



Darwin Initiative Main 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 2018

Darwin Project Information

Project reference	24-021
Project title	Empowering Ivorian communities to conserve biodiversity and improve their livelihoods
Host country/ies	Côte d'Ivoire
Contract holder institution	Rainforest Alliance (RA)
Partner institution(s)	Centre d'Etudes, Formations, Conseils et Audits (CEFCA)
Darwin grant value	£300,000
Start/end dates of project	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020
Reporting period (e.g., Apr 2017 – Mar 2018) and number (e.g., Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	Reporting Period: July 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018
Project Leader name	Annual Report (AR) 1
Project website/blog/Twitter	Sarah Fadika
Report author(s) and date	Sarah Fadika, April 30, 2018

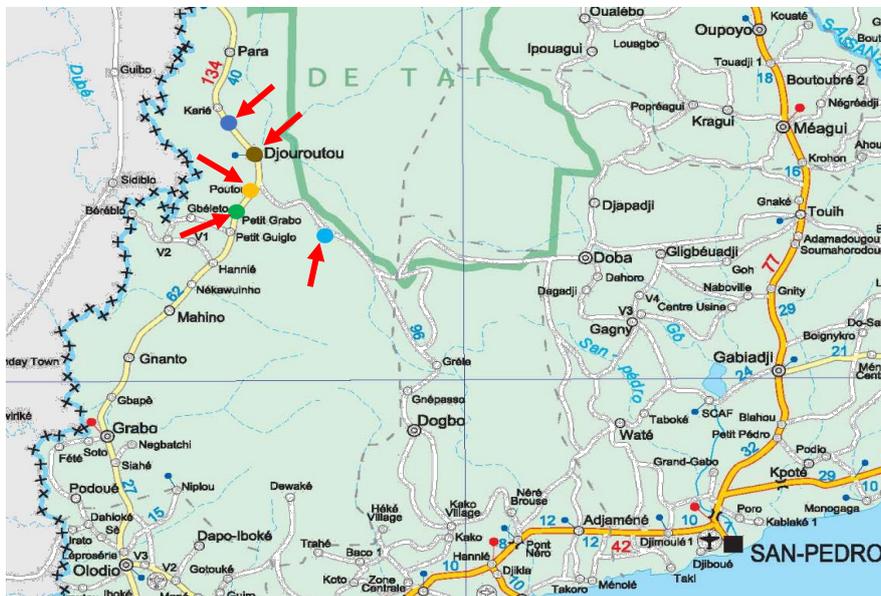
1. Project rationale

This project takes place in Taï National Park, a 3,500-square kilometre region, which is the most important forested area in Côte d'Ivoire and a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site. The area is renowned for its floral and faunal diversity, including a population of endangered pygmy hippopotamus, 11 monkey species, 1,300 species of higher plants and a chimpanzee population of about 527, which had declined by 90% since the 1960s¹. Political instability between 1999 and 2010 and resource conflict have led to declining forest cover and wildlife population in much of Côte d'Ivoire, especially the Taï National Park region. The human population in the region is also heavily reliant on the surrounding natural resources to sustain their livelihoods, which often involves cutting down trees in order to plant crops and further contributes to deforestation and land degradation. The resulting forest loss leads to a vicious cycle of poverty and resource depletion, where trees are no longer sequestering carbon and providing other biological benefits and local livelihoods are increasingly threatened. In addition, continued deforestation and degradation present a serious reputational and long-term supply risk for businesses that source from Côte d'Ivoire, which produces 40% of the world's cocoa².

¹ Campbell G, Kuehl H, Kouame PN, Boesch C. 2008. Alarming decline of West African chimpanzees in Côte d'Ivoire. *Current Biology* 18, R903-R904. DOI: 10.1016/j.cub.2008.08.015

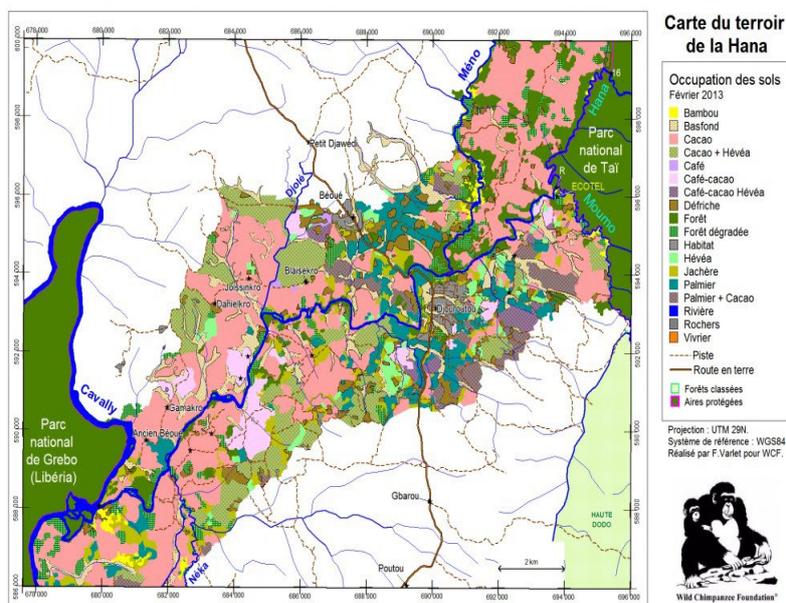
² <http://www.worldcocoaoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/Cocoa-Market-Update-as-of-3.20.2012.pdf>

This project addresses some of these underlying threats both by supporting the cocoa industry in its efforts to remove deforestation and poaching from its supply chain and by promoting a deforestation-free agricultural economy through the creation of a Landscape Management Board in South-West Tai. To date, project efforts have supported the rehabilitation of degraded areas across five communities in the districts of Béoué, Petit Grabo, Poutou and Youkou, working with 527 cocoa-growing families, along with 750 families in the district of Djouroutou. In the past year, the project worked with one additional community, *Daoudi*, leading to a total of six communities totalling 1,250 households. Overall, we hope to impact the wider population of these districts, estimated to be over 24,000 people, of which 11,000 are women, mostly living below the \$2 per day poverty line³. The project communities are shown in **Map 1** below, with the proposed biological corridor shown in **Map 2**.



Map 1: Localisation of the 6 communities (→) of cooperatives Cooperative Agricole Fraternité de Djouroutou (COOFADJOU) and Société Cooperative Agricole des Producteurs de Petit Grabo et Youkou (SCAEPGY). One of the six communities, Béoué, is north of these sites and not shown in the map above.

Source: Olam International, Cocoa Sustainability management team, Cote d'Ivoire.



Map 2: Proposed corridor location around the Hana River.

Source: World Agroforestry <http://blog.worldagroforestry.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Hana-map.jpg>

³ 46.3% Poverty Ratio in Côte d'Ivoire; <http://data.worldbank.org/country/cote-divoire>, World Bank, 2015 Annual Report template with notes 2018

The project addresses two key threats to this biodiversity hotspot:

- 1. Deforestation and unsustainable agricultural expansion:** Deforestation in the region poses a direct threat to biodiversity, exposes farmer livelihoods to climate change and reduces the suitability of cocoa growing areas. Expansion of the agricultural frontier, notably for cocoa production (Côte d'Ivoire is the world's leading producer), has decimated forests and increased pressure on wildlife. Forest cover in Côte d'Ivoire has shrunk from 16 million to less than 3 million hectares in the last fifty years.⁴ In the past decade, entire tracts of nationally protected 'Classified Forests' around Taï National Park have been cleared. According to the country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), agriculture is the most significant factor contributing to deforestation today. The production of export products, such as coffee, cocoa, rubber, pineapple and oil palm, primarily in the southern part of the country, is an even greater threat to deforestation. Through an agroforestry approach, the project has put proposed solutions in place as per **Output 2 Activities 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7**. This approach is cemented by the creation of a Landscape Management Board (LMB) under **Output 1** and through **Activities 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5**. The LMB adopts a landscape planning approach that tackles the most relevant landscape issues, principally deforestation.
- 2. Bushmeat consumption:** Another threat to biodiversity arises from the consumption of bushmeat (notably wild chimpanzees). While this practice slowed during the Ebola outbreak in 2014, consistently high demand remains from rural and urban populations, and illegal hunting and wildlife trafficking continue. Regulations and legislation have not yet been adopted to deal with the significant conservation challenges posed by illegal bushmeat markets. As such, this project has proposed alternative sources of protein to the community to solve the issue, as well as an awareness raising program on biodiversity conservation as described in **Outputs 2 and 3 in Activities 2.8, 3.3 and 3.5**.

Apart from its associated biodiversity benefits, the project is safeguarding future cocoa production by promoting the equally critical adoption of sustainable, climate-smart and biodiversity-conserving practices to increase cocoa farmers' incomes and address poverty in the region. Typically, farmers face challenges related to access to inputs for cocoa production, which tend to be very costly. To address this, the project provides cocoa tree seedlings, which ensure sustainable and climate-smart practices for their farms. Additionally, the project works with women to teach them skills necessary to partake in revenue diversification opportunities (e.g., chicken rearing and beekeeping), which will improve their livelihoods, as well as to actively participate in decision-making through the newly-created Landscape Management Board.

To advance activities under the project, the Rainforest Alliance is working closely with *Centre d'Etudes, Formations, Conseils et Audits* (CEFCA) to train farmers in best sustainable agricultural practices. CEFCA's technicians trained two producer group representatives, also known as Group Administrators, on how to adapt trainings to the local conditions for each of their respective groups. Once trained, the two Group Administrators then held train the trainer sessions with Lead Farmers (volunteer farmers from each of the communities) to subsequently train other farmers using modules that focus on such topics as agrochemical use and the benefits of shade trees. Training Modules are taught via Farmers Field Schools (FFS) on demonstration plots and incorporate the 2017 Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agricultural Standards.

2. Project partnerships

This project is based on a Public-Private Partnership approach. Overcoming the complex challenge of conserving critical forest areas, while improving rural livelihoods, should not fall on one sector alone and cannot be managed solely by one industry. Success lies in bringing together and equipping a diverse group of stakeholders with an interest in the landscape so that natural

⁴ <https://forestcarbonpartnership.org/c%C3%B4te-divoire>

resources can be managed and future economic activities planned beyond the boundaries of individual farms.

For this project, Rainforest Alliance has partnered with Olam International, a leading cocoa industry stakeholder and global agri-business that grows, sources, trades and processes food and industrial materials around the world, to secure the market for sustainable cocoa, along with local governmental agencies, such as the *Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves* (OPIR) and the *Société de Développement des Forêts* (SODEFOR) to garner support of local authorities. Over the past year, the relationship with Olam International has been strengthened through collaboration on the climate-smart agriculture program. The Olam sustainability leadership team, based in Côte d'Ivoire, and CEFCA established a plan to train the farmers based on the OLC⁵ (Olam Livelihood Charter) training curriculum. RA has partnered with CEFCA, a local Ivorian NGO specialised in training farmers on methods to improve their environmental, social and economic conditions, since 2010. CEFCA has become a reliable implementing partner of Rainforest Alliance that interacts with the local governmental agencies.

