectors and incentivizes forest protection.

Comment: This assumption is still valid and critical to the success of the project.

Assumption 8: Conservation contracts are socially accepted by women and young men and provide sufficient incentive to protect the forest.

Comment: This assumption is still considered valid and critical to the success of the project.

Assumption 9: Government of Cross River State is willing to recognise customary rights and local land tenure.

Comment: This assumption is still considered valid and critical to the success of the project.

Assumption 10: Improved law enforcement is supported by local communities and maintains a net positive impact on local livelihoods.

Comment: This assumption is still considered valid and critical to the success of the project.

Assumption 11: Community-created sanctions act as sufficient deterrent and reduce levels of illegal activity.

Comment: This assumption is still considered valid and critical to the success of the project.

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

Law enforcement patrols supported by this project are protecting Cross River gorillas and the Mbe forest. The Mbe Mountains are part of the rainforests of Cross River, a globally recognized biodiversity hotspot with high levels of species richness and endemism, with over 64 species of reptiles, 61 species of amphibians, 54 species of fish, 18 primates and about 1,570 plant species, many of which are globally threatened. The Mbe Mountains are home to a number of threatened species such as the Cross River gorilla *Gorilla gorilla diehli* (CR), Slender-snouted crocodile *Mecistops cataphractus* (CR), Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes ellioti* (EN), Drill monkey *Mandrillus leucophaeus* (EN), Red-eared monkey *Cercopithecus erythrotis* (VU), African forest elephant *Loxodonta africana* (VU), Grey-headed rockfowl *Picathartes oreas* (VU), African grey parrot *Psittacus erithacus* (VU), and White-bellied pangolin *Phataginus tricuspis* (VU).

This project is contributing to biodiversity conservation through improving effectiveness of law enforcement patrols of the Mbe Mountains. The project is also contributing to human development and wellbeing through the provision of benefits to surrounding communities from improved cocoa productivity and increased income from bush mango, as well as watershed protection.

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

Activities implemented under this project contribute to the following six SDGs: (1) End poverty in all its forms everywhere; (2) End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; (5) Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; (6) Ensure access to water and sanitation for all; (13) Take urgent action to combat climate

change and its impacts; (15) Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss. The project contributes to SDGs 1, 2, and 5 by supporting sustainable agriculture and increasing benefits from forest products, focusing on women. By improving the protection of the Mbe Mountains, the project is contributing to SDGs 6, 13, and 15.

5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

This project is supporting the government of Nigeria to meet its obligations towards the Convention on Biological Diversity (Goals A, B, C, D and E). The project is also contributing to Aichi Targets 1, 5, 7, 11, 12, 14 and 18. The project is contributing to Aichi Target 5 by improving outputs from existing cocoa farms to reduce the need to clear new farms, thereby reducing deforestation and forest fragmentation. The project is working with communities to sustainably manage a forest buffer zone around the wildlife sanctuary to achieve Target 7. Official recognition of the Mbe Mountains as a community-managed wildlife sanctuary will contribute to Nigeria's protected areas system, helping to achieve Aichi Target 11. The project is also contributing to Target 12 by improving the protection of the wildlife sanctuary to reduce bushmeat hunting and improve the conservation of threatened species including the Cross River gorilla (Critically Endangered), Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee and the drill monkey (both Endangered). Supporting community-led protection of the Mbe Mountains and surrounding buffer zone is contributing to the maintenance of traditional knowledge and ecosystem services, thereby contributing to Aichi Targets 14 and 18. The project has continued to interact with the CBD and CITES focal points in Nigeria.

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

The project directly benefits 3,000 men and women in communities around Mbe through improved cocoa production and increased income from bush mango. The Mbe Mountains is an important source of water and forest products for surrounding forest dependent communities. Indirectly, the project benefits approximately 12,000 people living around the Mbe Mountains through watershed protection and maintenance of ecosystem services resulting from protection of the Mbe forest.

Building training provided in the first year, the project has provided improved bush mango seedlings to Mbe women to increase production. The project also supported the women to form cooperatives to facilitate access to market to increase income from bush mango and improve livelihood. One hundred and forty cocoa farmers have been trained in improved cocoa farming techniques and supported with improved cocoa seedlings to increase efficiency of existing farms. Improved productivity of existing farms is expected to reduce the need to clear new forest each year for increased cocoa production thereby reducing deforestation. Seventy law enforcement patrols supported by the project helped to improve watershed protection and biodiversity conservation to safeguard local livelihoods.

7. Project support to gender equality issues

The project design takes into account the understanding that the governance system in the project area tends to marginalize women. If conservation of the Mbe Mountains is to be successful, then all groups, particularly women who use forest resources for daily household needs, must be engaged in forest governance. The project is working to ensure that women are actively and adequately involved in the livelihood activities implemented. For example, the bush mango training and support focuses mainly on women, and 400 women have been trained by the project. Women are also considered in the training and support for improved cocoa production provided by the project.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

We monitored progress of the project based on the following key indicators:

Status of gorillas

To monitor the status of gorillas we collected and analysed data on the number of gorilla nest sites per km walked each month. We will continue to collect this data annually and compare results to baseline at the end of the project to evaluate project impact.

Status of forest cover within the corridor

We collected and analysed 2017 land cover data for the Mbe conservation area to assess changes in forest cover compared to baseline established at the start of the project. (see attached results of analysis). We will continue to collect and analyse land cover data for the area annually and compare to baseline at the end of the project to evaluate project impact. We expect a zero net loss of forest within the corridor area and a deforestation rate not greater than 50% in the buffer zone if the project is successful.

