

## Darwin Initiative: Final 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)

### Darwin Project Information

Project reference	24-021
Project title	Empowering Ivorian communities to conserve biodiversity and improve their livelihoods
Country(ies)	Côte d’Ivoire
Lead organisation	Rainforest Alliance (RA)
Partner institution(s)	Centre d’Études, Formations, Conseils et Audits (CEFCA)
Darwin grant value	£300,000
Start/end dates of project	July 1, 2017 – September 30, 2020
Project leader’s name	Christian Mensah
Project website/blog/social media	N/A
Report author(s) and date	Christian Mensah, January 11, 2021

### 1. Project Summary

The Rainforest Alliance (RA) project “Empowering Ivorian communities to conserve biodiversity and improve their livelihoods”, financed by the Darwin Initiative of the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has now reached the end of its implementation stage. Since July 2017, the project has continuously aimed to fight against the threats on biodiversity in the Taï National Park of Côte d’Ivoire. This park is the largest remaining forest in West Africa covering 3,500-square kilometres and has been officially recognised as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site. It is renowned for 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 500, which has declined by 90% since the 1960s<sup>1</sup>. The project addressed two key threats to this biodiversity hotspot:

- 1. Deforestation and unsustainable agricultural expansion:** The natural forest coverage of Côte d’Ivoire has deteriorated by almost 90% since 1960. According to figures published by the Bureau National d’Etudes Techniques et de Développement (BNEDT) in 2015, the annual rate of deforestation between 2000 and 2015 was estimated to be at 2.69%. 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: 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. Through an

<sup>1</sup> Campbell G, Kuehl H, Kouamé 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](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2008.08.015)

agroforestry approach, the project put proposed solutions in place as per **Output 2 Activities 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7**. This approach was cemented by the creation of a **Landscape Management Board (LMB)** and its Participatory Landscape Management Plan under **Output 1** and through **Activities 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5**. The LMB adopted a landscape planning approach that tackles the most relevant landscape issues, principally addressing the underlying threats to forest destruction by supporting cocoa farmers to avoid deforestation and poaching and by promoting sustainable agriculture, which puts less pressure on forests and contributes to a deforestation-free supply chain in South-West Taï region. The LMB's approach has been consistent with SDG 15.9, to integrate ecosystems and biodiversity values into local planning, development processes and poverty reduction strategies. Project efforts have supported the rehabilitation of degraded areas across six communities in the districts of Béoué, Petit Grabo, Poutou, Djouroutou, Youkou and Daoudi, working with 527 cocoa-growing farmers. Overall, we hope the project had an impact on 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 line<sup>2</sup>.



**Map 1** : Localisation of the 6 communities (→) of 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, Côte d'Ivoire.*

**2. Bushmeat consumption:** The 2020 worldwide outbreak of the **Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19)**<sup>3</sup>, a new deadly zoonotic disease<sup>4</sup>, has further reinforced the need for fighting against bushmeat consumption, as commercial harvesting and trading of bushmeat is not only considered a threat to biodiversity<sup>5</sup>, but also represents a threat to human health. Nevertheless, demand for bushmeat remains high among rural and urban populations in Asia and Central Africa. The current numbers of animals killed and traded as bushmeat in West and Central Africa is unsustainable. Moreover, illegal hunting and wildlife trafficking has continued due to ignorance and insufficient enforcement of regulations and legislation. As such, this project has proposed alternative sources of protein to the community to solve the issue, as

<sup>2</sup> 46.3% Poverty Headcount Ratio at national poverty lines in Côte d'Ivoire, and 28.2% Poverty Headcount Ratio at \$1.90 a day; <http://data.worldbank.org/country/cote-divoire>, World Bank, 2017

<sup>3</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019%E2%80%932020\\_coronavirus\\_pandemic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019%E2%80%932020_coronavirus_pandemic)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.who.int/neglected\\_diseases/diseases/zoonoses/en/](https://www.who.int/neglected_diseases/diseases/zoonoses/en/)