The partnership with Olam International is based on the supply chain model of the cocoa sector. Since 2012, all major cocoa brands and their cocoa traders have committed to mainstreaming the certification of their cocoa supply chain – some at up to 100% of their supply chain. Cocoa cooperatives are linked to a trader, which finances their sustainability program with the guarantee of sustainable cocoa sourcing, and represents a safe, value-added market vehicle for cocoa farmers to sell their cocoa. This vehicle for market access has created diversified, resilient and inclusive livelihoods in the communities of Beoué, Djouroutou, Petit Grabo, Poutou, Youkou and Daoudi within the Taï National Park Landscape.

Additionally, Olam International is involved in the planning of the climate-smart agriculture program and the consolidation of the producer groups, collaborating with CEFCA to provide technical assistance and trainings on sustainable yield and climate-smart agricultural best practices. Olam International is also closely involved in the establishment of landscape maps and reporting on its Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan, which collects and organizes data for Taï National Park and served as a baseline for this project.

Along with Olam International and CEFCA, RA has partnered with the local authorities, *Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves* (OIPR), *Société de Développement des Forêts* (SODEFOR) and Djouroutou, represented by the *Sous Préfet*, with strong encouragement from both the government and *Conseil du Café Cacao*, a cocoa and coffee regulatory body. This partnership seeks to promote strong and inclusive project results, while utilizing a landscape approach, for cocoa-producing communities. To that end, the local authorities are actively involved in the landscape planning. The *Sous-Préfet* representative and the OIPR representative are both part of the executive committee of the newly-created Landscape Management Board under **Output 1** of the project. Furthermore, the biodiversity sensitization campaign has been discussed with both OIPR and Olam International as trainings are being conducted collaboratively. In particular, as Olam International only purchases sustainably-produced cocoa, it plays a significant role in convincing cocoa farmers to adopt best practices and encouraging positive behavioural changes in the cocoa community.

Over the course of the year, RA has conducted technical reviews among all stakeholders involved in the project to ensure that the project is progressing as planned. Stakeholders have demonstrated strong interest and willingness to collaborate.

During the first year of implementation, this partnership has been able to achieve:

- **A gender-inclusive and enabling environment has been established:** The project has fostered the creation of transformative community governance of landscapes by bringing together key stakeholders in each of the six target landscapes under Landscape Management Boards (LMBs). LMBs have been formed through consultations with six village committees consisting of **57** total members, including **14** women, and the **18** members of the main LMB executive committee, representing smallholder farmer representatives of the Cooperatives COOFADJOU and SCAEPGY, the *Sous-Préfet* of Djouroutou representative, the OIPR and traditional authorities.

⁵ <http://olamgroup.com/sustainability/olam-livelihood-charter/>

- **A training plan was created to disseminate enabling tools:** The project set up a best practices training plan based on the OLC to provide technical assistance on sustainable yield and climate-smart agricultural best practices, as well as incentivised entrepreneurship skills and gender-sensitive income diversification activities. These tools empower communities with a complete package of services that enable smallholder farmers to develop viable and climate-resilient businesses through increased and sustainable cocoa yields.
- **Background information has been gathered to establish the Hana River biological corridor:** A detailed mapping exercise was conducted by David Hughell (Rainforest Alliance Research and Geospatial Analyst) and in collaboration with the Olam International team to locate farmers' plantations that are next to the river so that a biological corridor could be established around the Hana River. Additionally, individual meetings have been organized by CEFCA technicians to explain the need for this corridor, as well as express the importance of planting shade trees around the Hana River.

Since August 2017, the project has attracted additional funding through the Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa (MCFEA)⁶. MCFEA is investing in the climate smart productivity program by leveraging further funding for CEFCA and Olam to implement the productivity program, as well as strengthening producers' groups COOFADJOU and SCAEPGY through improved Internal Management Systems (IMS) to promote efficient internal management and an operational traceability system. Stronger IMS will help address potential risks faced by the cooperatives – particularly under-delivery of sustainable cocoa quotas to Olam International – which could otherwise lead to loss of market access and viable income for families. As such, MCFEA funding is a great added-value to this project as it further supports the producers' groups viability and strengthens their commitment to sustainability.

The challenges the Partnership has faced are related to the Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP) that we have not been able to finalise for the first year. The consultations and the diagnostic are ongoing, and the draft plan will be available for Q2 of year 2. RA also has not yet been able to complete the baseline analysis as planned. The data collection has been completed, but we had delays whilst transferring the questionnaire to the software system used by OLAM for any data collection. The synchronization was slow due to internet issues in the area. The baseline analysis will be done in May 2018. More information is available in section 9 below.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out Project Activities

1.1 Organize one consultative workshop jointly with CEFCA and OIPR to create the LMB in coordination with local Taï authorities

A consultative workshop with all project partners was organized on the 16th and 17th of October 2017, in coordination with local Taï authorities, to discuss the project's purpose and introduce the concept of the LMB. The workshop launch was very successful and was attended by a total of 70 people, including: Olam International's Head of Sustainability, Daniele Kouassi; M&E Coordinator, Sene Afiba; Olam Technicians on the ground, Anibe Benjamin and Assi Nicaise; CEFCA's Executive Director, Melanie Bayo, and CEFCA technicians, Kouassi Konan and Guy Alangba; Rainforest Alliance's M&E specialist, Beatriz Avalos, Rainforest Alliance's Senior Manager for West Africa, Christian Mensah, and Project Lead, Sarah Fadika; as well as representatives from SODEFOR, OIPR, the Sous Prefet of Djouroutou, village chiefs and the community members. The workshop launched with comments from Olam International and the Sous Prefet. Additionally, the project objectives and deliverables were explained, and a key session on the LMB took place which gathered a lot of interest and endorsement, particularly from the Sous Prefet, OIPR and SODEFOR. Please find attached a copy of the presentation from each day of the project inception workshop launch, as well as photos as **Annex 4** to this report. Participants actively provided feedback on what would be the most adequate and transparent

⁶ <https://www.mitsubishicorp.com/gb/en/csr/mcfea/>

process for selecting members of the village committees, as well as the LMB executive committee. RA's experience of establishing an LMB in Ghana emphasized the importance of inclusive representation, equal opportunities regardless of gender, religion and social status, as well as instituting a process that is both voluntary and demand-driven.

On the same day, RA, CEFCA and Olam hosted a second session to review potential revenue-diversification strategies, particularly beekeeping, as well as planned activities. On the following day, the 17th of October 2017, a meeting was held to discuss the M&E strategy and KPIs with Olam International. The meeting focused on how to gather evidence and effectively meet the reporting requirements for Darwin, which were then disseminated to partners. The communication strategy was also reviewed and explained to the attendees. After the workshop, the meetings' conclusions were shared with community members by CEFCA and Olam. A decision was also made to hold a series of consultations in the villages to engage communities in the creation of the LMB, which are further described in Activity 1.2 below.

1.2 Organize 6 training sessions to train community members on the LMB's governance structure and procedure

A series of six one-day consultations to form village committees were conducted from the 5th to the 23rd of December 2017, in *Diaoudi, Beoué, Djouroutou, Poutou, Youkou and Petit-Grabo*. At these first sessions, a total of **209** people across all of the aforementioned communities, of which **42** were women, attended. At the end of the consultations, village committees were then established for each of the 6 villages. **57 people** were elected as village committee members, including **14** women, to voice the opinion of the communities in decision-making. Once established, each committee elected 2 representatives for the executive LMB committee. The participant lists for these village committee meetings are attached as **Annex 5**.

Training was given concurrently with these sessions to train community members on the LMB's governance structure and procedures. All **57** committee village members from the 6 communities attended. During these sessions, trainers explained the role of the village committees and how they would enable communities to effectively communicate landscape challenges to the executive committee. Additionally, the training taught participants the skills required to actively participate in decision-making and other established processes, allowing them to address challenges in a targeted manner and improve their livelihoods.

1.3 Facilitate 6 LMB Steering Committee meetings

On the 20th of February 2018, the first steering committee meeting took place. A total of **23** people attended, including traditional chiefs, representatives of the local authorities (Sous-Prefet), CEFCA, and the governmental agency in charge of the park (OIPR). Please find attached a list of participants in **Annex 6**. At this meeting, the functionality and operational efficiency of the LMB structure was established, with a clearly defined executive board of **3** members and a disciplinary board of **4** members, to regulate the process.

At the end of February 2018 (Q4), the LMB was successfully created with **18** members on the executive committee, of which **12** are representing members of the smallholder farmer representatives from the producer cooperatives COOFADJOU and SCAEPGY. The LMB was endorsed by the traditional authorities, as well as representatives from the *Sous-Préfet of Djouroutou*, Olam, CEFCA and the OIPR. For the complete member list, please refer to **Annex 6**.

1.4 Document lessons learnt and challenges from the LMB's operation, and share them during the Steering Committee meetings, as well as in the mid-project and end-of-project evaluation workshops

The main lesson learnt from these sessions (described in Activities 1.2 and 1.3 above) was that all decisions coming from thematic sessions held at village committee level should be analysed and discussed at the executive level. This would ensure that decisions consider landscape challenges and are aligned and compatible with the benchmark governmental land-use planning

policy (please see **Annex 6** for a list of attendees from the LMB Steering Committee meetings). A document elaborating on lessons learnt and challenges will be finalized during the LMB Steering Committee meeting to take place in Q2 of Year 2.

1.5 Provide technical assistance to leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Tai National Park, on the formulation of a Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP) at the village level

A meeting is planned before the end of Q2 of year 2 to formulate the PLMP. The key themes to be discussed include current landscape threats and the planning of the River Hana buffer zone.

2.1 Identify and engage cocoa farmers' cooperatives and their members, to register in the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program

Preparatory work to establish the training plan with Olam International and CEFCA took place from October to December 2017 (Q3). The plan utilizes aspects of Olam International Cocoa Livelihood Charter ('OLC') to define targets for both cooperatives involved in the project, including the 527 farmers already in the OLC, while accounting for the crop calendar. Areas for improvement in best practices were also analysed. Farmers were identified by using Olam International's existing database in the 6 project communities and by inputs from Group Administrators and Lead Farmers, who were aware of the project and had known farmers who were involved in the meetings. A total of 527 farmers were registered by Q3 of Year 1 (please see list of farmers in the cooperatives as **Annex 8**).

2.2 Design the training program on sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming, ensuring it is adapted to the local context and maximizes female farmer participation

The training topics were finalized with CEFCA and Olam International from December 2017 (Q3) to February 2018 (Q4). In total, 41 women have been identified to include in the training sessions of the total 527 farmers, of which all are actively participating. The program utilizes aspects of OLC, as well as RA's expertise in best climate-smart agricultural techniques. The training topics focus on good agricultural practices, as well as the value of shade trees, use of agrochemicals, and harvest and post-harvest good practices on farms, combined with the socio-economic aspects endemic to cocoa communities. Please find attached a description of the training program in **Annex 8**.

CEFCA and Olam International agreed that the main areas of the training curriculum would be focused on:

- **Coaching (80%)**, which consists of five Lead Farmers conducting close-up training and follow-ups on cocoa farmers' plots. The efficiency of these coaching sessions relies on solid **TOT's (Training of Trainers)** sessions, which were delivered by CEFCA and Olam technicians to the two Group Administrators from the cooperatives, as well as the six Lead Farmers. The Group Administrators and Lead Farmers then had the capacity to deliver efficient and targeted backstopping on farms, and;
- **Farmers Field Schools - FFS (20%)**, which is a traditional method of training farmers on best practices in groups of 30 farmers per session, replicating the methods learnt on demonstration plots.