Capacity of farmers and NTFP collectors

We are monitoring cocoa farmers and women trained under this project to assess how they apply the skills acquired to sustainably produce cocoa and increase income from more efficient cocoa farming and bush mango collection and marketing.

Household well-being

A Basic Necessities Survey was conducted in year 1 to establish a baseline of the level of wellbeing against which to monitor project progress annually and evaluate impact at the end of the project. At the end of the project we expect a 10% increase in household wellbeing due to improved cocoa production and bush mango collection, processing and marketing.

Protected area status of the Mbe Mountains

We are monitoring progress on the process to legally gazette the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary. Success will be indicated by official recognition of the Mbe Mountains as community-managed wildlife sanctuary by the Cross River State Government by end of the project.

Improved bylaws and governance

We continue to monitor progress on the development and formalization of bylaws for the Mbe Mountains through meetings with CAMM who are engaging directly with the Boki LGA on the process. Success will be indicated by official endorsement of the bylaws by the Boki LGA.

9. Lessons learnt

Implementing this project in close collaboration CAMM has been extremely valuable in terms of ensuring community buy-in and ownership of the project. Progress on the official gazettelement of the Mbe Mountains has been delayed due to slow response from government. However, it is expected that with general elections in Nigeria over faster progress can be made on the gazettelement process in the coming years. Working with lawyer with a good relationship with government has been useful in engaging with the government on the gazettelement process.

Late recruitment of a livelihood officer for the project delayed the start of implementation of the livelihood component of the project (training and support to cocoa farmers and women groups involved in bush mango collection and marketing). However, we are now moving forward with implementation of this activity. Starting the recruitment process in advance of the project is one of the lessons we have learned.

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

Comments and queries on year 1 annual report:

The project needs to be clear of the actual take home message from its lessons learnt – what would it do differently to prevent the same problem, or advise others to do?

This has been made clearer. See Lessons Learnt section above

The project should provide examples which contain evidence it has promoted the identity of the DI

Support for the project is acknowledged in quarterly and annual reports posted on the WCS Nigeria website and on our project Facebook and Twitter posts.

Website: <https://nigeria.wcs.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CRgorilla/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/WCS_Nigeria

Clarify if the governance structure of CAMM includes female representation

CAMM comprises of the nine communities that surround the Mbe Mountains and claim traditional ownership of the forest. CAMM has a governance structure that consists of General Assembly, Board of Trustees, Management Committee, and a Technical and Stakeholder Supervisory Group, with females represented in the different organs. This governance structure makes CAMM an ideal platform for engagement with the local communities given the representation of different interest groups. Working with CAMM has ensured that the project engages all interest groups.

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

12. Sustainability and legacy

The Mbe Mountains is an important site for biodiversity conservation in Nigeria – one of only three gorilla sites in Nigeria, and home to the endangered Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee, drill, and other threatened wildlife such as forest elephant, pangolin, and the critically endangered slender-snouted crocodile. There is growing interest from both the Federal Government of Nigeria and the Cross River State Government in the conservation of the Mbe Mountains. CAMM which manages Mbe is legally registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria, and the Cross River State Government, through the Ministry of Climate Change and Forestry and the Cross River State Forestry Commission, has supported conservation efforts in Mbe for a number of years.

Activities implemented under this project are shared on the WCS website at:

<https://nigeria.wcs.org/>; and on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CRgorilla/>, and Twitter: https://twitter.com/WCS_Nigeria to promote the project. The project enjoys the full support of the Mbe communities. Voluntary donation of community land inside the Mbe Mountains conservation area to CAMM is evidence of the communities' interest and support for the project. Each of the nine Mbe communities has signed a letter confirming the donation of land in the Mbe Mountains to CAMM for biodiversity conservation. This letter will be submitted to the Cross River State Government in support of CAMM's application for the issuance of a 'Certificate of Occupancy' to CAMM and official recognition for the Mbe Mountains conservation area.

The proposed exit strategy for the project remains valid. Training farmers to produce cocoa sustainably while increasing efficiency, and training and support for women to increase income from bush mango equips the communities with skills to improve agricultural productivity, increase income generation from non-timber forest products and improve wellbeing. Importantly, relationships established between CAMM and CRIN during this project will facilitate continuity and access to farmer training support beyond this project's endpoint. It promotes cocoa and bush mango value chain development that will improve income generation. The legal gazettement of the Mbe Mountains as a community-managed wildlife sanctuary, together with formalization of bylaws and capacity building of CAMM during this project, will enhance protection of Cross River gorillas and the Mbe forest, securing long-term benefits from the project. WCS remains committed long-term to the Cross River gorilla landscape and the Mbe Mountains. WCS will maintain targeted support to CAMM to manage the Mbe Mountains for conservation and alleviation of poverty long after the end of the project to ensure its impact endures long term.

13. Darwin identity

Darwin Initiative funding for this project is acknowledged in monthly, quarterly, and annual reports shared with partners and stakeholders in the region and publicly on the WCS website and social media platforms. The Darwin Initiative logo has been used in workshop presentations to acknowledge and promote Darwin funding.

The UK Government's contribution to this project through the Darwin Initiative funding is recognised. Darwin Initiative funding for this project is acknowledged in quarterly and annual reports shared with partners and stakeholders in the region and publicly on the WCS website and social media platforms. The Darwin Initiative logo has been used in workshop presentations to acknowledge and promote Darwin funding.

This project forms part of a larger ongoing conservation programme aimed at protecting Cross River gorillas and tropical rainforest in the Mbe Mountains. Funding from the Darwin Initiative is complemented by funding from other sources.

