



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 2020

Darwin Project Information

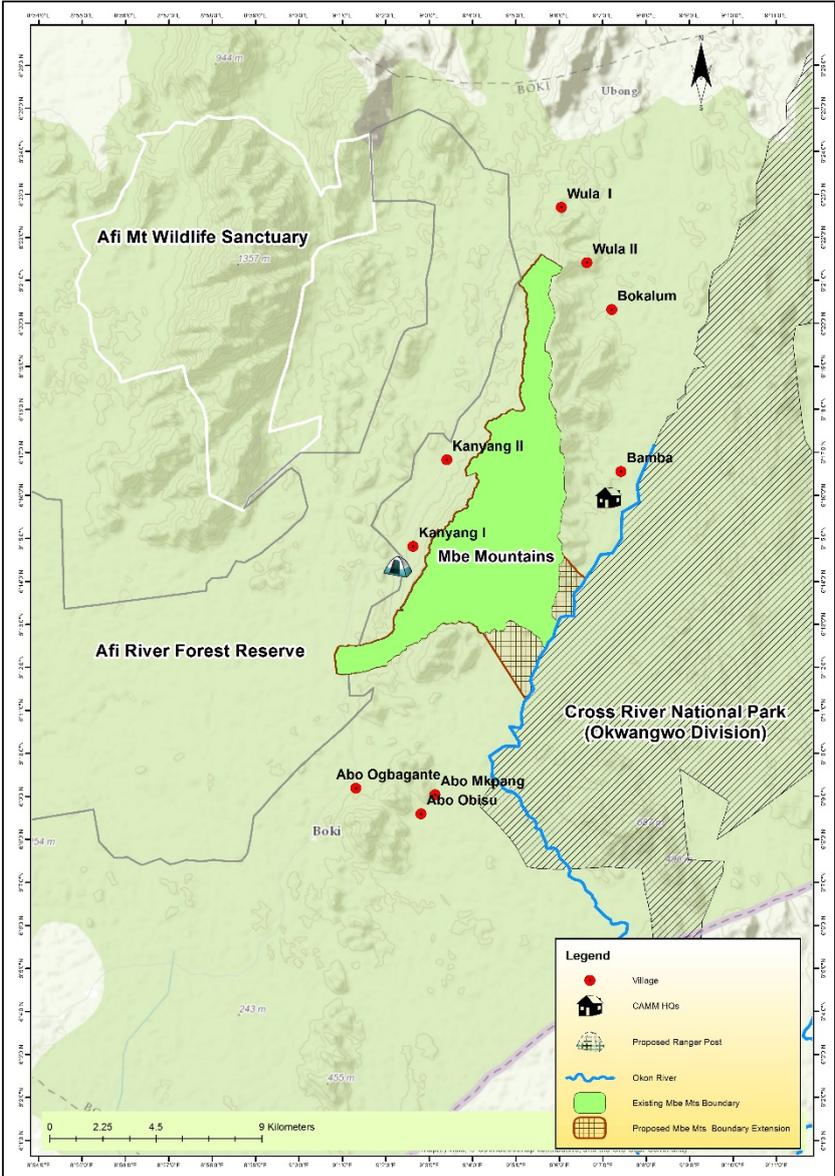
| | |
|---|---|
| Project reference | 24-001 |
| Project title | Improving forest governance for Cross River gorillas and Nigerian farmers |
| Country/ies | Nigeria |
| Lead organisation | Wildlife Conservation Society |
| Partner institution(s) | 1) Conservation Association of Mbe Mountains; 2) Cross 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 2019 – Mar 2020) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3) | April 2019 – March 2020 Annual Report 3 |
| Project Leader name | Inaoyom Imong |
| Project website/blog/social media | 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 2020 |

1. Project summary

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 gazettement 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

During this reporting period, the project supported the training of additional 603 farmers in Mbe in sustainable cocoa farming practices including shade management, reduced use of harmful pesticides, soil fertility management, and use of improved seedlings for replanting old farms. A total of 29,000 seedlings were distributed to 145 farmers (200 seedlings per farmer) who each signed a conservation agreement with WCS and CAMM committing to stop or reduce deforestation for cocoa production. In addition to seedlings, the farmers were supplied other farm inputs such as tarpaulins for drying harvested cocoa beans, wheelbarrows and rain boots. To ensure compliance with the terms of the conservation contracts signed, WCS staff made regular monitoring visits to farms supported by the project.