<sup>5</sup> Cowlisshaw, G.; Mendelson, S. & Rowcliffe, J. (2005). "Evidence for post-depletion sustainability in a mature bushmeat market". *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 42 (3): 460–468. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2664.2005.01046.x.  
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well as an awareness raising program on biodiversity conservation as described in **Outputs 2 and 3 in Activities 2.8, 2.9, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5.**

## 2. Project Partnerships

This project is based on a Public-Private Partnership approach. The Rainforest Alliance (RA) worked closely, since the project start, with **Centre d'Etudes, Formations, Conseils et Audits (CEFCA)** to train farmers on sustainable, climate-smart agricultural practices. RA also 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. Olam ensured the security of its cocoa supply through its links to **COTSCO**, and by providing technical assistance to **Cooperative Agricole Fraternité de Djouroutou (COOFADJOU)** and **Société Cooperative Agricole des Producteurs de Petit Grabo et Youkou (SCAEPGY)** following the **Olam Livelihood Charter (OLC)**, as well as promoting the conservation of the Park through shade tree planting and environmental awareness raising, for more details see previous annual reports. Throughout the project, Olam supported the data collection and reporting processes as per the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan.

The project also built strong links with the **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 governmental agencies. The Sous-Préfet representative and the OIPR representative are both part of the executive committee of the Landscape Management Board (LMB) created under Output 1 of the project. This project conducted awareness-raising campaigns in collaboration with CEFCA, Olam and the OIPR. The success of the whole process has been supported and strengthened by the LMB.

During the 3 years of implementation, the project partnerships have achieved the following results:

- **A Landscape Management Board:** the project facilitated the creation of a Landscape Management Board that has been successful in engaging the local communities and smallholder farmers to protect their landscapes by building their capacities in sustainable landscape management, climate-smart agricultural practices and additional livelihood programs. A gender-inclusive and empowering 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. The LMB was formed through consultations with six village committees consisting of **57 total members**, including **14 women and 43 men**, representing smallholder farmer representatives of the **cooperatives COOFADJOU** and **SCAEPGY**, the Sous-Préfet of Tai, the OIPR and traditional authorities.
- **A Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP):** the project developed a **Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP)**, see **Annex 8**, to transfer responsibility of landscape management to the communities and to build capacity to address the challenges and threats to their landscape through the joint development of a concrete action plan. The benefits provided by revenue diversification strategies and training on best farming practices, ensure that local communities, producer cooperatives, the governmental organizations and Olam will have the incentives to continue with the implementation of the action plan beyond the end of the project.
- **Improved livelihoods** through technical assistance provided to the farmers to adopt climate-smart agricultural practices and increase their yields through farmer coaching, as well as through premium payment from accessing sustainable markets and revenue diversification strategies that also provided an increase in revenues.
- **A secure supply of cocoa:** Apart from its associated biodiversity benefits, the project has demonstrated how to safeguard the future of sustainable cocoa production in one of the most important regions of the Ivorian cocoa belt and hence the worldwide cocoa industry (as Côte d'Ivoire is the highest producer of cocoa beans worldwide) by promoting the adoption of sustainable, climate-smart and biodiversity-conserving practices to increase cocoa farmers' incomes and address poverty in the region and by strengthening the relationship between

cocoa traders, cooperatives and communities towards collective actions for change in the sector.

- For three consecutive years, since August 2017, the project attracted **additional funding through the Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa (MCFEA)**<sup>6</sup>. MCFEA invested in the climate-smart productivity program by leveraging further funding for CEFCA, with the in-kind support of Olam to implement the productivity program, environmental awareness raising programs for communities and in schools as well as producers' groups. It enabled the project to design and implement management strengthening programs for COOFADJOU and SCAEPGY towards improved **Internal Management Systems (IMS)** to promote efficient internal management and an operational traceability system.
- **The campaign of the Greenest School:** The project has introduced with funding of MCFEA, the competition of the greenest school in June 2019, in the 9 project communities (see **Activity 2.4 of previous Year 3 Annual report for more details**).
- **Launch of the AVEC (Association Villageoise pour l'Épargne et le Crédit) activities:** This activity which is financed by the MCFEA allowed 3 groups of women (**in total 87 women**) in Djouroutou, Diaoudi and Beoué to have access to small loans to launch micro projects.