There is considerable level of understanding of the Darwin Initiative Funding in Nigeria among government agencies, NGOs and local communities based on their involvement in past and current Darwin Initiative funded projects. For example, a Darwin Initiative funded bushmeat research project in Cross River State implemented from 2001 to 2002 involved government agencies such as the Nigeria National Park Service and the Cross River State Forestry Commission, as well as numerous local communities and local conservation NGOs. Another ongoing Darwin Initiative funded project focusing on illegal wildlife trade in Nigeria involves the Nigeria Customs Service, the Nigeria Environmental Standards Regulatory Agency and local NGOs.

WCS shares activities implemented in this project and promotes the project via the WCS website: <https://nigeria.wcs.org/>; and on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CRgorilla/> and Twitter: https://twitter.com/WCS_Nigeria.

14. Project expenditure

Please expand and complete Table 1. If all receipts have not yet been received, please provide indicative figures and clearly mark them as Draft. The Actual claim form will be taken as the final accounting for funds.



Table 1: Project



expenditure during



the reporting period (1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2018/19	2018/19	Variance	Comments (please explain any variance +/- 10%)
	Grant (£)	Total Darwin Costs (£)	%	
Staff costs (from Section 5)	£		21%	As the rate of implementation of the grant has been slow due to delays encountered, some staff time spent on this project for the reporting period have been covered on other grants.
Consultancy Costs	£		91%	Based on improved understanding of cocoa production in Mbe, we decided, upon requesting and obtaining approval, to extend project support to cocoa framers beyond training, and to include providing improved cocoa seedlings (early maturing and high yielding variety) to replace old, unproductive cocoa trees to increase productivity on existing farms to reduce the need to clear more forest each year to increase cocoa production. Originally, support to cocoa farmers focused only on training of farmers in improved farming practices using the Farmer Field School approach. This was planned to involve ongoing on-site training by consultant cocoa experts. The change in approach significantly reduced the amount of training to be done as well as cost, allowing the remainder of the amount budgeted for training to be spent on providing critical inputs such as improved, high quality cocoa seedlings to farmers. This variance is due to delay by the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria to supply all the seedlings required.
Overhead Costs	£		42%	Overhead costs variance due to underspend on direct activities
Travel and subsistence	£		0%	
Operating Costs	£		37%	This variance is due to delay by the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria in making cocoa inputs including improved seedlings available to WCS for purchase and supply to farmers. Additionally, planned meetings between CAMM and CRSMCCF and CRSMLH to discuss the boundary of the Mbe Conservation area have not taken place due to slow progress on the gazettelement process which needs to reach a certain stage for these meetings to place.
Capital items (from Section 7)	£		0%	
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)	£		56%	This variance is due to delay in implementation of project activities which reduced the number of field monitoring trips. More project monitoring trips will be made in the coming months as project implemenation progresses at a faster rate.
Others (from Section 8)	£		36%	A greater percentage of field ration costs incurred have been covered on other funding sources. This budget will be spent out in the next reporting period.
Total	£ 79,917.00	£ 43,951.12		

Highlight any agreed changes to the budget and **fully** explain any variation in expenditure where this is +/- 10% of the budget. Have these changes been discussed with and approved by Darwin?

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2018-2019

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2018 - March 2019	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>This project is contributing to the conservation of Cross River gorillas and the Mbe forest. The Mountains are part of the rainforests of Cross River, a globally recognized biodiversity hotspot with high levels of species richness and endemism, with over 64 species of reptiles, 61 species of amphibians, 54 species of fish, 18 primates and about 1,570 plant species, many of which are globally threatened. The Mbe Mountains are home to number of threatened species such as the Cross River gorilla <i>Gorilla gorilla diehli</i> (CR), Slender-snouted crocodile <i>Mecistops cataphractus</i> (CR), Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee <i>Pan troglodytes ellioti</i> (EN), Drill monkey <i>Mandrillus leucophaeus</i> (EN), Red-eared monkey <i>Cercopithecus erythrotis</i> (VU), African forest elephant <i>Loxodonta africana</i> (VU), Grey-headed rockfowl <i>Picathartes oreas</i> (VU), African grey parrot <i>Psittacus erithacus</i> (VU), and White-bellied pangolin <i>Phataginus tricuspis</i> (VU).</p>		<p>This project is contributing to biodiversity conservation through improving effectiveness of law enforcement patrols of the Mbe Mountains. The project is also contributing to human development and wellbeing through providing benefits to surrounding communities from improved cocoa farming and sustainable bush mango collection and marketing, as well as watershed protection.</p>	
<p>Outcome</p> <p>Critical habitat for Cross River gorillas in the Mbe Mountains is legally recognized and effectively co-managed, to benefit 12,000 people from improved cocoa production, bush mango harvesting and watershed protection.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) No decrease in gorilla nest counts per km and a 10% increase in the area occupied by gorillas in the Mbe Mts by end of Y4 as compared to baseline; 2) By end of Y4, there has been no net loss of forest within the corridor and rate of forest loss in the buffer zone decreases by 30%; 3) By the end of Y4, household wellbeing indices increase by 10% due to improved cocoa production and bush mango collection compared to baseline established in Y1. 	<p>During this reporting period, we continued to pursue the process for the legal gazettement of the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary by the Cross River Sate Government although progress has been delayed due to slow response from government during a long period of electioneering for the 2019 general elections in Nigeria. With the elections now over, WCS is working with CAMM to move the process forward. A total of 70 anti-poaching patrols were implemented to protect Cross River gorillas and their habitat in the Mbe Mountains while enhancing watershed protection and securing local livelihoods. Capacity building training and other support provided to cocoa farmers and women groups is expected to increase</p>	<p>WCS monitors progress on cocoa training and application of acquired knowledge and skills by farmers, and evaluates impact.</p> <p>WCS monitors progress on bush mango training and application of acquired knowledge and skills by women's groups, and evaluates impact.</p> <p>WCS supports CAMM to follow up with the Cross River State Government to ensure legal endorsement of the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary.</p>