As such, this training program maximises practical sessions and a closer follow up on farms.

2.3 Identify lead farmers willing to set up demonstration plots, and engage them in the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program

The criteria for selecting farmers to set up demonstration plots at their farms was determined by a number of factors, including: the accessibility/visibility of the plot; the commitment of the farmer/owner of the plot land; sanitary status of the plot; age of trees and density; etc. Farmers

who met the criteria were enrolled and signed an agreement, an example of which can be found in **Annex 9**.

The purpose of demonstration plots is to implement good practices in order to promote the adoptions of such practices among farmers. On the demonstration plots, farmers can test methods for regeneration and pruning techniques, both with and without fertilizer use, as well as replanting parcels. Lead farmers visit the farms in each of the communities periodically to see how these practices are implemented on farms and whether the farmers have understood the practices explained and are able to reproduce them on their farms. To this date, six demonstration plots, three sites per cooperative, have been established by Olam in the 6 communities of *Diaoudi, Beoué, Djouroutou, Poutou, Youkou and Petit-Grabo*. RA has already started managing two of these sites, reassessing the current techniques and set up. The project will establish one new site in *Beoué* in May 2018, making seven demonstration plots in total, of which three RA will manage.

2.4 Implement the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program

Since Q2 of this reporting period, 20 coaching sessions have been organised, as well as follow-ups on a monthly basis through Farmer Field School sessions. A description of each session is below:

Training of Trainers (TOT)

Two Group Administrators oversee activities of the **6** Lead Farmers and work closely with Lead Farmers on topics related to sustainability and good agricultural practices. First, Group Administrators were trained on how to adapt the training curriculum to the local conditions and needs for each of the Lead Farmers. Then, Lead Farmers administered these training modules to a wider audience through the six already-established demonstration plots (also known as the “FFS” approach, further described below), with each focused on a different module.

Farmer Field Schools (FFS)

Modules include specific themes based on the Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard. They encompass topics dealing with the protection of the fauna and flora, including topics such as management of shade trees, maintenance of vegetative barriers and integrated pest management, while facilitating record-keeping and adoption of best practices. The modules have been attached to this report as **Annex 8**. As of March 2018, a total of **527** farmers have been trained.

As part of this effort, farmers are encouraged to plant new trees on their lands, which mitigates greenhouse gas emissions by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and converting it into biomass through the carbon cycle. Additionally, farmers have been taught how to plant certain tree species that ensure species richness and soil fertility, create habitat for wildlife, and reduce stress to plants. The training curriculum also teaches farmers how to recycle and separate organic from non-organic waste, and arranges for facilities that can safely store pesticides. Please refer to the type of shade trees species that have been selected as part of this project in **Annex 11**.

Coaching sessions

Lead Farmers also visit farms on a quarterly basis to record events or phenomenon on farms, such as pest infestations, and train farmers on the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and pesticide application.

2.5 Engage CRNA and SODEFOR on the establishment of nurseries.

Olam has financed the establishment of 2 cocoa nurseries, one for each cooperative located in *Djouroutou* and *Petit Grabo*. To date, a total of 40,000 hybrid cocoa tree seedlings have been procured for farms regeneration from the *Centre National de Recherche Agronomique* (CNRA).

The plants will be ready to be planted once the rainy season begins in May 2018 and will be planted in each of the 6 farming communities of the project. Regarding shade trees, around 25,000 shade trees will be available in Year 2 to improve shade on farms and establish buffer zones where needed, especially around Hana River.

2.6 Coordinate the distribution of cocoa and shade-tree seedlings, so that it responds to farmer needs, according to project-endorsed sustainable, climate-smart practices

As explained above, the distribution of cocoa tree plants is planned to start in Q2 of Year 2. The coordination of the distribution process was already due to start in Q4 of Year 1, but delays occurred in the process of obtaining cocoa seedlings from the CNRA to set up the nurseries.

2.7 Coordinate the delineation and establishment of the biological corridor Buffer Zone along River Hana.

A detailed mapping exercise of the landscape was organized in November 2017 with David Hughell (Rainforest Alliance Research and Geospatial Analyst) and the Olam International team to identify adjacent farms and discuss the delineation of the landscape and the establishment of the buffer zone around the River Hana. The mapping exercise also examined tree cover loss in the region, which was used as a foundation for the Participatory Landscape Management Plan.

After the mapping exercise was completed, a buffer zone of 1 kilometers to 5 kilometers was established around the Hana River. The buffers were then used to identify priority farms. The map created during this exercise is attached as **Annex 11**. The shade trees seedlings have also been ordered (please see progress under **Activity 2.5** above) and will be ready to start planting around the buffer zone of the River in Year 2.

2.8 Design the beekeeping and chicken rearing training program, ensuring it is adapted to the local context and maximizes female farmer participation

The chicken-rearing training program curriculum was finalized in Q3 with the support of CEFCA's animal husbandry specialist and attracted great interest among farmers across the six communities. The materials used to generate interest in this micro-project are attached as **Annex 10**. A total of 50 farmers were selected, of which 28 were women. RA has now established the infrastructure for housing and feeding the chickens, and trainings will take place in Year 2.

Rainforest Alliance garnered interest in proceeding with a beekeeping project at the project launch workshop held on the 16th of October 2017 by explaining the potential revenue value to participants (please see this presentation as **Annex 4**). To date, the beekeeping project gathered the interest of 25 farmers, of which 3 are women. Additionally, Olam International and Rainforest Alliance agreed to find a specialist for beekeeping from the *Agence Nationale de Développement Rural* (ANADER), who will coach the farmers to set up their beekeeping activities. As this is a new initiative in the region that requires closer coaching and the follow up of a specialist, there was a delay in implementing the beekeeping project, which will now take place before the end of Q2 in Year 2.

2.9 Deliver the beekeeping and chicken-rearing training program to at least 82 cocoa farmers and/or other adults

The training in beekeeping has not started yet due to the reason explained in Activity 2.8 above. Chicken rearing training was delayed due to the assessment of the cost of setting up the activities (primarily the cost of housing and feed). Housing construction has already begun in Year 1 and the training will start before the end of Q2 of Year 2.

3.1 Design environmental awareness-raising posters in local language, and distribute 7,500 copies, reaching 30% of the wider 5 Taï communities of Beoué, Djouroutou, Petit Grabo, Poutou and Youkou.

Two types of posters for raising environmental awareness were designed in Quarters 3 and 4 to reach communities involved in the project. One poster concerns the adoption of good habits and practices for the protection of the landscape, while the second depicts bad habits (please see illustration of the posters in the **Annex 12**). The posters have already started printing and a total of 5,000 copies will be distributed by CEFCA.

3.2 Design training materials and agenda for the environmental education meetings aimed at key community members

The training topics have been discussed with OIPR and Olam and the environmental education awareness sessions have started (further described in Activity 3.3 below). The targeted audience are the cocoa farming families, including women, children and the elderly. During the environmental education awareness meetings, it was decided that trainings would be centred on the topics of biodiversity conservation (both fauna and flora), as well as protection of forests and watershed in Tai National Park. Two types of posters were designed for raising environmental awareness (described in Activity 3.1 above).

3.3 Organize 18 environmental education awareness meetings for 1,250 community members, jointly with the LMB, Olam and OIPR.

The environmental awareness sessions have started and 3 sessions have been held in Q3 and Q4 of Year 1. A total of 150 people attended. Participant lists for these sessions have been attached as **Annex 12**. An agenda to reach more communities was set up and a new initiative has been proposed with the OIPR to train children in schools. Discussions have also started to select the schools, which will take place in Year 2.

3.4 Design the content of environmental awareness-raising radio programs

This activity has not started yet as there is no local radio station in Djouroutou. However, RA is planning to broadcast from San Pedro between Q2 and Q3 of Year 2. The initial program design idea was mainly targeted to a farming community audience, so there is now a need to reassess the targeted audience for San Pedro, which we have started planning with Olam and the Rainforest Alliance offices in Abidjan and San Pedro. This will also allow RA to meet its objective of reaching out to the wider communities in the Tai region, estimated to be over 24,000 people, of whom 11,000 are women, with awareness-raising radio programs on biodiversity conservation.

3.5 Organize 6 environmental awareness-raising radio programs, involving OIPR, CEFCA, and community leaders

Please refer to Activity 3.4 above. This activity is planned to start between Q2 and Q3 of Year 2.

4.1 Hold an on-site Monitoring and Evaluation workshop for the project team (RA and partners), aimed at designing the project's Monitoring and Evaluation System

An on-site Monitoring and Evaluation workshop was held on October 17th, 2017 as part of the Project's Launch Workshop in Djouroutou, Côte d' Ivoire. A total of **11** people participated, including representatives from CEFCA and Olam International. The workshop, presented by RA's Director of M&E and Quality Assurance, focused on M&E principles, tracking templates and processes, and included participant discussions and adjustments to the local context. The resulting Monitoring and Evaluation system is now integrated in the draft Performance Monitoring and Environmental Plan (PMEP).

4.2 Design and apply at project inception and end-of-project, the Sampled Monitoring survey on a statistically representative sample of target cocoa farmers.

At project inception, the team selected a statistically representative sample of 137 cocoa farmers and designed a Sampled Monitoring Survey instrument (please see **Annex 13**). In addition, the Database template was defined (also in **Annex 13**). The aim of the survey was to obtain baseline values for the following Outcome indicators: **O.2** on farmers' application of climate-smart cocoa farm management practices; **O.4** on baseline condition of female farmers' application of climate-smart cocoa farm management practices; and **O.5** on shade tree planting for farmers located within the biodiversity corridor and adjacent to the Hana River.

The survey was applied during Q4 of Year 1. Data systematization into the database is still in process, and will be finalized before the end of Q1 in Year 2. Once this is complete, the analysis of baseline conditions for the above Outcome indicators will be completed. The analysis will be reported in the next Half Year (April - September 2018) report. The process, originally planned to take place during Q2 of year 1, was not realistic due to the time necessary to settle in the project area, start activities and organise the teams, which happened in October 2017 (Q3).

4.3 Implement the project's Monitoring and Evaluation System, and produce and deliver quarterly and annual technical, evidence-based project performance reports

The project's PMEP draft will be submitted for Darwin's approval in April 2018, which includes tracking templates and processes to monitor workplan progress, the project's delivery of Outputs, and its achievement of Outcome indicators. Quarterly performance reports are also prepared internally to ensure the project is meeting its outputs and indicators.

4.4 Formulate a Project Communication Strategy, and submit for donor approval

The project communication strategy was finalised in October 2017 (Q3 of Year 1) by the Rainforest Alliance communication team and received Darwin's approval. A presentation of the communications strategy from the project launch workshop is attached as **Annex 4**.

4.5 Produce the project's semi-annual online news piece and publicize it through email and social/thematic networks to relevant in-country and global organizations and stakeholders

Delays in producing communications material in Year 1 were mainly due to the need for key project activities to be completed before proceeding with publication. Communications material will be completed before end of Q2 of Year 2, as further described in the communications strategy that has been approved by Darwin.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Training and technical assistance delivered to leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Taï National Park, on creating a Landscape Management Board (LMB), and on the formulation of a village-level Landscape Management Plan (PLMP).