The two main challenges the Partnership faced were the inability to establish a biological corridor Buffer Zone along the Hana River because there were not enough Olam farmers in that area (see previous reports) and the inability to engage IMPACTUM in the process of strengthening the LMB due to their high fees (see Section 6.2).

In May 2020, following COVID-19 restrictions across the country, a careful assessment of the project was made and a request for no-cost extension (NCE) for 3 months, until 30 September 2020 was submitted and approved by Darwin. The project was meant to end on 30 June 2020, but as all activities halted during April-June 2020 quarter due to COVID-19, it was proposed to resume all planned activities in July-September 2020. Consequently, the project workplan was shifted. Following easing of COVID-19 restrictions, the project partners held a final meeting on September 25, 2020 in **Djouroutou** to discuss achievements at the end of the project. The meeting also discussed plans for further activities and a collaborative pathway for project partners, led by the Rainforest Alliance, to explore potential new projects to consolidate the gains made in the last three years. The stakeholders also reaffirmed and discussed a plan and their willingness to support the communities in their efforts to contribute to solving the problems of the landscape even after ending this project (See **Output section under Output 1**).

### 3. Project Achievements

#### 3.1 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).**

At the start of the project and before our intervention, there was very little knowledge about landscape planning and community management in this particular landscape, and efforts in the wider region were mainly isolated initiatives led by stakeholders such as IDH for the IDH ISLA <sup>7</sup> project, the **CFI (Cocoa Forest Initiative)** project, along with the support of the **KfW/GIZ PRODEMIR** project that we connected with as highlighted in previous reports. Smaller local initiatives were mostly handled by the local authorities, (governmental policies, forest and park authorities) and by isolated activist community village association actions, **Association Villageoise pour la Conservation et le Développement (AVCD)** and farmer associations.

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

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.idhsustainabletrade.com/uploaded/2017/05/IDH-Factsheet\\_Cote-dIvoire.pdf](https://www.idhsustainabletrade.com/uploaded/2017/05/IDH-Factsheet_Cote-dIvoire.pdf)

The project brought together all these isolated actors in the landscape who rallied around the project initiative to create a gender inclusive **LMB** and a **PLMP** through trainings and technical assistance to promote sustainability and conserve biodiversity in their environment. Under **Output Indicator 1.a** and **Output Indicator 1.b**, in total **57 members of the LMB, (including members of the farmers community, OIPR, SODEFOR, Rainforest Alliance and Olam)** were trained throughout the length of the project on how to set up an LMB, how to form village committees, how to elect the right members and also gather feedback from these members through consultations. One of the key parts of their learning was to learn how to create the PLMP. The findings from the consultations were fed back to draft the plan and discuss the challenges in project steering committee meetings.

The project also supported the **development of a PLMP**, attached in **Annex 8**, which addressed key challenges that are endemic to the landscape and its population, including **environmental threats**, such as deforestation due to illegal cocoa farming and illegal bush meat consumption, use of illegal pesticides, disappearance of local plant species used mainly for medicinal and cultural purposes, water pollution due to agrochemicals sprays and household waste; and **socio-economic issues**, such as traditional farming practices that privilege yield increase over biodiversity protection, conflicts due to resource scarcity linked to unclear land use rights for agriculture and land conflicts between cocoa and livestock farmers, and lack of road infrastructures and easy access to farm gates to collect cocoa and other staple food crops necessary to ensure food security.