		productivity of existing cocoa farms and increase income generation from bush mango.	<p>WCS and CAMM support survey and official documentation of the area to be gazetted by the Cross River State Ministry of Lands and Housing.</p> <p>WCS supports CAMM and Boki LGA to develop new bylaws for improved governance of Mbe Mountains that are ratified by MCCF.</p> <p>WCS produces and shares monthly, quarterly and annual patrol reports with CAMM, Boki LGA, MCCF, and other stakeholders.</p> <p>WCS monitors progress on law enforcement and evaluates impact.</p>
<p>Output 1.</p> <p>Local farmers have been trained to increase efficiency of existing cocoa farms.</p>	<p>1.1 By the end of Y2, 2,500 farmers (at least 30% women) trained in improved cocoa production.</p> <p>1.2 By the end of Y4, the average cocoa yield/farm increases 10% from baseline established in Y1.</p>	One hundred and forty farmers have been trained in improved farming methods to increase productivity of existing cocoa farms rather than clearing more forest to establish new farms to increase cocoa production. The project is providing ongoing support to the farmers including refresher training and supply of improved seedlings to replace old, unproductive cocoa trees on existing farms. Thirty-five farmers have been provided with improved seedlings to date.	
<p>Activity 1.1</p> <p>WCS and CAMM visit target communities and hold meetings to introduce project.</p>		This activity was implemented in Year 1. WCS and CAMM organized consultation meetings with the nine Mbe communities to introduce the project.	
<p>Activity 1.2. WCS and CAMM identify and select cocoa farmers from each of the nine Mbe communities to participate in Farmer Field Schools and receive training in improved cocoa farming; identify contact person(s) in each community to assist with organising farmers; identify suitable demonstration farms.</p>		This activity was implemented in Year 1. Individual farmers were identified in each community for cocoa training and support.	
<p>1.1 Activity 1.3. WCS, CRIN and CAMM agree a schedule with farmers</p>		WCS worked with CAMM, CRIN and the Cross River State Agricultural Development Agency to train farmers in improved farming techniques, and purchased improved cocoa seedlings from CRIN to supply to the trained farmers for replace old, unproductive cocoa trees on existing farms.	

<p>Activity 1.4. WCS conducts a BNS survey in target communities to establish well-being baseline.</p>	<p>This activity was implemented in Year 1. A Basic Necessities Survey (BNS) was conducted to establish a well-being baseline for household in the Mbe communities. A total of 602 households were surveyed. Data were collected using the software Miradi on handheld input devices. The baseline established will allow future evaluation of the impact of the project. A baseline governance evaluation of CAMM has also been conducted using the Natural Resources Governance Tool (NRGT). The results are guiding support for capacity building training of CAMM to strengthen the group's authority and capacity to govern resources in the Mbe Mountains.</p>
<p>Activity 1.5. WCS and CRIN establish Farmer Field Schools</p>	<p>Based on improved understanding of cocoa production in Mbe, we decided, upon requesting and obtaining approval, to extend project support to cocoa framers beyond training, and to include providing improved cocoa seedlings (early maturing and high yielding variety) to replace old, unproductive cocoa trees to increase productivity on existing farms to reduce the need to clear more forest each year to increase cocoa production. Originally, support to cocoa farmers focused only on training of farmers in improved farming practices using the Farmer Field School approach. This was planned to involve ongoing on-site training by consultant cocoa experts. The change in approach significantly reduced the amount of training to be done as well as cost, allowing the remainder of the amount budgeted for training to be spent on providing critical inputs such as improved, fast growing, and high-yielding cocoa seedlings to farmers.</p>
<p>Activity 1.6. WCS, CAMM and farmers agree and sign conservation contracts</p>	<p>A conservation contract has been developed between WCS, CAMM and project participants to ensure that the project delivers the desired impact and does not have negative impact on biodiversity conservation.</p>
<p>Activity 1.7. CRIN conducts training on improved cocoa production through Farmer Field Schools, overseen by WCS.</p>	<p>Framers have been trained in improved cocoa production, but the initial focus on Farmer Field School has changed. See above.</p>
<p>Activity 1.8. WCS monitors progress on cocoa training and application of acquired knowledge and skills by farmers, and evaluates impact.</p>	<p>WCS is monitoring cocoa farmers trained under this project to assess how they apply the skills acquired to sustainably produce cocoa and increase income from efficient cocoa farming.</p>
<p>Output 2. Local women's groups and young men trained in improved bush mango collection, processing, storage and marketing.</p>	<p>2.1 By the end of Y4, bush mango value chain is enhanced (from processing to sale) to increase profits for 500 women and young men. 2.2 By the end of Y4, the average wellbeing indices per household benefitting from bush mango</p> <p>A total of 400 women have been trained in bush mango propagation, processing, storage and marketing. The women have also been provided with improved bush mango seedlings to plant on farms and other degraded areas to increase production.</p>