Under **Output 1.a**, a total of 6 trainings have been provided to 209 people in total – including village leaders, Olam cooperatives technicians, the OIPR, the Sous Prefet representative and the SODEFOR – to establish the LMB and its supporting documentation. The concept was new but all the stakeholders involved have shown a proactive engagement in the process. The LMB was successfully created by Q3 of Year 1. Please find attached in the attendance list as evidence showing the willingness to get involved, as well as the signed document of the LMB creation in **Annex 6**.

Under **Output 1.b**, RA has not yet managed to achieve the signature of a formal document due to the fact that LMB needed to be established prior to the formation of the PLMP. However, the diagnostic of the landscape is ongoing and the draft PLMP will be formulated in Q2 of Year 2.

Output 2. Training on sustainable, climate-smart farming practices delivered to cocoa farmers, and to them and other adults in their households, on beekeeping and chicken-rearing.

Under **Output 2.a**, RA agreed with Olam International to adapt Lead Farmers' coaching visits to allow trainers to spend more time with farmers and provide them with hands-on advice for their farms, coupled with traditional FFS teaching. A total of 20 coaching sessions have been provided to 527 cocoa farmers by the end of Year 1. Signed participant lists for each of these training events is attached as **Annex 8**. Additionally, a total of two nurseries in *Djouroutou* and *Petit Grabo* have been established by the end of Year 1 (**Output 2.c**). To date, 40,000 cocoa seedlings have been procured for the nurseries and arrangements have been made to procure an additional 25,000 shade trees to be distributed in Year 2. Evidence is provided for the nursery seedling production records as **Annex 7**. RA is well on its way to meeting the production of 100,000 shade tree and 180,000 cocoa tree seedlings by the end of the project (Year 3).

Under **Output 2.b**, a total of 500 farmers showed a particular interest for the productivity improvement module, as it is generally expensive to buy inputs for cocoa farms, and such projects provide free inputs and pre- and post-harvest advices to the farmers involved. Please find as evidence a sample of commitment letter signed by a lead farmer, demonstrating his agreement to establish the demo plot on his farm (attached as **Annex 9**). Furthermore, a detailed mapping exercise was completed in November 2017, in collaboration with Olam International, to delineate the landscape around the Hana River and use these buffers to select priority farms (under **Output 2.d**). A buffer zone of 1 to 5 kilometers was established (further described under Activity 2.7 above), and shade tree plantings will take place in Year 2. A map of the buffer zone and list of farms within is attached as **Annex 11**.

Regarding the revenue-diversification micro-projects (**Output 2.e**), a total of 50 farmers (28 women and 22 men) were selected to take part in the chicken-rearing project. Housing for the chickens has been started and will be completed before the end of Q2 in Year 2. Additionally, a total of 25 farmers have shown interest in the beekeeping project, which will start in Year 2 once a beekeeping specialist is found in collaboration with ANADER (further described under Activity 2.8 above). Signed participation lists from the revenue-diversification trainings can be found attached as **Annex 10**.

Output 3. The population living in communities around the Taï National Park is informed about the value of biodiversity and habitat conservation in the Taï National Park, about natural resource management in their communities, and about the dangers and negative consequences of hunting and consuming bushmeat.

Under **Output 3a.**, a total of 5,000 posters were designed in local language and printed on the value of ecosystem and habitation conservation. These posters were distributed across all six project communities over Year 1. Examples of the two printed posters are attached as **Annex 12**. RA is on track to meet the goal of 7,500 posters printed by end of Year 3. Three environmental education workshops were also held in Quarters 3 and 4 with a total of 150 community members, which demonstrated high levels of interest among the communities (**Output 3.b**). Signed participant lists have been attached as **Annex 12**.

Due to delays further described under Activity 3.3 above, the project has yet to host awareness-raising radio programs and these are now scheduled to take place on the local radio station of San Pedro between Quarters 2 and 3 of Year 2, once a targeted audience is reassessed (**Output 3.c**). Despite the delay, RA is on track to meet its goal of at least 3 awareness-raising radio programs by the end of Year 3.

Output 4: The project's Monitoring and Evaluation System, and Communications Strategy formulated, approved and implemented.

Under **Output 4.a**, one Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System was designed during the M&E Training Workshop with Olam International in October 2017, whose key operating principles, processes and tools are further elaborated in the Project's Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (PMEP). The draft PMEP will be submitted for Darwin's approval this April 2018. Furthermore, under **Output 4.b**, a semi-annual report on project performance was delivered to Darwin in October 2017 (attached as **Annex 14**).

Under **Output 4.c**, a communications strategy was formulated and approved by Darwin in Year 1 and a presentation is attached in **Annex 4**. Semi-annual communications products will be delivered through RA's online media outlets (including website blog, email and other social/thematic networks) once the communications strategy is fully implemented in Q1 of Year 2. There were some slight delays in finalizing the communications strategy, which are further described in Activity 4.5 above, but RA remains on target to produce communications materials as scheduled by the end of the project in Year 3. RA is currently finalizing a report on gender experience, which includes activities under the Darwin project, which will be shared in early-Year 2 on RA's communications networks.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Under the first **Indicator 0.1**, with the LMB in place, RA is currently finalising a diagnostic analysis among the 6 communities to collect information on the farms that are located along the Hana River and the state of landscape deforestation, in order to support the creation of the Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP) across the six project communities. The diagnostic was slightly delayed due to the fact that an assessment of the situation on the ground was not possible without the full creation of the LMB, and did not take place in Year 1 as initially planned. However, once analysis of this diagnostic is completed in Q2 of Year 2, the PLMP will be drafted and signed. A copy of the map of the farms that are located next to the Hana River has been included in **Annex 11** for reference. To date, a survey has been conducted of 137 farmers across the project communities to establish a baseline for the project. Due to the data collection challenges described earlier, the results will be completed and analysed in Q2 of Year 2. This delay has impacted measurements for several Indicators – namely **Indicators 0.2, 0.4 and 0.5** – which rely on the baseline data to assess the project's progress. Despite this delay, RA expects that the project is on track to meet its respective targets for **Indicators 0.2, 0.4 and 0.5**. Please see an example of the survey questionnaire in **Annex 13**.

A total of 41 women have been identified to actively participate and complete training sessions on climate-smart cocoa farm management practices in Year 1 (**Indicator 0.3**). Most of these women are already actively involved in the LMB and have a strong interest in participating in revenue diversification activities (e.g. beekeeping). Trainings are scheduled to be delivered to these women identified in Year 2 and are on track to reach the overall target of at least 70% of the 41 by end of Year 3. Please see a copy of the interested participants in **Annex 10**.

Further, RA has developed the training curriculum for the chicken-rearing project and will conduct training sessions in Year 2 (**Indicators 0.7, 0.8 and 0.9**). Two micro-projects – chicken rearing and beekeeping – are being promoted as alternative sources of revenue for the local communities. At the end of Year 1, RA has established the infrastructure for the chicken-rearing micro-project, with a total of 50 farmers (28 women and 22 men) selected to take part of training activities in Year 2. Additionally, 25 farmers (3 women and 22 men) of the total 527 have expressed interest in the beekeeping micro-project and activities will also take place in Year 2 (**Indicator 0.7**). Group records of individuals taking part in each of these micro-projects is attached as **Annex 10**. A total of 31 women (of the 41 identified), or 75%, are planning to participate in the revenue-diversification projects (**Indicator 0.8**). RA plans to investigate why the female participation rate is falling short in the next year, to address this shortfall and try to reach the original target. Additionally, all the women involved in the revenue diversification program are new to both of these activities, already surpassing the initial target of 70% under

Indicator 0.9. Please see group records in **Annex 10** for a list of women involved in the revenue diversification program.

A total of six demonstration plots have been established by the end of Year 1, with RA directly managing two of these, with a seventh currently being finalized in Year 2. Therefore, RA is on track to meet its goal of seven demonstration plots by the end of Year 3. Please see demo-plot activity logs and photographs attached as **Annex 9**.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

The risks and assumptions outlined in the initial logframe of the proposal for Outputs 1 and 2, as well as the overall project Outcome, still hold true and are being addressed accordingly. Active participation from the communities and local farmers was identified as central to the project's success and remains strong. A total of 500 farmers (459 men and 41 women) identified prior to the project's inception have been actively engaged in training sessions – including those on revenue diversification – across the 5 communities of the Tai Landscape. Cocoa producer groups have also established the internal management systems necessary to effectively deliver trainings through a set of dedicated set of two Group Administrators and 6 Lead Farmers. Additionally, community members have actively participated in environmental education meetings and have demonstrated strong interest in other awareness-building activities (e.g. posters). The project's impacts will be even more evident once analysis from the baseline survey for these farmers is completed in Q1 of Year 2.

To date, the LMB has also been established and is fully operational, and communities have maintained an active role (e.g. regular participatory meetings) in the subsequent formation of the PLMP (to be finalized in Year 2). Further, the government has played a key role in the project's success so far by ensuring local authorities attend each of the meetings. Though slightly delayed, a total of 40,000 cocoa tree seedlings, which will serve as shade trees on farms, will be available to farmers adjacent to the Hana river in Year 2.

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

Impact on Biodiversity Conservation

The goal of the project is strongly centred on conservation of the Taï landscape, as well as the area's endemic biodiversity, through awareness-building and application of climate-smart techniques. So far, the project has achieved the following:

- **Creation of a Landscape Management Board (LMB) under Output 1, Indicator 1.a:** The newly-created Landscape Management Board has started gathering the information necessary to establish a strong, long-lasting approach to improving the landscape – particularly conserving biodiversity – by proposing concrete actions to address deforestation through the PLMP plan. The plan will be finalized in Year 2.
- **Implementation of the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program under Output 1, Indicator 2.a:** As part of the climate-smart agriculture program, farmers are encouraged to plant new trees on their lands, which mitigates greenhouse gas emissions by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and converting it into biomass through the carbon cycle. Additionally, farmers are taught how to plant certain tree species that ensure species richness and soil fertility, create habitat for wildlife, and reduce stress to plants. A total of 25,000 seedlings have been procured by SODEFOR and will be distributed in Year 2.
- **Creation of a Buffer Zone around the Hana River under Output 2, Indicator 2.c:** The project has a goal of procuring and distributing a total of 100,000 shade tree seedlings by the end of Year 3 of the project. As mentioned above, a total of 25,000 have been secured by SODEFOR the end of Year 1 and the project is on track to meet its shade tree seedlings goal.

- **Development of an Environmental Awareness-Raising Campaign under Output 3, Indicators 3.a and 3.b:** A total of 1,250 community members (including children, women, and elderly) will be reached by the projects' environmental awareness campaign. To date, 5,000 posters have been printed and distributed across the 6 project communities, and at least 2,500 additional posters will be distributed over the next two years of the project to meet a goal of 7,500. Please see attached a copy of the two types of posters in **Annex 12**.