The project, therefore, achieved Output 1, as technical assistance was delivered to the six communities and they have been able to successfully create an LMB and formulate a PLMP, which means both targets under Output Indicator 1.a and Output Indicator 1.b have been achieved, as shared in the Year 1 and Year 2 annual reports.

At the project closure meeting, held on September 16, 2020, the six communities, through their LMB representatives, pledged to follow up on the PLMP beyond the end of the project, and will be supported by Olam and the local authorities in order to achieve activities from the plan with clear responsibilities. In this meeting, participants agreed on next steps for the implementation of the Action Plan, as well as sharing positive feedback on the project and the usefulness of the LMB.

The last project steering committee meeting was also held in **San Pedro on September 25, 2020** (see **Annex 9**.) The list of recommendations and observations of the stakeholders on the project was summarized and the report is attached in **Annex 9**. Their main observations are listed below:

- The landscape management board must continue to demonstrate ownership of the concept put in place and maintain a long-term vision for the landscape. To achieve this, it will be essential for the communities to mobilise their own resources by setting up further income-generating activities. These own funds will allow the committee to continue the meetings initiated by the project and to implement certain actions of the action plan. It will also be necessary to define a mechanism for managing the funds resulting from these income-generating activities to ensure their proper use.
- The committee should secure the services of a consultant to help develop a fundraising plan from governments, international organizations or NGOs. This requires a formalization of the committee structure through national registration. In this perspective, it was recommended to expand the role of the committee so that it acts as a relay for all the major activities of the communities in the area.
- For diversification, it was recommended to include other activities that arouse the interest of communities such as sheep or pig farming to ensure strong adherence to the program. It was further recommended to set up smaller groups. These groups of 3 or 4 producers would be formed by affinity to facilitate the work.
- The importance of establishing real synergies with other projects working in the area was underlined. The combination of actions could intensify the impact of the activities implemented.
- The workshop finally highlighted the need to involve more women in the process to increase community involvement and ensure greater success and to stay in close collaboration with local authorities.

- The major role, influence and support of the authorities was recognised in the success of this project.

## **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 Indicator 2.a**, strategies have been put in place throughout the length of the project to train **527** farmers in best agricultural practices and support them with the continuous improvement of farm practices. Therefore, the target of 500 farmers trained by project end was met since Year 2.

Under **Output Indicator 2.b**, the project created **six** demonstration plots. This was above the target of the **three** demonstration plots planned. These demonstration plots have been adopted by the Internal Management System (IMS) of the project-supported cooperatives. As these cooperatives remain in the supply chain of Olam, farmers will continue to be trained on Good Agricultural practices on these training plots even though the project has ended, with the support of the **IMS** of the cooperatives and backstopped by Olam as part of the general monthly Farmers Field school training and coaching sessions.

The initial project proposal had planned to plant **100,000** climate-smart shade tree seedlings and 180,000 cocoa seedlings as per the project's logframe as indicated in **Annex 8**. Following the **Conseil de Café Cacao (CCC)** decision to halt productivity improvement activities in Côte d'Ivoire, RA submitted a change request to remove the number of seedlings listed in Output Indicator 2.c. and left it without a specific numerical target. Under **Output Indicator 2.c**, prior to the CCC decision, **two cocoa nurseries** had been established and **40,000 cocoa hybrid trees** distributed as part of this project. Also, **four shade tree nurseries** were established to raise indigenous timber seedlings, including **Gmelina arborea, Irvingia gabonensis, Terminalia ivorensis, Terminalia superba, Ricinodendron heudelotii, and Tectona grandis**. In total over 40,000 plantlets were produced and distributed in Year 1. Further activities were terminated due to the CCC decision.