	<p>increases 10% from baseline established in Y1.</p> <p>2.3 By the end of Y4, Conservation contracts negotiated and signed with 500 women and young men.</p>	
<p>Activity 2.1. WCS and CAMM visit target communities and hold meetings to introduce project; identify and select women's groups from each of the nine Mbe communities to participate in training on improved bush mango collection, processing, storage and marketing; identify contact person(s) in each community to assist with organising women's groups for training.</p>		<p>This activity was implemented in Year 1. WCS and CAMM organized consultation meetings with the nine Mbe communities to introduce the project. Women's groups were identified in each community for bush mango training and support.</p>
<p>Activity 2.2. WCS conducts a BNS survey in target communities to establish well-being baseline.</p>		<p>This activity was implemented in Year 1. See 1.4 above.</p>
<p>Activity 2.3. WCS provides training in improved bush mango collection, processing, storage and marketing; WCS and CAMM support women's groups to identify accessible storage facilities and set up micro-enterprises.</p>		<p>The project supported 400 women trained in bush mango propagation with improved seedlings for planting on their farms and fallow areas to increase the production of bush mango. The women were also trained and supported to form cooperatives to facilitate access to market. The project will continue to provide capacity building support to the women's cooperatives to assist them add value to the product and increase income through improved storage and access to larger markets.</p>
<p>Activity 2.4. WCS monitors progress on bush mango training and application of acquired knowledge and skills by women's groups, and evaluates impact.</p>		<p>WCS is monitoring women trained under this project to assess how they apply the skills acquired to increase income from bush mango.</p>
<p>Output 3.</p> <p>Protection of the Mbe Mountains is enhanced and community land tenure secured through legal recognition of 127km² as a "Community Managed Wildlife Sanctuary".</p>	<p>3.1 By the end of Y4, Mbe Mountains gazetted as a community wildlife sanctuary.</p>	<p>Signed letters of support from each of the nine Mbe communities confirming donation of land in the Mbe Mountains to CAMM to be managed for biodiversity conservation have been obtained. The letters will be submitted to the Cross River State Government in support of CAMM's formal application to the Cross River State Government for gazettement of the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary.</p>
<p>Activity 3.1. WCS supports CAMM to launch the process for the official gazettement of the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary with the Cross River State Government; hold meetings with the MCCF and other relevant government agencies involved in the gazettement process to discuss progress.</p>		<p>During the first year of the project, WCS assisted CAMM to submit a formal application to the Cross River State Government, through the Ministry of Climate Change & Forestry, for the official gazettement of the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary.</p>
<p>Activity 3.2. WCS supports CAMM to follow up with the Cross River State Government to ensure legal endorsement of the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary.</p>		<p>WCS continued to provide technical support to CAMM to engage with the Cross River State Government in the process to officially recognize the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary, but with the government focused on preparations for the 2019 general elections in Nigeria, progress was slow. However, with the elections now over, WCS is working with CAMM to move forward with the</p>

	<p>gazettement process. Working together with CAMM, each of the nine Mbe communities has signed a letter confirming donation of land in the Mbe Mountains to CAMM to be managed for biodiversity conservation. The letters will be submitted to the Cross River State Government in support of CAMM's application for gazettement of the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary. We will continue to work with CAMM and relevant government agencies to achieve official endorsement of the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary.</p>				
<p>Activity 3.3. WCS and CAMM support survey and official documentation of the area to be gazetted by the Cross River State Ministry of Lands and Housing.</p>	<p>Plans are in place to implement this activity next year.</p>				
<p>Output 4. The effectiveness of law enforcement interventions of WCS and local communities is improved for Mbe Mountains ecosystem.</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="618 485 1099 624"> <p>4.1 Regular patrols in the Mbe Mountains by WCS and CAMM reduces signs of poaching by 10% each year compared to Y1 baseline.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1099 485 2121 842" rowspan="3"> <p>Training in law enforcement techniques and support for anti-poaching patrols provided by this project is improving protection of Cross River gorillas and the Mbe forest. During this reporting period, the project supported 16 CAMM eco-guards to conduct 70 anti-poaching patrols of the Mbe Mountains covering a total distance of 3,179 km over 2,492 person-days. The patrols led to the arrest of 35 people including nine hunters, and a total of 3,120 wire snares and 7 hunting camps were destroyed. In January 2019, we upgraded to a new cloud-based version of SMART (SMART-Connect) which will help further improve law enforcement operations in Mbe. SMART-Connect allows integration of SMART data with data from other sources, and improved understanding of threats to wildlife and habitats and sharing of data, maps, and reports across entire protected area networks.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="618 624 1099 730"> <p>4.2 New bylaws for improved governance of Mbe Mountains ratified by Boki LGA and MCCF.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="618 730 1099 842"> <p>4.3 Governance scores of the Mbe Mountains in Y4 increases by 20% over Y1 baselines.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>4.1 Regular patrols in the Mbe Mountains by WCS and CAMM reduces signs of poaching by 10% each year compared to Y1 baseline.</p>	<p>Training in law enforcement techniques and support for anti-poaching patrols provided by this project is improving protection of Cross River gorillas and the Mbe forest. During this reporting period, the project supported 16 CAMM eco-guards to conduct 70 anti-poaching patrols of the Mbe Mountains covering a total distance of 3,179 km over 2,492 person-days. The patrols led to the arrest of 35 people including nine hunters, and a total of 3,120 wire snares and 7 hunting camps were destroyed. In January 2019, we upgraded to a new cloud-based version of SMART (SMART-Connect) which will help further improve law enforcement operations in Mbe. SMART-Connect allows integration of SMART data with data from other sources, and improved understanding of threats to wildlife and habitats and sharing of data, maps, and reports across entire protected area networks.</p>	<p>4.2 New bylaws for improved governance of Mbe Mountains ratified by Boki LGA and MCCF.</p>	<p>4.3 Governance scores of the Mbe Mountains in Y4 increases by 20% over Y1 baselines.</p>
<p>4.1 Regular patrols in the Mbe Mountains by WCS and CAMM reduces signs of poaching by 10% each year compared to Y1 baseline.</p>	<p>Training in law enforcement techniques and support for anti-poaching patrols provided by this project is improving protection of Cross River gorillas and the Mbe forest. During this reporting period, the project supported 16 CAMM eco-guards to conduct 70 anti-poaching patrols of the Mbe Mountains covering a total distance of 3,179 km over 2,492 person-days. The patrols led to the arrest of 35 people including nine hunters, and a total of 3,120 wire snares and 7 hunting camps were destroyed. In January 2019, we upgraded to a new cloud-based version of SMART (SMART-Connect) which will help further improve law enforcement operations in Mbe. SMART-Connect allows integration of SMART data with data from other sources, and improved understanding of threats to wildlife and habitats and sharing of data, maps, and reports across entire protected area networks.</p>				
<p>4.2 New bylaws for improved governance of Mbe Mountains ratified by Boki LGA and MCCF.</p>					
<p>4.3 Governance scores of the Mbe Mountains in Y4 increases by 20% over Y1 baselines.</p>					
<p>Activity 4.1. WCS trains CAMM eco-guards in SMART and implements monthly SMART-based anti-poaching patrols jointly with CAMM.</p>	<p>WCS continued to support eco-guards in the Mbe Mountains to carry out law enforcement patrols, adapting patrol strategy based on information from previous patrols to improve effectiveness of law enforcement action. Using SMART, WCS monitored patrol effort (kilometers walked and the number of patrol days completed), as well as hunting pressure through measuring encounter rate of signs such as wire snares, hunting camps, and empty shotgun shells discarded by hunters. During this reporting period, WCS supported 70 anti-poaching patrols of the Mbe Mountains by 16 CAMM eco-guards, covering a total distance of 3,179 km over 2,492 person-days. A total of 35 people including 9 hunters were apprehended and reported to CAMM for sanctions – usually fines. In addition, 3,120 wire snares and 7 hunting camps were destroyed by patrols this period (Table 1). To improve their capacity, WCS provided refresher training in law enforcement techniques, including the use of SMART for law enforcement patrol planning and monitoring, for 16 eco-guards in the field each month alongside patrols. Starting from January, we transitioned to a new cloud-based version of SMART (SMART-Connect) which allows integration of SMART data with data from other sources, and improved understanding of threats to wildlife and habitats and sharing of data, maps, and reports across entire protected area networks.</p>				