Impact on Poverty Alleviation

Another major focus of this project is to provide alternative sources of income to the targeted farmers. Progress to date includes:

- **Delivery of trainings on climate-smart, agricultural practices under Outcome Indicator 0.6:** The project has already trained 527 farmers by the end of Year 1 on best practices, which will improve yields and revenues, alleviating the poverty that currently exists in Côte d'Ivoire. Coaching sessions are delivered by Lead Farmers on the demo plots, where farmers learn to apply these practices on their farms. A total of six demo plots have been established, with a seventh to be completed in Year 2. Demo plot logs and photos can be seen in **Annex 9**.
- **Introduction of revenue diversification micro-projects under Outcome Indicator 0.7:** The revenue diversification strategies (e.g. beekeeping and chicken rearing) have already begun in Year 1 and are expected to improve incomes for farmers involved in the project. To date, the infrastructure has been established to rear chickens in Diaoudi and Youkou, which are expected to have a positive livelihood impact in subsequent years of the project for the 50 farmers involved. As mentioned previously in the report, 25 farmers have also expressed interest in beekeeping and the infrastructure will be established in Year 2. Please see group names for the micro-projects in **Annex 10** to this report.

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

The project also supports the Global SDGs:

1. No Poverty: The LMB established in Year 1 will foster greater economic opportunities for local producer groups, farmers, community representatives and tree nursery operators by creating the framework to deliver training, improve productivity on cocoa farms and, subsequently, increase incomes.

2. Zero Hunger: A total of 75 farmers have already been engaged in or shown interest in participating in revenue diversification micro-projects by the end of Year 1. By diversifying income sources (e.g. beekeeping or chicken rearing), cocoa producers, families and workers will experience an improved standard of living, including adequate access to food and nutrition.

8. Decent Work and Economic Growth: The demonstration plots established under this project (two in Year 1 and a third in Year 2) will help promote application of climate-smart best practices (e.g., regeneration, pruning, composting and shade tree management) on farms. Farmers can then tailor these techniques to their own farms to increase yields and improve income. The wealth generated by applying these practices, as well as the skills learned through training sessions conducted by Lead Farmers, will continue promoting sustainable economic growth during and following the duration of the project.

12. Responsible consumption and production: In Year 1, the project has engaged with SODEFOR, OIPR, and the local government, who are committed to promoting sustainable investment in the cocoa industry in West Africa, such as Olam International and, more recently, through the MCFEA-funded work (further described under Section 12 below). The project hopes to continue building this framework of key stakeholders into subsequent years.

13. Climate Action: The advocacy materials developed by this project, as well as the trainings delivered to cocoa farmers, are providing farmers with the necessary skills and knowledge to adapt and address climate change impacts across the Taï landscape. At the end of Year 1, the project has distributed a total of 5,000 posters and conducted 3 environmental awareness raising sessions. Years 2 and 3 of the project will continue building on-farm adaptive capacity, thereby improving livelihood diversification and reducing GHG emissions.

15. Life on Land: The project supports smallholder farmers in making productivity improvements on their farms, which are necessary, but not sufficient, to combat encroachment into the forest. To complement efforts that improve livelihoods and incomes, the project created an LMB that facilitates a more coordinated approach to forest protection, where the needs of the community for long-term conservation of their natural environment are reconciled with the needs of individual farmers to make a living from cocoa production. With the framework of the LMB now established, the PLMP to guide conservation efforts in the region will be finalized in Year 2.

5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project focuses directly on three priority themes of Côte d'Ivoire's *National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity* under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

#2. Use and enhancement of biodiversity: Working with communities around the Taï region, the project is providing training on good agricultural practices, as per the OLC and the Rainforest Alliance Standard⁷ guidelines, for climate-smart agriculture and cocoa agroforestry systems. These improved practices will support biodiversity and habitat conservation, as well as restore degraded ecosystems and reduce impacts of pesticides (please see **Annex 8** for more information on the modules under the climate-smart agriculture program).

#4. Awareness and public participation: The project awareness-raising campaigns are being conducted through a collaboration between CEFCA, Olam and the OIPR, whose director, Mr. François Djè N'Goran, is the CBD National Focal point for Protected Areas in Côte d'Ivoire. The success of the whole process is supported and strengthened by the LMB. Please see **Annex 6** for supporting documentation on the LMB.

#5. Integration of spiritual values and traditional knowledge in the conservation of biodiversity: Creation of the LMB through consultations with traditional Chief leaders, as well as local communities, ensures that the structure incorporates both spiritual values and traditional knowledge. Furthermore, RA's training is built on local interpretation of the Rainforest Alliance Standard, which recognizes traditional knowledge, local custom and spiritual values in the Taï landscape. In addition, the climate-smart agricultural training program is led by a local organization, CEFCA, with deep roots in the community (please see **Annex 8** for more information on the training program).

In addition, CEFCA consulted the CBD focal point, Mr. François Djè N'Goran, who is from the OIPR, to ensure that there was agreement and approval in conducting the joint awareness-raising campaign.

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

The project reduces the burden of poverty in the Taï landscape by fostering increases in yield among farming communities and teaching revenue diversification skills to improve livelihoods. A total of 527 farmers, representing 1,250 households from the districts of Béoué, Djouroutou, Petit Grabo, Poutou, Daoudi and Youkou are targeted as part of this project. Community engagement

⁷ Please note as of January 2019, UTZ and Rainforest Alliance have merged under one organisation called Rainforest Alliance. The training standard ownership moved from the Sustainable Agriculture Network to Rainforest Alliance. https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/business/sas/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/03_rainforest-alliance-sustainable-agriculture-standard_en.pdf

remains a pillar of RA's approach and aims to provide the knowledge and skills to conserve biodiversity, as well as improve income by shifting agricultural behaviour and reducing tenure conflict and deforestation. In combination with radio programs to take place in Years 2 and 3, RA hopes to widen its impact in these districts, estimated to be over 24,000 people, of whom 11,000 are women. Once results of the baseline study are available in Q1 of Year 2, RA will be able to better assess project impacts to date.

7. Project support to gender equality issues

Thirteen women have registered in the LMB village committees at the end of Year 1, which gives them authority to make decisions and assert their roles. Success in women's involvement is represented by **Outcome Indicator 0.1** and more information can be found in **Annex 6** attached. The project also encourages gender integration in the cocoa sector by providing women with the knowledge needed to empower them through the revenue-diversification micro-projects (related to **Outcome Indicator 0.9**, please see group records on females engaged in beekeeping and/or chicken-rearing as **Annex 10**).

8. Monitoring and evaluation

The project's M&E system is set up as a participatory system. Although the Project Manager is ultimately responsible for the M&E implementation and project reporting internally and externally, RA staff and project partners have clear project tracking and reporting obligations, and the overall system's implantation is backstopped by RA's Director of M&E and Quality Assurance.

The project's M&E System's operating principles, tools and processes are described in the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (PMEP), which will be submitted for Darwin's approval in April 2018. RA's Director of M&E and Quality Assurance has led the PMEP design process, but the PMEP is the result of a continuous dialogue with the Project Lead and CEFCA's and OLAM's staff, who are now fully trained on the project's M&E. Indeed, although the PMEP uses the project's approved logframe as basis, its key elements, tools and processes were amply discussed during the M&E workshop with RA staff, CEFCA staff and Olam staff in mid-October 2017 in Djouroutou, Côte d'Ivoire, and were adjusted as a result. That said, no changes have been made to the officially approved project logframe over this reporting period, and to date, we consider the project logframe suitable to assess project performance.

The PMEP uses evidence-based processes and "traffic light"-based tracking tools aimed at ensuring that the project's Annual Workplan progress is formally tracked and reported on a quarterly basis, and that information on Activity status and progress is used to make informed project management decisions in a timely manner.

The PMEP also considers the full set of Outcome indicators and required means of verification (MoVs) as defined in the officially approved project logframe. The MoVs describe exactly how each indicator will be measured. The project's PMEP Annex 3 Outcome and Output tracking template also includes this information (but in French). Outcome indicators and MoVs are designed to enable the project to assess the degree to which Outputs and Activities have contributed to the project's Outcome. For example, some Outcome indicators concern the design and application of a Sampled Monitoring (SM) survey, which is to be applied to a statistically representative sample of cocoa farmers to be trained by the project. The SM survey aims to assess farmers management practices (see **Annex 13** of this report). The project will apply the SM survey at baseline, project mid-term and project end. Comparing adoption rates of project-endorsed practices with those at baseline will allow RA to assess its progress on the original outputs.

Some Outcome indicators include setting up an operational LMB, for which clear and strict MoVs have been defined. Others require identifying the share of project-trained individuals who end up participating in chicken rearing and beekeeping activities. RA considers that both establishing an LMB and revenue micro-projects will allow us to claim some degree of causality between project interventions and the project's Outcome.

9. Lessons learnt

Over the past year, the team has learned the importance of the following to ensure success in the project:

- **Importance of stakeholder endorsement and support:** The project built a strong network of stakeholders (international and domestic) who are committed to increasing sustainable investment in the cocoa industry in West Africa, that are able to assess project progress through quarterly technical reviews. Close relationships have also been maintained with Olam and the OIPR to follow farmers on productivity techniques and ecosystems protection. Furthermore, government support has been central to the project's success thus far. The Sous Prefet was pleased that such an initiative was being carried out in Djouroutou. Participation of local extension agents also strengthened the development of the program and will continue to be encouraged in Years 2 and 3 of the project. Capacities of the governmental extension agencies are also strengthened through the project's efforts, increasing their productivity techniques and skills.
- **Importance of gender empowerment:** Through the workshops and training sessions that have been hosted over the past year, the RA team has learned the importance of empowering women in decision-making, through the village committees (13 in total to date). As a result of the close collaboration with local communities, RA has been so far able to engage with 41 women in the climate-smart agricultural trainings and another 31 in the revenue-diversification micro-projects. This number reflects the reality on the ground in terms of women participation in training in the cocoa sector in West Africa which is in general around 7%.
- **Importance of developing strategies on how to access difficult project locations:** The access to the project area is very remote and really challenging. For example, the road from Abidjan to Djouroutou is in a bad state and it took 3 days to the Rainforest Alliance team and Olam to access the project area for the LMB launching workshop. Additionally, access to internet facilities is a challenge and the telephone network is not very functional either. Yet, the RA team is working on how to address these challenges in the subsequent years of the project.
- **Benefits of conducting surveys on paper as opposed to digitally for the baseline analysis:** The baseline data analysis has not yet been completed due to delays in transferring the results of the questionnaire from the software system used by Olam International to RA's own analysis software. The synchronization has been delayed due to internet in the project area. RA has learned the importance of taking survey results by paper instead of being handled by Olam OFIS systematisation. Secondly, survey data should have been transferred earlier in San Pedro, where the internet speed is better.
- **Importance of clarifying M&E Data Collection Methodology earlier in the project:** The issue on the M&E data collection process is essentially due to a conflict of methods used between the project partners, essentially Olam and Rainforest Alliance. RA advises other projects partners to have a consultation in advance on preferred methods used for M&E to anticipate and avoid delays in the data analysis process.

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

Not applicable.

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

The Rainforest Alliance team does not have any other challenges or risks to mention at this time besides those included in Section 9 above.

12. Sustainability and legacy

The Rainforest Alliance has worked in this region of Côte d'Ivoire since 2012. The funds provided by Darwin enable us to continue our work – with complementary investments from major

stakeholders, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Mars and the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) – and build upon the success of Public Private Partnerships in improving cocoa communities' livelihoods in Africa. This Darwin-funded project supports three key elements identified by all the major stakeholders in the cocoa economy, particularly the World Cocoa Foundation, to create thriving cocoa farming communities:

First, it supports the environmental conservation awareness program of the stakeholders involved in the region, which is encouraged and maintained by a newly-established Landscape Management Board, giving people ownership of their landscape and making them accountable for it. The environmental awareness-raising component of the project also constitutes a fundamental element and supports a long-lasting behavioural change in the region, even after the funding ends.