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

Additional 85 women were trained in improved bush mango collection, processing, storage and marketing and provided with improved bush mango seedlings to plant on their farms to increase production. The project continued to provide capacity building training for the women's bush mango cooperatives were established and also supported them to store bush mango seeds during the harvest season for sale during the off-season at a better price.

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".

The project supported the survey and mapping of the Mbe Mountains conservation area to produce a map that will be officially registered with the Cross River State Government as part of the gazettelement process. The project also supported quarterly meetings of the General Assembly and Management Committee of CAMM to plan strategies to effectively engage with the Cross River State government on the gazettelement process. The meetings were also used to discuss other forest governance issues to improve the protection of the Mbe Mountains.

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

WCS continued to support 16 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 107 anti-poaching patrols. The patrols covered a total distance of 4,179 km. A total of 26 people including 10 hunters were apprehended and reported to CAMM for sanctions. In addition, the patrols destroyed 4,664 wire snares and 13 hunting camps (Table 1). WCS provided refresher

law enforcement training for the Mbe eco-guards in the field each month alongside patrols, including training in the use of SMART for patrol planning and monitoring.

Table 1. Hunting signs recorded for the period April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

| Sign | # of Observations | Encounter Rate/km |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Gunshots heard | 19 | 0.005 |
| Set wire snares | 4,664 | 1.116 |
| Empty cartridges | 514 | 0.123 |
| Hunting camps | 13 | 0.003 |

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Outputs:

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

A total of 743 farmers in Mbe have been trained in improved cocoa farming practices to increase productivity of existing cocoa farms as a way to reduce deforestation due to cocoa production. Trained farmers were also provided improved seedlings and other farm inputs. The improved seedlings provided have been used to replant old, unproductive farms.

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

A total of 485 women have now been trained in bush mango propagation, processing, storage and marketing and provided with improved seedlings to plant on their farms increase production. The project continued to provide capacity building training for the women’s cooperatives established and supported them to gather and store bush mango seeds during the harvest season to sell during off-season for a better price.

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”.

The project continued to support and facilitate efforts by CAMM to improve the protection of the Mbe Mountains through legal recognition of the area as a community managed wildlife sanctuary. In addition to obtaining signed letters of support for the gazettelement process from all Mbe communities, the project supported the survey and mapping of a core conservation in the Mbe Mountains aiming to produce an official map to be registered with the Cross River State Government as part of the gazettelement process.

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

Ongoing refresher training in law enforcement techniques is helping to build the capacity of Mbe eco-guards and improving effectiveness of anti-poaching patrols. During this reporting period, the project supported 107 anti-poaching patrols of the Mbe Mountains that led to the arrest of 26 people including 10 hunters. All arrested offenders have been sanctioned by CAMM as a deterrent. The patrols also destroyed 4,664 wire snares and 13 hunting camps.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

WCS continued to support CAMM in the process for official recognition of the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary by the Cross River Sate Government. During this reporting period, the project supported the survey and mapping of the Mbe Mountains conservation area to produce an official map registered with the Cross River State Government – a key step in the gazettelement process. Law enforcement patrols supported by the project are helping to improve the protection of the Mbe forest and its gorillas. Patrols conducted during this reporting period led to the arrest of 26 people including 10 hunters and destruction of 4,664 wire snares and 13 hunting camps. As a result, there has been no decrease in both gorilla nest counts per km and the area occupied by gorillas in the Mbe Mountains. There has been no net loss of forest in the

Mbe Mountains. WCS will continue to analyse and monitor the encounter rate of hunting signs such as wire snares, hunting camps and gunshots heard, as well gorilla nest counts. To improve household wellbeing, the project has trained and supported 743 cocoa farmers (men and women) in improved cocoa farming practice, and 485 women in bush mango propagation, storage and marketing. In addition to training, the project provided farmers with improved fast-growing, high-yielding cocoa seedlings to replant existing old and unproductive farms to improve productivity per hectare while reducing deforestation. The women have been provided with improved bush mango seedlings to plant on their farms to increase production. The project also supported Mbe women to form and register bush mango cooperatives through which they were supported to store bush mango seeds gathered during the harvest season for sale during the off-season at a better price, thereby increasing their income from bush mango activity by over 20%. All cocoa farmers and bush mango beneficiaries signed conservation contracts with WCS and CAMM agreeing to adopt sustainable practices in cocoa farming and bush mango harvesting to reduce deforestation.