Activity 4.2. WCS supports CAMM and Boki LGA to develop new bylaws for improved governance of Mbe Mountains that are ratified by MCCF.	The project continued to support CAMM meetings to discuss the process for formalization of bylaws developed by CAMM to strengthen law enforcement in Mbe.
Activity 4.3. WCS produces and shares monthly, quarterly and annual patrol reports with CAMM, Boki LGA, MCCF, and other stakeholders.	WCS produced monthly, quarterly and annual reports based on patrol data that are shared with CAMM and other stakeholders.
Activity 4.4. WCS monitors progress on law enforcement and evaluates impact.	Using SMART, WCS monitored patrol effort (in terms of distance walked and the number of patrol days completed), as well as human threats through encounter rate of signs such as wire snares, hunting camps, and empty shotgun shells discarded by hunters. Information from previous patrols was used to plan subsequent patrols.

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

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: Nigeria's Mbe Mountains ecosystems are effectively conserved, providing critical, connected habitat for the recovery of critically endangered Cross River Gorillas and sustainable livelihoods for local communities.</p> <p>(Max 30 words)</p>			
<p>Outcome: Critical habitat for Cross River gorillas in Nigeria's Mbe Mountains is legally recognized and effectively co-managed, benefitting 12,000 people from improved cocoa production, bush mango harvesting and watershed protection.</p> <p>(Max 30 words)</p>	<p>0.1 By end of Y4, there has been no decrease in gorilla nest counts per km (baseline = 0.17 nest sites per km during the period 2009-2014) and the area occupied by gorillas in the Mbe Mts increases by 10% compared to baseline established in Y1.</p> <p>0.2 By end of Y4, there has been no net loss of forest within the corridor and rate of forest loss in the buffer zone decreases by 30%.</p> <p>0.3 By the end of Y4, household wellbeing indices increase by 10% due to improved cocoa production and bush mango collection compared to baseline established in Y1.</p>	<p>0.1 Eco-guard patrol SMART reports and mapping.</p> <p>0.2 Analysis of Landsat 8 images.</p> <p>0.3 Basic Necessities Surveys (BNS) of the 9 communities surrounding Mbe Mountains.</p>	<p>Benefits provided by improved cocoa techniques and sustainable bush mango collection, combined with effective law enforcement are sufficient to influence local attitudes and behaviours towards CRG and their habitat.</p> <p>Communities and Cross River State Government are willing to embrace sustainable management of their forests for conservation purposes and there are no competing commercial interests such as logging or oil palm development.</p>
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Local farmers have been trained to increase efficiency of existing cocoa farms.</p>	<p>1.1 By the end of Y2, 2,500 farmers (at least 30% women) trained in improved cocoa production.</p> <p>1.2 By the end of Y4, the average cocoa yield/farm increases 10% from baseline established in Y1.</p>	<p>1.1 Training reports, training course attendance certificates.</p> <p>1.2 Socio-economic survey</p>	<p>Farmers participate in training actively and fully to the end.</p> <p>Weather conditions remain favourable for cocoa.</p> <p>Market price for cocoa remains favourable keeping buyers interested.</p>