Second, it strengthens the efforts of the key stakeholders in the wider Taï region by helping finance a critical aspect for these communities and ensuring long-term productivity improvements through best practices. Through increased productivity encouraged in this project, RA is helping improve revenue for farming families in the region to alleviate poverty, while promoting biodiversity conservation.

Third, it alleviates poverty and promotes gender integration through revenue diversification strategies.

The funding granted by Darwin through DEFRA has already leveraged an additional funding of GBP 40,000 from MCFEA in Year 1, which will complement activities under the Darwin initiative. On top of this, RA and Olam International are currently exploring potential opportunities to leverage efforts and scale up this work in the region with private and public partners, such as the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ).

The planned exit strategy of the project is still valid. International companies, such as Olam International, seek public-private partnership with NGOs and local partners to ensure that their investments are inclusive, scalable, and viable over the long term. As such, the LMB, combined with the climate-smart agriculture and revenue diversification program, will serve as a foundation for guaranteeing access to market and fostering sustainable practices on farms.

13. Darwin identity

The project has used the Darwin Initiative logo since the project launch on all presentations, biodiversity awareness-raising posters, and evidence collection materials which have been distributed to the attendees in the region. Additionally, project efforts have been recognised by the Ivorian regional authorities and the governmental extension agencies by meeting representatives at the workshops held during the project, as well as including them in the technical reviews and follow-ups from CEFCA technicians on the ground. RA hopes to reach out to schools in Year 2 of the project to further increase awareness of Darwin's initiative in the region. Darwin funding has also been recognized by various stakeholders in the region that have already been engaged in certain efforts, such as the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) Initiative for Sustainable Landscapes (ISLA), which takes a landscape approach to address the underlying challenges of deforestation and poverty, as well as the new engagement with the Cocoa Forest Initiative.

Other stakeholders involved, including OIPR and SODEFOR, understand Darwin's close involvement in project efforts. Additionally, the Sous Prefet of Djouroutou understands the main purpose of the Darwin Initiative, which is complementary to the land use planning policy of Côte d'Ivoire. Finally, Olam's Côte d'Ivoire Head of cocoa sustainability, Andrew Brooks, is British and is very familiar with the Darwin Initiative.

14. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2017/18 Grant (£)	2017/18 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL				

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2017-2018

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2017 - March 2018	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>OUTCOME: Communities adjacent to Taï National Park understand and engage in sustainable land-use and natural resource management, while cocoa farmers apply sustainable, climate-smart, biodiversity-conserving practices that improve their productivity and incomes.</p>	<p>0.1 By 3rd quarter of Year 1, one Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP) at the village level comprising 1,250 households and spanning 500 farms, of which 32 are owned by women, in 5 communities in Taï, is approved by the Landscape Management Board (LMB).</p>	<p>The 6 communities of Beoué, Djouroutou, Petit Grabo, Poutou, Youkou and Diaoudi have fully engaged in the process of creating an LMB which has become fully operational at the end of Year 1, as cemented by Output 1 and through Activities 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5 to tackle the most relevant landscape issues, principally deforestation. Please see Annex 6 for the signed LMB document.</p>	<p>The next consultative meeting to establish the draft PLMP plan is scheduled to take place before the end of Q2 of Year 2.</p>
	<p>0.2 At least 350 cocoa farmers trained by the project apply at least 80% of key climate-smart cocoa farm management practices (a third do so by project mid-term, and two-thirds do so by project end.).</p>	<p>527 farmers have started applying best practices, however, the analysis of the sampled monitoring survey for cocoa farmers' farm management practices has not been completed yet. The data are not yet available due to delays by Olam in reporting Sampled Monitoring survey data in the required database template, as explained in section 9 of the report.</p>	<p>The data will be analyzed in Q2 of Year 2 (May 2018).</p>
	<p>0.3 At least 70% of identified <u>female</u> cocoa farmers (i.e. those that actively participate in cocoa farming, either alone or alongside their husbands) actively participate and satisfactorily complete training on climate-smart cocoa farm management practices, according to the training programme timeline.</p>	<p>41 female farmers have started applying best practices, however, the analysis of the sampled monitoring survey for cocoa farmers' farm management practices has not been completed yet. The data are not yet available due to delays by Olam in reporting Sampled Monitoring survey data in the required database template, referring to section 9 of the report.</p>	<p>The data will be analyzed in Q2 of Year 2 (May 2018).</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2017 - March 2018	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>0.4 At least 70% of trained <u>female</u> farmers apply at least 80% of key climate-smart cocoa farm management practices (a third do so by project mid-term, and two thirds do so by project end.).</p>	<p>41 female farmers have started applying best practices, however, the analysis of the sampled monitoring survey has not been completed yet. The data are not yet available due to delays by Olam in reporting Sampled Monitoring survey data in the required database template, referring to section 9 of the report.</p>	<p>The data will be analyzed in Q2 of Year 2 (May 2018).</p>
	<p>0.5 At least 70% of trained cocoa farmers located within the biodiversity corridor and adjacent to the Hana River, create and maintain buffer zones (5 to 10m wide) with additional shade trees in accordance to climate-smart criteria.</p>	<p>A detailed mapping exercise was conducted by David Hughell (Rainforest Alliance Research and Geospatial Analyst) together with Olam, as evidenced by Annex 11.</p>	<p>Farmers along the Hana River will be individually mobilized and a plan of buffer zone establishment will be set up under the supervision of CEFCA and Olam.</p>
	<p>0.6 At least 3 demonstration plots on sustainable, climate-smart cocoa management practices are established by lead farmers by 2nd quarter of Year 1, and maintained by them, through project-end.</p>	<p>6 Demo plots have been already established and 1 more will be established before end of Year 2. Demo plot logs and photos can be seen in Annex 9.</p>	<p>1 demo plot will be established before the end of Year 2.</p>
	<p>0.7 At least 70% of individuals that participated in income diversification training courses (beekeeping and chicken-rearing) are newly involved in either or both of those activities (a third of them by the end of the 2nd year, and the rest by the end of the project.)</p>	<p>73 farmers have been newly engaged in beekeeping and chicken-rearing.</p> <p>To date, the infrastructure has been established to rear chickens in Diaoudi and Youkou. Please see group names for the micro-projects in Annex 10 to this report.</p>	<p>The farmers will be effectively trained on chicken-rearing before end of Q2 of Year 2.</p> <p>For beekeeping a consultant will be hired to train the farmers in Bee keeping by Q3 of Year 2, depending on interest in beekeeping, RA may increase the number of framers.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2017 - March 2018	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>0.8 At least 50% of individuals that participate in income diversification training courses (beekeeping and chicken-rearing) are female adults.</p>	<p>Out of 73 farmers participating on revenue diversification so far, 31 are women, so 42% in total. Please see group names listed by gender for the micro-projects in Annex 10 of this report.</p>	<p>The plan is to monitor women participation in revenue diversification. RA will increase the number of participants depending on interest.</p>
	<p>0.9 At least 70% of females that participate in income diversification training courses (beekeeping and chicken-rearing) are newly involved in either or both of those activities (a third of them by the end of the 2nd year, and the rest by the end of the project.).</p>	<p>Out of 73 farmers participating on revenue diversification so far, 31 are women and newly involved, so 42% in total. Please see group names listed by gender for the micro-projects in Annex 10 of this report.</p>	<p>The plan is to monitor women participation in revenue diversification. RA will increase the number of participants depending on interest.</p>
OUTPUTS:			
<p>1. Training and technical assistance delivered to leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Taï National Park, on creating a Landscape Management Board (LMB), and on the formulation of a village-level Landscape Management Plan (PLMP).</p>	<p>1.a. One LMB constituted by 3rd quarter of Year 1.</p>	<p>Community members have been engaged and trained to create and LMB. 6 village committees have been formed to create the LMB, please refer to Annex 6, for the participant lists for these meetings. The LMB is formed and the document has been signed, see Annex 6.</p>	<p>Village committee's members and the LMB will mobilize to create the draft document of the landscape management plan which will be available in Q2 of Year 2.</p>
	<p>1.b. One community Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP) formulated by 4th quarter of Year 1.</p>	<p>The PLMP not yet signed, as the diagnostic of the landscape is ongoing, see explanation in section 3.2 of this report on progress in the establishment of the PLMP.</p>	<p>The draft document will be available in Q2 of Year 2.</p>
<p>Activity 1.1 Organize one consultative workshop jointly with CEFCFA and OIPR to create the LMB in coordination with local Taï authorities.</p>		<p>A consultative workshop has been organized in October 2017 to create the LMB. Please see Annex 6 for supporting documentation on the LMB.</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2017 - March 2018	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 1.2 Organize 6 training sessions to train community members on the LMB's governance structure and procedures.		Community members have been engaged and trained to create and LMB. 6 village committees have been formed to create the LMB. Please refer to Annex 6 for the member list.	Village committee's members and the LMB will mobilize to create the draft document of the landscape management plan which will be available in Q2 of Year 2.
Activity 1.3 Facilitate 6 LMB Steering Committee meetings.		At the end of February 2018 (Q4), the 1 steering committee of the LMB took place. Please refer to Annex 6 , for topics discussed.	Village committee's members and the LMB will mobilize to create the draft document of the landscape management plan which will be available in Q2 of Year 2.
Activity 1.4 Document lessons learnt and challenges from the LMB's operation, and share them during the Steering Committee meetings as well as in the mid-project and end-of-project monitoring and evaluation workshops.		The first steering committee meeting shared lessons were shared on the structure of the LMB. Please refer to Annex 6 , for topics discussed.	At the next meeting the lessons shared will support the establishment of the draft PLMP.
Activity 1.5 Provide technical assistance to leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Taï National Park, on the formulation of a PLMP at the village level.		Please refer to activity 1.2 of this report for updates on this activity..	Please refer to activity 1.2 for reference to this activity
2. Training on sustainable, climate-smart farming practices delivered to cocoa farmers, and to them and other adults in their households, on beekeeping and chicken-rearing.	2.a At least 500 farmers trained in sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming practices, by project end.	527 farmers are being trained in CSA through coaching and Farmers Field school training. A total of 527 farmers were registered by Q3 of Year 1 (please see list of farmers in the cooperatives as Annex 8), in CSA and 73 in revenue diversification strategies, see Annex 10 .	Ongoing CSA training are planned for Year 2.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2017 - March 2018	Actions required/planned for next period
	2.b Lead farmers to establish at least 3 demonstration plots on sustainable, climate-smart cocoa management practices are identified and engaged by 2 nd quarter of Year 1, and supported through project-end	6 Demo plots have been established and 1 more will be established before project end. A Lead Farmer commitment letter sample is available in Annex 9 .	1 demo plot will be established by Q3 of Year 2.
	2.c At least 5 cocoa and shade tree nurseries provided by CRNA, SODEFOR and Olam, producing a total number of 100,000 climate-smart endorsed shade tree seedlings and 180,000 cocoa seedlings are produced and maintained with the support of 100% of trained farmers. At least 50% of cocoa and shade tree seedlings produced, are distributed by project mid-term.	2 cocoa nurseries have been produced, 40,000 Cocoa seedlings have been ordered, and the nurseries have been established. Please see photos of the cocoa nurseries in Annex 7 . 25,000 additional shade trees seedlings for the nurseries have been ordered.	1 shade tree nurseries will be established by Q3 of Year 3.
	2.d By project end, one buffer zone for the Biological Corridor defined, and at least 70% of cocoa farmers within that buffer zone are trained in sustainable, climate-smart cocoa production practices, including shade tree planting in particular	The Buffer zone map has been established, by RA and Olam., Please see Annex 11 for a map of the buffer zone.	RA, CEFCA and Olam will organise the distribution of the plants before end of Year 2 and according to the needs along Hana River.
	2.e At least 50 cocoa farmers and/or other adults in their households, trained in beekeeping and at least 32 women cocoa farmers are trained in chicken-rearing by end of project.	73 farmers have registered to participate but the trainings for Chicken rearing and Bee keeping have not yet started. The chicken shades are being currently built. Please refer to Annex 10 and to section 2.8 of this report for further details .	Training in chicken rearing will start before end of Q2 of Year 2 and training in Bee keeping will start as soon a consultant from the ANADER (<i>Agence Nationale de Developpement Rural</i>) assess and establish the module for the Bee keeping training approach.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2017 - March 2018	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 2.1 Identify and engage cocoa farmers' cooperatives and their members, to register in the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program.		527 farmers have been identified and engaged in the climate smart agriculture training program. Please refer to Annex 8 .	Ongoing CSA training are planned for Year 2.
Activity 2.2 Design the training program on sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming, ensuring it is adapted to the local context and maximizes female farmer participation.		The training topics were finalized with CEFCA and Olam International from December 2017 (Q3) to February 2018 (Q4), please refer to Annex 8 and section 2.2 of this report for details.	Ongoing CSA training are planned for Year 2.
Activity 2.3 Identify lead farmers willing to set up demonstration plots, and engage them in the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program.		Farmers have been engaged to set up the demo plots have been established and 1 more will be established before project end. A Lead Farmer commitment letter sample is available in Annex 9 .	1 demo plot will be established by Q3 of Year 2
Activity 2.4 Implement the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program.		Since Q2 of this reporting period, 20 coaching sessions have been organized, as well as follow-ups on a monthly basis through Farmer Field School sessions. The modules have been attached to this report as Annex 8 .	Ongoing CSA training are planned for Year 2, with follow up sessions and FFS.
Activity 2.5 Engage CRNA and SODEFOR on the establishment of nurseries.		CNRA has been engaged to provide cocoa seedlings and SODEFOR to provide advice on shade tree species. Please refer to the type of shade trees species that have been selected as part of this project in Annex 11 .	The needs will be assessed with Olam and anticipated accordingly with CNRA and SODEFOR in terms of shade trees and cocoa seedlings orders for Year 2.
Activity 2.6 Coordinate the distribution of cocoa and shade-tree seedlings, so that it responds to farmer needs, according to project-endorsed sustainable, climate-smart practices.		The distribution has not started yet as the cocoa nurseries plants are not ready yet and the shade trees plants have been ordered, please refer to Annex 7	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2017 - March 2018	Actions required/planned for next period
		and Sections 2.4, 2.5 and 2.7 of this report for details.	
Activity 2.7 Coordinate the delineation and establishment of the biological corridor Buffer Zone along River Hana.		Discussions to define the limit of the landscape have been engaged. A detailed mapping exercise was conducted by David Hughell (Rainforest Alliance Research and Geospatial Analyst) together with Olam, as evidenced by Annex 11 .	Further data will be communicated by Olam to Rainforest Alliance to refine the mapping.
Activity 2.8 Design the beekeeping and chicken rearing training program, ensuring it is adapted to the local context and maximizes female farmer participation.		The modules for the chicken rearing program has been established. The Bee keeping one as not yet please refer to sections 3.2 and 3.3 of this report.	The consultant from ANADER has already been identified by CEFCA and Olam to deliver the beekeeping training.
Activity 2.9 Deliver the beekeeping and chicken rearing training program to at least 82 cocoa farmers and/or other adults.		To date, the infrastructure has been established to rear chickens in Diaoudi and Youkou. Please see group names for the micro-projects in Annex 10 to this report.	The farmers will be effectively trained on chicken rearing before end of Q2 of year 2 - For Bee keeping a consultant will be hired to train the farmers in Bee keeping by Q3 of year 2, depending on interest in Bee keeping we may increase the number of framers.
3. The population living in communities around the Taï National Park is informed about the value of biodiversity and habitat conservation in the Taï National Park, about natural resource management in their communities, and about the dangers and negative consequences of hunting and consuming bushmeat.	3.a. 7,500 Awareness-raising posters designed and disseminated to community members in the local language by 3 rd quarter of Year 3.	2 types of posters comparing a healthy and sustainable landscape and an unhealthy and unsustainable landscape have been designed, to demonstrate visuals on the impact of sustainable and unsustainable practices. 5,000 posters have been printed to date.	More posters will be printed before end of Q2 of Year 2.
	3.b. Environmental education meetings held with 1,250 community members (including	3 trainings have been organized and 150 people have been reached in the community.	More workshops are planned before end of Q2 of Year 2.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2017 - March 2018	Actions required/planned for next period
	250 women); 750 by project mid-term.		
	3.c 6 By project mid-term, at least 3 awareness-raising radio programs organized, involving OIPR, CEFCA and community leaders.	The radio programs could not be yet organized as we had planned for the proximity local radio of Djouroutou. Unfortunately, there is no radio in Djouroutou. The plan is to reach out a wider audience in San Pedro.	Radio programs are planned for Q 3 of Year 2 in San Pedro.
Activity 3.1 Design environmental awareness-raising posters in local language, and distribute 7,500 copies, reaching 30% of the wider 5 Taï communities of Beoué, Djouroutou, Petit Grabo, Poutou and Youkou.		2 types of posters comparing a healthy and sustainable landscape and an unhealthy and unsustainable landscape have been designed, to demonstrate visuals on the impact of sustainable and unsustainable practices. 5,000 posters have been printed.	More posters will be printed before end of Q2 of Year 2.
Activity 3.2 Design training materials and agenda for the environmental education meetings aimed at key community members.		The posters have been designed and the agenda has been set up to train the farmers in biodiversity protection. Please refer to section 3.2 of this report for progress.	The agenda and training topics will be updated accordingly as the challenges of the PLMP are being drafted.
Activity 3.3 Organize 18 environmental education awareness meetings for 1,250 community members, jointly with the LMB, Olam and OIPR.		The environmental awareness sessions have started and 3 sessions have been held in Q3 and Q4 of Year 1. A total of 150 people attended. Participant lists for these sessions have been attached as Annex 12 .	More sessions are planned for Year 2.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2017 - March 2018	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 3.4 Design the content of environmental awareness-raising radio programs.		The content of the radio programs will be designed by Q3 of Year 2.	CEFCA and Olam are currently discussing the options to design a program for the wider audience of San Pedro.
Activity 3.5 Organize 6 environmental awareness-raising radio programs, involving OIPR, CEFCA, and community leaders.		The radio programs could not be yet organized as we had planned for the proximity local radio of Djouroutou. Unfortunately, there is no radio in Djouroutou. The plan is to reach out a wider audience in San Pedro	Radio programs are planned for Q3 of Year 2 in San Pedro.
4. The project's Monitoring and Evaluation System, and Communications Strategy formulated, approved and implemented.	4.a One Project Monitoring and Evaluation System designed and approved by the donor at project inception by the first quarter of the first year.	The PMEP draft document has been finalized, but not yet been sent to donor for approval.	The PMEP draft document will be finalized in Q2 of Year 2, but not yet been sent to donor for approval.
	4.b 12 Quarterly and 3 annual project technical, evidence-based project performance reports produced and delivered internally for adaptive management, and to the donor, 30 days after the end of each quarter or year.	The first half year report has been successfully submitted to Darwin.	The plan is to monitor progress to prepare upcoming reports and challenges
	4.c One Project Communication Strategy formulated and approved by the donor at project inception by the first quarter of the first year.	The communication strategy has already been finalized and approved by Darwin.	
	4.d Semi-annual communications products delivered, and their diffusion operationalized through RA's online media outlets (website blog, publicized through email and social/thematic networks) to relevant in-country	A plan to communicate on the project is being prepared now that the activities have been all launched.	A communication piece will be shared with Darwin before end of Q2 of Year 2