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

The expected impact of the project is that 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. 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. This project is contributing to biodiversity conservation through improving the protection of the Mbe forest and its gorillas. 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 training and support for improved cocoa production and bush mango harvesting, storage and marketing. A total of 743 cocoa farmers (men and women) have been trained in improved cocoa farming practice, and 485 women trained in bush mango propagation, storage and marketing. In addition to the training, the project provided beneficiaries improved cocoa and bush mango seedlings to improve productivity. The project also supported Mbe women to form bush mango cooperatives to improve access to market and increase income. In addition, by protecting the Mbe forest the project contributes to safeguarding the livelihoods of over 1,500 rural households living around the Mbe Mountains who depend on the forest for food and water.

7. Consideration of 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 485 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

CAMM remained a critical partner on this project, providing a valuable platform for engaging with the communities and ensuring their buy-in and support of the project. Government's focus on the 2019 general elections in Nigeria slowed progress on the gazettelement process. However, with the elections over WCS is continuing to work with CAMM in the gazettelement process. With high local demand, acquiring improved cocoa seedlings was initially difficult. However, we overcome this challenge the project's growing working relationship with the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN), which is the main source of improved cocoa seedlings in Nigeria. We also raised cocoa nurseries ourselves using seeds from CRIN rather than relying on buying all the required seedlings from CRIN.

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

Comments and queries on year 2 annual report:

C1. The application presented an indicator of average cocoa yield/farm increasing by 10% in Y4 from baseline established in Y1. Is the indicator and time frame still valid given the change of approach to include the distribution of improved seedlings which will continue in Y3, and now the project has been extended to 5 years.

With the change of approach, now including the distribution of improved seedlings, and project extension to 5 years the impact of the project on average cocoa yield per farm will be evaluated at the end of year 5.

C2. Given the change in approach what is the target number of farmers to receive training and/or improved seedlings? The previous target was 2,500 persons to be trained in YR 2. In the latest Annual Report the project reports 140 farmers have received training and 35 persons have received improved seedlings

Following the change in approach, the project now targets 1,000 farmers to receive training and 500 farmers to receive seedlings.

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have suspended the project's livelihood work. However, we are maintaining anti-poaching patrols as feasible for now while monitoring and evaluating the situation as it develops.

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 gazettelement 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. Safeguarding

WCS has a Code of Conduct for staff and is developing a safeguarding policy to ensure that the rights of all project stakeholders including communities and individual beneficiaries are adequately protected.

15. Project expenditure

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

| Project spend (indicative since last annual report) | 2019/20 Grant (£) | 2019/20 Total Darwin Costs (£) | Variance % | Comments (please explain significant variances) |
|---|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------|---|
| Staff costs (see below) | | | | |
| Consultancy costs | | | | |
| Overhead Costs | | | | |
| Travel and subsistence | | | | |
| Operating Costs | | | | |
| Capital items (see below) | | | | |
| Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) | | | | |
| Others (see below) | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | | |

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

| Project summary | Measurable Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2019 – March 2020 | Actions required/planned for next period |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p>Impact Critically endangered Cross River gorillas protected by providing economic incentives (through improved livelihoods) and governance incentives (through land tenure) for rural communities to improve conservation and governance of a community-managed protected area – Nigeria’s Mbe Mountains - and a critically important adjacent forests.</p> | | <p>During this reporting period, the project supported the survey and mapping of the Mbe Mountains conservation area to produce an official map registered with the Cross River State Government – a key step in the gazettelement process. Law enforcement patrols supported by the project are helping to protect the Mbe forest and its gorillas. Patrols implemented during this reporting period led to the arrest of 26 offenders and destroyed 4,664 wire snares and 13 hunting camps. 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. During this reporting period, the project trained 743 cocoa farmers in improved cocoa farming practice, and 485 women in bush mango propagation, storage and marketing.</p> | |
| <p>Outcome 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> | <p>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> | <p>WCS continued to support CAMM in the process for official recognition of the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary by the Cross River State Government. During this reporting period, the project supported the survey and mapping of the Mbe Mountains conservation area to produce an official map registered with the Cross River State Government – a key step in the gazettelement process. Law enforcement patrols supported by the project are helping to improve the protection of the Mbe forest and its gorillas. Patrols conducted during this reporting period led to the arrest of 26 people including 10 hunters and destruction of 4,664 wire snares and 13 hunting camps. As a result, there has been no decrease in both gorilla nest counts per km and the area occupied by gorillas in the Mbe Mountains. There has been no net loss in the Mbe Mountains. WCS will continue to analyse</p> | <p>Continue to monitor progress on cocoa training and application of acquired knowledge and skills by farmers, and evaluate project impact.</p> <p>Continue to monitor progress on bush mango training and application of acquired knowledge and skills by women’s groups, and evaluate project impact.</p> <p>Finalize the survey and mapping of the Mbe Mountains and facilitate registration of the survey map with the Cross River state government as part of the gazettelement process.</p> |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | and monitor the encounter rate of hunting signs such as wire snares, hunting camps and gunshots heard, as well gorilla nest sites. To improve household wellbeing, the project has trained and supported 743 cocoa farmers (men and women) in improved cocoa farming practice, and 485 women in bush mango propagation, storage and marketing. In addition to training, the project provided farmers with improved fast-growing, high-yielding cocoa seedlings to replant existing old and unproductive farms to improve productivity per hectare and reduce deforestation. The women have been provided with improved bush mango seedlings to plant on their farms to increase production. The project also supported Mbe women to form and register bush mango cooperatives. The women were supported through their cooperatives to store bush mango seeds during the harvest season and sell during off-season at a better price thereby increasing their income from bush mango activity by over 20%. All cocoa farmers and bush mango beneficiaries signed conservation contracts with WCS and CAMM agreeing to adopt sustainable practices in cocoa farming and bush mango harvesting to reduce deforestation. | <p>WCS supports CAMM to follow up with Boki LGA to finalize formalization of the bylaws for improved governance of Mbe Mountains.</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> |
| Output 1. Local farmers have been trained to increase efficiency of existing cocoa farms. | <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> | Four hundred and eighty-five 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. A total of 29,000 cocoa seedlings were distributed to 145 farmers during this reporting period. | |
| Activity 1.1 WCS and CAMM visit target communities and hold meetings to introduce project. | | This activity was implemented in Year 1. WCS and CAMM organized consultation meetings with the nine Mbe communities to introduce the project. | |
| 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. | | This activity was implemented in Year 1. Individual farmers were identified in each community for cocoa training and support. | |
| Activity 1.3. WCS, CRIN and CAMM agree a schedule with farmers | | 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. |
| Activity 1.4. WCS conducts a BNS survey in target communities to establish well-being baseline. | | 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. |
| Activity 1.5. WCS and CRIN establish Farmer Field Schools | | 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 us to use the balance of funds budgeted for training to provide critical inputs such as improved, fast growing, and high-yielding cocoa seedlings to farmers. |
| Activity 1.6. WCS, CAMM and farmers agree and sign conservation contracts | | 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. |
| Activity 1.7. CRIN conducts training on improved cocoa production through Farmer Field Schools, overseen by WCS. | | Framers have been trained in improved cocoa production, but the initial focus on Farmer Field School has changed. See above. |
| Activity 1.8. WCS monitors progress on cocoa training and application of acquired knowledge and skills by farmers, and evaluates impact. | | 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. |
| Output 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>A total of 485 women have now been trained in bush mango propagation, processing, storage and marketing and provided with improved seedlings to plant on their farms increase production. The project continued to provide capacity building training for the women's cooperatives established and supported them to gather and store bush mango seeds during the harvest season to sell during off-season for a better price.</p> <p>All women supported by the project have signed conservation contracts with a commitment to support biodiversity conservation.</p> |