Regarding **Output Indicator 2.d**, the project partners were not able to establish the shade tree corridor initially defined between the Tai and the Hana River. Therefore, the target for this indicator has not been met. This was mainly because the Olam supply chain with the 3 cooperatives was found to have insufficient farmers located near the river as explained in previous reports. Efforts to build on synergies with projects led by Cocomact, GIZ and KFW were launched in Year 2, in Year 3, as well as further contacts established with GIZ's Green Innovation Centre team to build up on these conversations. As reflected in AR3, the number of farmers in the corridor involved in the Cocomact project was still insufficient to effectively manage the landscape and corridor in a sustainable way. It was therefore recommended to project partners to build on lessons learnt to continue to increase the number of farmers and establish the necessary partnerships to garner a critical mass of farmers for the scale required to build a true corridor that connects these two critically important protected areas.

The bee-keeping and chicken rearing pilot projects, reflected under **Output Indicator 2.e**, respectively engaged **32 farmers (of which 3 women)** for bee-keeping and **50 farmers (of which 28 women)** for chicken rearing, now reduced to 25 (**of which 20 women**) due to a flooding in the area during the last rainy season when a chicken rearing site was destroyed.

The bee-keeping project established in total **20** bee-keeping hives, of which **7** bee-keeping hives have been colonized (**4** in Djouroutou and **3** in Youkou), and **2** hives have produced honey that is currently being commercialized by the communities. After colonization, it takes about 6 months for the farmers to harvest their first honey – which enables bee-keepers to usually harvest honey twice a year. The project produced in total 554 chicken and 1,189 eggs. The PowerPoint (PPT) presentation at the final Steering Committee workshop of the project is attached as **Annex 9** for further details. Beyond the commercial aspect, other objectives of the diversification pilot project were to train farmers and develop skills on revenue diversification opportunities. Targeted cocoa farmers and their families are therefore aware and experienced in identifying opportunities for an improved standard of living, including better access to food and nutrition and prospects for viable rural diversification.

As explained in previous reports, throughout the project, women showed greater interest in chicken rearing than in bee-keeping because they found bee-keeping difficult to manage and it was also a less culturally common business activity for women.

**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 Indicator 3.a**, over **11,000** copies of posters were printed and distributed during the project, exceeding the initial target of **7,500** posters. Posters were printed in French, with pictorials that can easily be seen and understood by farmers. The recent COVID 19 pandemic was also an occasion to warn the farmers further during trainings about the danger of bushmeat consumption.

Under **Output Indicator 3.b**, a total of **33** environmental sensitisation sessions were held in the six communities, namely: **Youkou, Poutou, Diaoudi, Beoué, Djouroutou** and **Petit-Grabo** - reaching a total **1,530** community members, of which **121** women. This also included school children and the elderly as the project took the sensitization activities, in conjunction with Olam, the OIPR, local authorities, to 9 schools in the landscape. This was significantly above the target of **18** environmental sessions planned under the project.

These environmental sessions were very useful and informed participating farmers and school children about the importance of biodiversity and habitat conservation, natural resource management and the dangers of deforestation and negatives consequences of hunting and consuming bushmeat, with the spread of the Coronavirus across the world since November 2019. Throughout the project, these sensitisation campaigns were cemented around the LMB that led the environmental activities around the landscape.

With the COVID-19 imposed restrictions on large group gatherings and closure of schools across the country, no more environmental sessions were held since the last reporting period. The Ivorian Ministry of Education was one of the first in sub-Saharan Africa to reopen schools for children in May 2020 for children to head back to school following the virus shutdown. However, as co-curriculum activity, the project did not continue the environmental sessions as it took serious consideration of the safety of staff and pupils as a priority to prevent risk and potential harm.

On **Output Indicator 3.c**, **two out of the six radio programs** planned for the project were delivered in the wider San Pedro for the communities. As explained in Year 3 Annual Report, this was because the total cost of this activity turned out to be higher than anticipated and the project partners did not succeed in finding additional sources of funding to pay for further radio programs. To compensate for the lower number of radio programs, the launch of the Greenest School competition allowed to reach teachers and children in 9 schools through 13 additional environmental awareness-raising sessions

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

The project developed its **Performance Monitoring and Environmental Plan (PMEP)** in **Q1 of Year 2**, see **Year 2 Half-Year Report 2**, under **Output Indicator 4.a**. Following the guidelines outlined in the plan, the project has implemented the PMEP by using the tools provided such as the training list template used to record attendees at trainings as in **Output Indicator 2.a**.