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2017 - March 2018	Actions required/planned for next period
	and global organizations and stakeholders, 30 days after the end of each quarter.		
Activity 4.1 Hold an on-site Monitoring and Evaluation workshop for the project's RA team and partners, aimed at designing the project's Monitoring and Evaluation System. Submit to donor for approval.		An M&E workshop was held in Djouroutou on the 17 th of October to train the stakeholders on the requirements for the Darwin project, please refer to as Annex 13 of this report and section 3.1.	Follow up calls and technical reviews are organized by RA to monitor the project KPI in collaboration with the Olam M&E team.
Activity 4.2 Design and apply at project inception and end-of-project, the Sampled Monitoring survey on a statistically representative sample of target cocoa farmers			
Activity 4.3 Implement the projects Monitoring and Evaluation System, and produce and deliver quarterly and annual technical, evidence-based project performance reports		The M&E system is being implemented with an efficient record of data and evidences, that have been used to prepare the annual report and also the first half year review report that was successfully submitted to Darwin.	The plan is to monitor progress to prepare upcoming reports and challenges
Activity 4.4 Formulate a Project Communication Strategy, and submit for donor approval		The project communication strategy was finalized in October 2017 (Q3 of Year 1) by the Rainforest Alliance communication team and received Darwin's approval. A copy of the communications strategy presentation is attached as Annex 4 .	Plans are made with Olam to produce communication materials on the project before end of Q2 of year 2.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2017 - March 2018	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 4.5 Produce the project's semi-annual online news piece and publicize it through email and social/thematic networks to relevant in-country and global organizations and stakeholders		Delays in producing communications material in Year 1 were mainly due to the need for key project activities to be completed before proceeding with publication.	Communications material will be completed before end of Q2 of Year 2.