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| <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>Additional 85 women were trained in improved bush mango collection, processing, storage and marketing and provided with improved seedlings to plant on their farms increase production. The project continued to provide capacity building training for the women's cooperatives established and supported them to gather and store bush mango seeds during the harvest season to sell during off-season for a better price.</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>We continued monitoring women trained under this project to assess how they apply the skills acquired to increase income from bush mango.</p> |
| <p>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".</p> | <p>3.1 By the end of Y4, Mbe Mountains gazetted as a community wildlife sanctuary. WCS continued to support CAMM in the process for official recognition of the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary by the Cross River State Government. During this reporting period, the project supported the survey and mapping of the Mbe Mountains conservation area to produce an official map registered with the Cross River State Government – a key step in the gazettement process.</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 this reporting period, the project supported the survey and mapping of the Mbe Mountains conservation area to produce an official map registered with the Cross River State Government.</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 supported quarterly meetings of the General Assembly of CAMM to develop strategy to engage with the Cross River State Government in the gazettement process.</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>The project engaged a surveyor to carry out project supported the survey and mapping of the Mbe Mountains conservation area to produce an official map registered with the Cross River State Government – a key step in the gazettement process.</p> |
| <p>Output 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. 4.2 New bylaws for improved governance of Mbe Mountains ratified by Boki LGA and MCCF. 4.3 Governance scores of the Mbe Mountains in Y4 increases by 20% over Y1 baselines. Ongoing refresher training in law enforcement techniques is helping to build the capacity of Mbe eco-guards and improving effectiveness of anti-poaching patrols. During this reporting period, the project supported 107 anti-poaching patrols of the Mbe Mountains that led to the arrest of 26 people including 10 hunters. All arrested offenders have been sanctioned by CAMM as a deterrent. The patrols also destroyed 4,664 wire snares and 13 hunting camps.</p> |

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| <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 107 anti-poaching patrols of the Mbe Mountains by 16 CAMM eco-guards, covering a total distance of 4,179 km over 2,977 person-days. A total of 26 people including 10 hunters were apprehended and reported to CAMM for sanctions. In addition, 4,664 wire snares and 13 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. Refresher law enforcement training was provided for the Mbe eco-guards and project coordinator, including the use of SMART for data collection, analysis and reporting.</p> |
| <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.</p> | <p>WCS supported CAMM to work with Boki LGA to finalize formalization of the bylaws for improved governance of Mbe Mountains.</p> |
| <p>Activity 4.3. WCS produces and shares monthly, quarterly and annual patrol reports with CAMM, Boki LGA, MCCF, and other stakeholders.</p> | <p>WCS produced monthly, quarterly and annual reports based on patrol data that are shared with CAMM and other stakeholders.</p> |
| <p>Activity 4.4. WCS monitors progress on law enforcement and evaluates impact.</p> | <p>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.</p> |

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. (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. (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: 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> <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</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</p> |

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| | benefitting from bush mango increases 10% from baseline established in Y1. 2.3 By the end of Y4, Conservation contracts negotiated and signed with 500 women and young men. | | and provide sufficient incentive to protect the forest. |
| 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. | 4.1 Regular patrols in the Mbe Mountains by WCS and CAMM reduces signs of poaching by 10% each year compared to Y1 baseline. 4.2 New bylaws for improved governance of Mbe Mountains ratified by Boki LGA and MCCF. 4.3 Governance scores of the Mbe Mountains in Y4 increases by 20% over Y1 baselines. | 4.1 Monthly SMART reports. 4.2 Boki Council records. 4.3 Natural Resource Governance Tool (NRGT) scores. | Improved law enforcement supported by local communities and maintains a net positive impact on local livelihoods. 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)</p> <p>1.1 WCS and CAMM visit target communities and hold meetings to introduce project</p> <p>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> <p>1.3 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.

Annex 3: Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

| Code No. | Description | Gender of people (if relevant) | Nationality of people (if relevant) | Year 1 Total | Year 2 Total | Year 3 Total | Total to date | Total planned during the project |
|----------|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 6A | Training in bush mango propagation, processing, storage and marketing | Female | Nigerian | 400 | 0 | 85 | 0 | 500 |
| 6B | Training in bush mango propagation, processing, storage and marketing | NA | NA | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| 6A | Training of Mbe cocoa farmers to increase productivity of existing farms | Male and female | Nigerian | 0 | 140 | 603 | 743 | 1,000 |
| 6B | Training of Mbe cocoa farmers to increase productivity of existing farms | NA | NA | 0 | 8 | 8 | 16 | 24 |
| 12A | SMART law enforcement and wildlife monitoring database | NA | NA | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 12A | Database of household basic necessities and wellbeing of project target communities | NA | NA | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

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. | |