Overall, **3** half year reports were delivered as part of this project in **Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3** as well as **3** annual reports for **Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3**, have been submitted to Darwin, in alignment with **Output Indicator 4.b**. This current final report is the last report submitted to Darwin. In addition, regular quarterly project progress updates were presented in internal quarterly portfolio review meetings by the Project Lead to RA's management and staff.

The project's communication strategy was finalised and approved by Darwin in Year 1 (**Output Indicator 4.c**).

Under **Output Indicator 4**, semi-annual communications products have been delivered and shared with Darwin, as reflected in previous reports. For a list of publications see Annex 5.

### 3.2 Outcome

**OUTCOME: Communities adjacent to Tai 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.**

Under **Indicator 0.1**, an effective and active LMB as well as a signed and endorsed Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP) across the six project communities, have been established since Q3 of year 2 (see AR2).

A baseline study on a representative sample of 201 farmers was conducted in Q4 of Year 1. Using the same questionnaire, an end-of-project impact survey was conducted on a sample of 206 farmers at the end of 2019, which allowed the project team to compare and analyse results to determine progress made on a number of indicators:

End-of-project survey findings show that 406 farmers (77% of the total) and 75% of trained female farmers apply at least 80% of key climate-smart cocoa farm management practices (which include planting shade trees in farm, pruning, non-chemical pesticides/disease control, mulching/green manure, chemical fertilizer application) corresponding respectively to **Indicators 0.2 and 0.4**). Targets for both indicators, were therefore achieved. These results show that the project has succeeded in promoting adoption of sustainable agricultural practices among targeted cocoa farmers.

The target for **Indicator 0.3** was also met as 100% of identified female cocoa farmers (41) actively participated in training sessions on climate-smart cocoa farm management practices and have satisfactorily completed the training.

Due to the insufficient numbers of Olam farmers in the Corridor along the Hana River and slow progress made by the Cocoanect project, the target under **Indicator 0.5** was not met. However, RA will continue engaging with the Cocoanect project stakeholders beyond the end of this project to garner a sufficient number of farmers to build a corridor to connect these two protected areas.

The project has managed achieve and exceed the target under **Indicator 0.6** as six demonstration plots have been established by the project, three above the target. The project team will continue to monitor those plots so that training on best practices can be maintained even after project end.

Under **Indicator 0.7**, all 82 farmers (100%) that initially participated in income diversification training courses were newly involved in these activities. As explained under Output 2, due to a flooding in the area during the last rainy season, a chicken rearing site was destroyed, resulting in a reduction in the number of farmers involved in chicken rearing from 50 to 25 (20 women). By the end of the project only 57 farmers out of the 82 that were trained were still involved in these activities (70%).

For over two years women have represented 38% of all participants in revenue diversification activities (31 women out of 82 farmers), a bit below the 50% target under **Indicator 0.8**. Since the flooding of one chicken rearing site this number has come down to 23 out of 57 farmers currently involved in the microprojects, which represents 40% of the total. Regarding **Indicator 0.9**, 100% of women involved in the revenue diversification program (31 at the beginning, now 23) were newly involved in and actively participated in these activities.

Overall, the project largely achieved the project outcome, as farmers are actively participating in CSA training and are applying climate-smart agricultural practices in their farms. Communities have increased their understanding about biodiversity and environmental challenges of their landscapes, which will allow them to be more involved in the implementation of the PLMP to sustainably manage the landscape. All of this will contribute to the reduction of deforestation, biodiversity loss and wildlife depletion around Tai National Park. Revenue diversification strategies have attracted the interest of farmers, who are actively engaged in the microprojects, though the flooding of one of the chicken rearing sites has limited the impact of this activity. This together with additional revenue from sales of shade trees produce has increased and will continue to increase the income, as well as food security and nutrition, of farmer households.