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
IMPACT: Deforestation, biodiversity loss and wildlife depletion around Taï National Park are reduced, cocoa production as key export crop is safeguarded, and local communities enjoy diversified, sustainable incomes, impacting 24,000 people.			
OUTCOME: Communities adjacent to Taï National Park understand and engage in sustainable land-use and natural resource management, while cocoa farmers apply sustainable, climate-smart, biodiversity-conserving practices that improve their productivity and incomes.	0.1 By 3 rd quarter of Year 1, one Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP) at the village level comprising 1,250 households and spanning 500 farms, of which 32 are owned by women, in 5 communities in Taï, is approved by the Landscape Management Board (LMB).	0.1 Village-level PLMP document, signed by the LMB.	The LMB is created and operational. Communities are effectively involved in the formulation of the PLMP. Government agencies cooperate with the project, allowing and/or facilitating project interventions as appropriate.
	0.2 At least 350 cocoa farmers trained by the project apply at least 80% of key climate-smart cocoa farm management practices (a third do so by project mid-term, and two-thirds do so by project end.).	0.2 Analysis of Sampled Monitoring Survey of cocoa farmers' farm management practices, applied at baseline and end of project.	Target cocoa farmers fully participate in the trainings. Farmers to be trained are well identified early on after project inception, allowing the baseline survey to be applied to them.
	0.3 At least 70% of identified <u>female</u> cocoa farmers (i.e. those that actively participate in cocoa farming, either alone or alongside their husbands) actively participate and satisfactorily complete training on climate-smart cocoa farm management practices, according to the training programme timeline.	0.3 Satisfactory Training Completion Certificates delivered to female cocoa farmers.	Female farmers to be trained are well identified early on after project inception, and are willing, and able to participate in the trainings.
	0.4 At least 70% of trained <u>female</u> farmers apply at least 80% of key climate-smart cocoa farm management practices (a third do so by project mid-term, and two thirds do so by project end.).	0.4 Analysis of Sampled Monitoring Survey of cocoa farmers' farm management practices, applied at baseline and end of project.	Target cocoa female farmers fully participate in the trainings. Female farmers to be trained are well identified early on after project inception, allowing the baseline survey to be applied to them.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>0.5 At least 70% of trained cocoa farmers located within the biodiversity corridor and adjacent to the Hana River, create and maintain buffer zones (5 to 10m wide) with additional shade trees in accordance to climate-smart criteria.</p>	<p>0.5 Analysis of Sampled Monitoring Survey of cocoa farmers' farm management practices, applied at baseline and end of project.</p>	<p>Targeted cocoa farmers whose farms are located within the biodiversity corridor and adjacent to the Hana River, fully participate in the trainings.</p> <p>Trained cocoa farmers with farms located within the biodiversity corridor and adjacent to the Hana River, have access to shade tree seedlings in sufficient quantity and of the required species.</p> <p>Cocoa farmers to be trained, whose farms are located within the biodiversity corridor, are well identified early on after project inception, allowing the baseline survey to be applied to them.</p>
	<p>0.6 At least 3 demonstration plots on sustainable, climate-smart cocoa management practices are established by lead farmers by 2nd quarter of Year 1, and maintained by them, through project-end.</p>	<p>0.6 Demo-plot activity logs and photographs (quarterly).</p>	<p>Lead farmers are willing to establish and maintain demonstration plots.</p>
	<p>0.7 At least 70% of individuals that participated in income diversification training courses (bee-keeping and chicken-rearing) are newly involved in either or both of those activities (a third of them by the end of the 2nd year, and the rest by the end of the project.)</p>	<p>0.7 Group records on individuals engaged in bee-keeping and/or chicken-rearing.</p>	<p>Individuals in target communities fully participate in the income diversification training courses.</p> <p>Individuals trained find it attractive and feasible to engage in bee-keeping and/or chicken-rearing.</p>
	<p>0.8 At least 50% of individuals that participate in income diversification training courses (bee-keeping and chicken-rearing) are female adults.</p>	<p>0.8 Training participants' lists.</p>	<p>Females adults in target communities are able and willing to fully participate in the income diversification training courses.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	0.9 At least 70% of females that participate in income diversification training courses (bee-keeping and chicken-rearing) are newly involved in either or both of those activities (a third of them by the end of the 2nd year, and the rest by the end of the project.).	0.9 Group records on females engaged in bee-keeping and/or chicken-rearing.	Females adults in target communities are able and willing to fully participate in the income diversification training courses. Female adults trained find it attractive and feasible to engage in bee-keeping and/or chicken-rearing.
OUTPUTS:			
1. Training and technical assistance delivered to leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Taï National Park, on creating a Landscape Management Board (LMB), and on the formulation of a village-level Landscape Management Plan (PLMP).	1.a. One LMB constituted by 3 rd quarter of Year 1.	1.a. Signed document of the LMB creation	Leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Taï National Park are willing to engage in the process of the LMB creation
	1.b. One community Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP) formulated by 4 th quarter of Year 1.	1.b. LMP document	Leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Taï National Park are willing to engage in the process of the Plan's formulation.
2. Training on sustainable, climate-smart farming practices delivered to cocoa farmers, and to them and other adults in their households, on bee-keeping and chicken-rearing.	2.a At least 500 farmers trained in sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming practices, by project end.	2.a Signed participants list per training event (with gender differentiation).	Cocoa producer groups fully embrace the project, and set up the internal management systems required to deliver training to farmers following the training of trainers.
	2.b Lead farmers to establish at least 3 demonstration plots on sustainable, climate-smart cocoa management practices are identified and engaged by 2 nd quarter of Year 1, and supported through project-end	2.b Signed commitment letters signed by lead farmers, defining responsibilities on demo-plot establishment and maintenance.	Lead farmers are identified, who are willing to establish and maintain demonstration plots.
	2.c At least 5 cocoa and shade tree nurseries provided by CRNA, SODEFOR and Olam, producing a total number of 100,000 climate-smart endorsed shade tree seedlings and 180,000 cocoa seedlings are produced and maintained with the support of 100% of trained farmers. At least 50% of cocoa and	2.c Nursery seedling production records; Signed farmer seedling distribution lists.	CRNA, SODEFOR and Olam are willing and able to maintain shade tree and cocoa seedling nurseries, and distribute them to farmers at an affordable cost.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	shade tree seedlings produced, are distributed by project mid-term.		
	2.d By project end, one buffer zone for the Biological Corridor defined, and at least 70% of cocoa farmers within that buffer zone are trained in sustainable, climate-smart cocoa production practices, including shade tree planting in particular	2.d Buffer zone map, and list cocoa farmers' within the buffer zone, identifying those that have received project training.	Cocoa farmers in the buffer zone are identified and are willing and able to participate in the trainings.
	2.e At least 50 cocoa farmers and/or other adults in their households, trained in bee-keeping and at least 32 women cocoa farmers are trained in chicken-rearing by end of project.	2.e Signed participants' lists per training event (with gender differentiation).	Cocoa farmers and other adults in their households accept bee-keeping and chicken-rearing as a potentially viable source of household income.
3. The population living in communities around the Taï National Park is informed about the value of biodiversity and habitat conservation in the Taï National Park, about natural resource management in their communities, and about the dangers and negative consequences of hunting and consuming bushmeat.	3.a. 7,500 Awareness-raising posters designed and disseminated to community members in the local language by 3 rd quarter of Year 3.	3.a Posters are available in communities in local language.	The local population knows how to read.
	3.b. Environmental education meetings held with 1,250 community members (including 250 women); 750 by project mid-term.	3.b Signed participants' lists (with gender and age differentiation).	Community members are willing to attend environmental education meetings, including adults, youth and children of both genders.
	3.c 6 By project mid-term, at least 3 awareness-raising radio programs organized, involving OIPR, CEFCA and community leaders.	3.c Radio programs audio files are available.	Radio stations are willing to transmit radio programs at affordable prices for the project.
4. The project's Monitoring and Evaluation System, and Communications Strategy formulated, approved and implemented.	4.a One Project Monitoring and Evaluation System designed and approved by the donor at project inception by the first quarter of the first year.	4.a Approved Project Monitoring and Evaluation System document	Sufficient budget is available to finance an on-site Monitoring and Evaluation workshop.
	4.b 12 Quarterly and 3 annual project technical, evidence-based project performance reports produced and delivered internally for adaptive management, and to the donor, 30 days after the end of each quarter or year.	4.b Quarterly project technical project performance reports, and backed by documented evidence; evidence document repository.	The project team and partners do their part in operationalizing the M&E Plan.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	4.c One Project Communication Strategy formulated and approved by the donor at project inception by the first quarter of the first year.	4.c Approved Project Communications Strategy.	RA's Communication Division devotes the required human resources to formulate the Strategy.
	4.d Semi-annual communications products delivered, and their diffusion operationalized through RA's online media outlets (website blog, publicized through email and social/thematic networks) to relevant in-country and global organizations and stakeholders, 30 days after the end of each quarter.	4.d Semi-annual online news piece; list of social/thematic networks through which the newsletter was publicized.	RA's Communication Division devotes the required human and financial resources to implement the Strategy.
KEY ACTIVITIES:			
1.1 Organize one consultative workshop jointly with CEFCA and OIPR to create the LMB in coordination with local Taï authorities.			
1.2 Organize 6 training sessions to train community members on the LMB's governance structure and procedures.			
1.3 Facilitate 6 LMB Steering Committee meetings.			
1.4 Document lessons learnt and challenges from the LMB's operation, and share them during the Steering Committee meetings as well as in the mid-project and end-of-project monitoring and evaluation workshops.			
1.5 Provide technical assistance to leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Taï National Park, on the formulation of a PLMP at the village level.			
2.1 Identify and engage cocoa farmers' cooperatives and their members, to register in the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program.			
2.2 Design the training program on sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming, ensuring it is adapted to the local context and maximizes female farmer participation.			
2.3 Identify lead farmers willing to set up demonstration plots, and engage them in the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program.			
2.4 Implement the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program.			
2.5 Engage CRNA and SODEFOR on the establishment of nurseries.			
2.6 Coordinate the distribution of cocoa and shade-tree seedlings, so that it responds to farmer needs, according to project-endorsed sustainable, climate-smart practices.			
2.7 Coordinate the delineation and establishment of the biological corridor Buffer Zone along River Hana.			
2.8 Design the bee-keeping and chicken rearing training program, ensuring it is adapted to the local context and maximizes female farmer participation.			
2.9 Deliver the bee-keeping and chicken rearing training program to at least 82 cocoa farmers and/or other adults.			
3.1 Design environmental awareness-raising posters in local language, and distribute 7,500 copies, reaching 30% of the wider 5 Taï communities of Beoué, Djouroutou, Petit Grabo, Poutou and Youkou.			
3.2 Design training materials and agenda for the environmental education meetings aimed at key community members.			
3.3 Organize 18 environmental education awareness meetings for 1,250 community members, jointly with the LMB, Olam and OIPR.			
3.4 Design the content of environmental awareness-raising radio programs.			
3.5 Organize 6 environmental awareness-raising radio programs, involving OIPR, CEFCA, and community leaders.			

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
4.1	Hold an on-site Monitoring and Evaluation workshop for the project's RA team and partners, aimed at designing the project's Monitoring and Evaluation System submitted to donor for approval.		
4.2	Design and apply at project inception and end-of-project, the Sampled Monitoring survey on a statistically representative sample of target cocoa farmers.		
4.3	Implement the projects Monitoring and Evaluation System, and produce and deliver quarterly and annual technical, evidence-based project performance reports.		
4.4	Formulate a Project Communication Strategy, and submit for donor approval.		
4.5	Produce the project's semi-annual online news piece and publicize it through email and social/thematic networks to relevant in-country and global organizations and stakeholders.		

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	Number of farmers to receive climate-smart agriculture training from CEFGA	527 farmers (41 women, 486 men)	Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso	527 farmers in total	N/A	N/A	527 farmers in total	500 farmers in total
7	Number of training materials produced to increase environmental awareness	N/A	N/A	3 training materials (2 posters, 1 chicken-rearing module)	N/A	N/A	3 training materials	2 training materials
13A	Number of reference guides produced related to planted species for climate-smart agriculture	N/A	N/A	1 reference manual	N/A	N/A	1 reference manual	1 reference manual
21	Number of governance structures created	N/A	N/A	1 LMB	N/A	N/A	1 LMB	1 LMB
22	Number of permanent field plots and sites to be established during the project and continued after Darwin funding has ceased	N/A	N/A	6 field plots	1 field plot	N/A	6 field plots	7 field plots

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.	X
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.	X
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.	X
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.	X
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	X
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	X
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	