			Conservation contracts are socially accepted and provide sufficient incentive to protect the forest.
2. Local women’s groups and young men trained in improved bush mango collection, processing, storage and marketing.	<p>2.1 By the end of Y4, bush mango value chain is enhanced (from processing to sale) to increase profits for 500 women and young men.</p> <p>2.2 By the end of Y4, the average wellbeing indices per household benefitting from bush mango increases 10% from baseline established in Y1.</p> <p>2.3 By the end of Y4, Conservation contracts negotiated and signed with 500 women and young men.</p>	<p>2.1 Training reports, training course attendance certificates.</p> <p>2.2 Socio-economic survey</p> <p>2.3 WCS and CAMM records</p>	<p>Bush mango value chain remains profitable for collectors and incentivizes forest protection.</p> <p>Conservation contracts are socially accepted by the women and young men and provide sufficient incentive to protect the forest.</p>
3. Protection of the Mbe Mountains is enhanced and community land tenure secured through legal recognition of 127km ² as a “Community Managed Wildlife Sanctuary”.	3.1 By the end of Y4, Mbe Mountains gazetted as a community wildlife sanctuary.	3.1 Government gazette notice	Government of Cross River State willing to recognise customary rights and local land tenure.
4. The effectiveness of law enforcement interventions of WCS and local communities is improved for Mbe Mountains ecosystem.	<p>4.1 Regular patrols in the Mbe Mountains by WCS and CAMM reduces signs of poaching by 10% each year compared to Y1 baseline.</p> <p>4.2 New bylaws for improved governance of Mbe Mountains ratified by Boki LGA and MCCF.</p> <p>4.3 Governance scores of the Mbe Mountains in Y4 increases by 20% over Y1 baselines.</p>	<p>4.1 Monthly SMART reports.</p> <p>4.2 Boki Council records.</p> <p>4.3 Natural Resource Governance Tool (NRGT) scores.</p>	<p>Improved law enforcement supported by local communities and maintains a net positive impact on local livelihoods.</p> <p>Community-created sanctions act as sufficient deterrent and reduce levels of illegal activity</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)

- 1.2 WCS and CAMM visit target communities and hold meetings to introduce project
- 1.3 WCS and CAMM identify and select cocoa farmers from each of the nine Mbe communities to participate in Farmer Field Schools and receive training in improved cocoa farming; identify contact person(s) in each community to assist with organising farmers; identify suitable demonstration farms
- 1.4 WCS, CRIN and CAMM agree a schedule with farmers
- 1.4 WCS conducts a BNS survey in target communities to establish well-being baseline.
- 1.5 WCS and CRIN establish Farmer Field Schools
- 1.6 WCS, CAMM and farmers agree and sign conservation contracts
- 1.7 CRIN conducts training on improved cocoa production through Farmer Field Schools, overseen by WCS.
- 1.8 WCS monitors progress on cocoa training and application of acquired knowledge and skills by farmers, and evaluates impact.

- 2.1 WCS and CAMM visit target communities and hold meetings to introduce project; identify and select women's groups from each of the nine Mbe communities to participate in training on improved bush mango collection, processing, storage and marketing; identify contact person(s) in each community to assist with organising women's groups for training.
- 2.2 WCS conducts a BNS survey in target communities to establish well-being baseline.
- 2.3 WCS provides training in improved bush mango collection, processing, storage and marketing; WCS and CAMM support women's groups to identify accessible storage facilities and set up micro-enterprises.
- 2.4 WCS monitors progress on bush mango training and application of acquired knowledge and skills by women's groups, and evaluates impact.

- 3.1 WCS supports CAMM to launch the process for the official gazettelement of the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary with the Cross River State Government; hold meetings with the MCCF and other relevant government agencies involved in the gazettelement process to discuss progress.
- 3.2 WCS supports CAMM to follow up with the Cross River State Government to ensure legal endorsement of the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary.
- 3.3 WCS and CAMM support survey and official documentation of the area to be gazetted by the Cross River State Ministry of Lands and Housing.

- 4.1 WCS trains CAMM eco-guards in SMART and implements monthly SMART-based anti-poaching patrols jointly with CAMM.
- 4.2 WCS supports CAMM and Boki LGA to develop new bylaws for improved governance of Mbe Mountains that are ratified by MCCF.
- 4.3 WCS produces and shares monthly, quarterly and annual patrol reports with CAMM, Boki LGA, MCCF, and other stakeholders.
- 4.4. WCS monitors progress on law enforcement and evaluates impact.

Annex 3: Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: Nigeria's Mbe Mountains ecosystems are effectively conserved, providing critical, connected habitat for the recovery of critically endangered Cross River Gorillas and sustainable livelihoods for local communities.</p> <p>(Max 30 words)</p>			
<p>Outcome: Critical habitat for Cross River gorillas in Nigeria's Mbe Mountains is legally recognized and effectively co-managed, benefitting 12,000 people from improved cocoa production, bush mango harvesting and watershed protection.</p> <p>(Max 30 words)</p>	<p>0.1 By end of Y4, there has been no decrease in gorilla nest counts per km (baseline = 0.17 nest sites per km during the period 2009-2014) and the area occupied by gorillas in the Mbe Mts increases by 10% compared to baseline established in Y1.</p> <p>0.2 By end of Y4, there has been no net loss of forest within the corridor and rate of forest loss in the buffer zone decreases by 30%.</p> <p>0.3 By the end of Y4, household wellbeing indices increase by 10% due to improved cocoa production and bush mango collection compared to baseline established in Y1.</p>	<p>0.1 Eco-guard patrol SMART reports and mapping.</p> <p>0.2 Analysis of Landsat 8 images.</p> <p>0.3 Basic Necessities Surveys (BNS) of the 9 communities surrounding Mbe Mountains.</p>	<p>Benefits provided by improved cocoa techniques and sustainable bush mango collection, combined with effective law enforcement are sufficient to influence local attitudes and behaviours towards CRG and their habitat.</p> <p>Communities and Cross River State Government are willing to embrace sustainable management of their forests for conservation purposes and there are no competing commercial interests such as logging or oil palm development.</p>
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Local farmers have been trained to increase efficiency of existing cocoa farms.</p>	<p>1.1 By the end of Y2, 2,500 farmers (at least 30% women) trained in improved cocoa production.</p>	<p>1.1 Training reports, training course attendance certificates.</p> <p>1.2 Socio-economic survey</p>	<p>Farmers participate in training actively and fully to the end.</p>

	<p>1.2 By the end of Y4, the average cocoa yield/farm increases 10% from baseline established in Y1.</p>		<p>Weather conditions remain favourable for cocoa.</p> <p>Market price for cocoa remains favourable keeping buyers interested.</p> <p>Conservation contracts are socially accepted and provide sufficient incentive to protect the forest.</p>
<p>2. Local women's groups and young men trained in improved bush mango collection, processing, storage and marketing.</p>	<p>2.1 By the end of Y4, bush mango value chain is enhanced (from processing to sale) to increase profits for 500 women and young men.</p> <p>2.2 By the end of Y4, the average wellbeing indices per household benefitting from bush mango increases 10% from baseline established in Y1.</p> <p>2.3 By the end of Y4, Conservation contracts negotiated and signed with 500 women and young men.</p>	<p>2.1 Training reports, training course attendance certificates.</p> <p>2.2 Socio-economic survey</p> <p>2.3 WCS and CAMM records</p>	<p>Bush mango value chain remains profitable for collectors and incentivizes forest protection.</p> <p>Conservation contracts are socially accepted by the women and young men and provide sufficient incentive to protect the forest.</p>
<p>3. Protection of the Mbe Mountains is enhanced and community land tenure secured through legal recognition of 127km² as a</p>	<p>3.1 By the end of Y4, Mbe Mountains gazetted as a community wildlife sanctuary.</p>	<p>3.1 Government gazette notice</p>	<p>Government of Cross River State willing to recognise customary rights and local land tenure.</p>

<p>“Community Managed Wildlife Sanctuary”.</p>			
<p>4. The effectiveness of law enforcement interventions of WCS and local communities is improved for Mbe Mountains ecosystem.</p>	<p>4.1 Regular patrols in the Mbe Mountains by WCS and CAMM reduces signs of poaching by 10% each year compared to Y1 baseline.</p> <p>4.2 New bylaws for improved governance of Mbe Mountains ratified by Boki LGA and MCCF.</p> <p>4.3 Governance scores of the Mbe Mountains in Y4 increases by 20% over Y1 baselines.</p>	<p>4.1 Monthly SMART reports.</p> <p>4.2 Boki Council records.</p> <p>4.3 Natural Resource Governance Tool (NRGT) scores.</p>	<p>Improved law enforcement supported by local communities and maintains a net positive impact on local livelihoods.</p> <p>Community-created sanctions act as sufficient deterrent and reduce levels of illegal activity</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> <p>1.5 WCS and CAMM visit target communities and hold meetings to introduce project</p> <p>1.6 WCS and CAMM identify and select cocoa farmers from each of the nine Mbe communities to participate in Farmer Field Schools and receive training in improved cocoa farming; identify contact person(s) in each community to assist with organising farmers; identify suitable demonstration farms</p> <p>1.7 WCS, CRIN and CAMM agree a schedule with farmers</p> <p>1.4 WCS conducts a BNS survey in target communities to establish well-being baseline.</p> <p>1.5 WCS and CRIN establish Farmer Field Schools</p> <p>1.6 WCS, CAMM and farmers agree and sign conservation contracts</p> <p>1.7 CRIN conducts training on improved cocoa production through Farmer Field Schools, overseen by WCS.</p> <p>1.8 WCS monitors progress on cocoa training and application of acquired knowledge and skills by farmers, and evaluates impact.</p> <p>2.1 WCS and CAMM visit target communities and hold meetings to introduce project; identify and select women’s groups from each of the nine Mbe communities to participate in training on improved bush mango collection, processing, storage and marketing; identify contact person(s) in each community to assist with organising women’s groups for training.</p> <p>2.2 WCS conducts a BNS survey in target communities to establish well-being baseline.</p>			

2.3 WCS provides training in improved bush mango collection, processing, storage and marketing; WCS and CAMM support women's groups to identify accessible storage facilities and set up micro-enterprises.

2.4 WCS monitors progress on bush mango training and application of acquired knowledge and skills by women's groups, and evaluates impact.

3.1 WCS supports CAMM to launch the process for the official gazettement of the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary with the Cross River State Government; hold meetings with the MCCF and other relevant government agencies involved in the gazettement process to discuss progress.

3.2 WCS supports CAMM to follow up with the Cross River State Government to ensure legal endorsement of the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary.

3.3 WCS and CAMM support survey and official documentation of the area to be gazetted by the Cross River State Ministry of Lands and Housing.

4.1 WCS trains CAMM eco-guards in SMART and implements monthly SMART-based anti-poaching patrols jointly with CAMM.

4.2 WCS supports CAMM and Boki LGA to develop new bylaws for improved governance of Mbe Mountains that are ratified by MCCF.

4.3 WCS produces and shares monthly, quarterly and annual patrol reports with CAMM, Boki LGA, MCCF, and other stakeholders.

4.4. WCS monitors progress on law enforcement and evaluates impact.

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)
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Annex 4 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	yes
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	no
Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	yes
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	no
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	