### 3.3 Monitoring of assumptions

Throughout the length of the project, the output level assumptions and linked key deliverables together with the key performance indicators were continuously monitored by the project team.

As outlined in AR3, at project end, most of the risks and assumptions outlined in the initial project logframe of the proposal still hold true. The project stakeholders have successfully given the communities the opportunity to participate in solving the challenges of their landscape and engaged them in a gender-inclusive way to improve their livelihoods and reduce the burden on the environment.

Most of the changes in the sets of assumptions presented in Year 2 and Year 3 Annual report remain the same by the end of the project:

#### Participation of female farmers

*Assumption for Outcome Indicator 0.3: Female farmers to be trained are well identified early on after project inception, and are willing, and able to participate in the trainings.*

*Assumption for Outcome Indicators 0.8 and 0.9: Female adults in target communities are able and willing to fully participate in the income diversification training courses*

*Assumption for Outcome Indicator 0.9: Female adults trained find it attractive and feasible to engage in bee-keeping and /or chicken-rearing*

Comments: Low Female participation rates are a widespread phenomenon in the cocoa sector in Africa, as found in the baseline study which indicates that the main challenge that impedes greater participation in trainings by female farmers is that they are too busy with household and other responsibilities (see the gender report shared in Year 2 and explanations given throughout the Year 3 Annual Report and in this report). While this is a structural issue that the project was not able to address by itself, we hope that the women engaged in those project activities will continue to engage and maintain their micro-projects even after the project end.

#### Training of farmers located within the biodiversity corridor

*Assumptions for Outcome Indicator 0.5:*

*Targeted cocoa farmers whose farms are located within the biodiversity corridor and adjacent to the Hana River, fully participate in the trainings; and*

*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.*

*Assumption for Output Indicator 2.d: Cocoa farmers in the buffer zone are identified and are willing and able to participate in the training.*

Comments: the project was not able to build a corridor on its own around Hana river, due to an insufficient number of Olam farmers along the Hana river (see **Project Achievements section above**).

#### Cocoa seedling nurseries

*Assumption for Output Indicator 2.c: 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.*

Comments: Due to the CCC decision to halt productivity increasing activities, cocoa stakeholders were not allowed to establish cocoa seedling nurseries or distribute cocoa plants to farmers.

#### Radio programs

*Assumptions for Output Indicator 3.c: Radio stations are willing to transmit radio programs at affordable prices for the project.*

Comments: The project did not have sufficient funds to produce all planned radio programs, but as explained in **Output Indicator 3.c**, the project has found complementary activities such as the sensitisation campaigns in 9 schools with the Greenest School contest which have the same awareness raising goal.

### **3.4 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation**

#### **Impact on Biodiversity Conservation**

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

- **Creation of a Landscape Management Board (LMB) (Output Indicator 1.a) and a Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP) (Output Indicator 1.b):** The LMB developed an action plan to lead the implementation of the PLMP, which will continuously allow stakeholders in the landscape to plan and manage land use in a way that protects wildlife and conserves the natural resources and ecosystem services in the Taï landscape, while at the same time ensuring sustainable livelihoods for local farmers. As the project has now ended, the communities will continue to apply the landscape management plan as per the action plan.
- **Training of 527 farmers in Climate-Smart Agriculture practices (Output Indicator 2.a and Outcome Indicators 0.2/0.6).**
- **Establishment of four shade tree nurseries and distribution of 40,000 shade tree plants (Output Indicator 2.c):** farmers were encouraged to plant shade trees on their lands, which contributes to carbon sequestration, stabilize soils, and reduce stress to plants.
- **Development of an Environmental Awareness-Raising Campaign (Output Indicators 3.a/ 3.b/ 3.c):** More than **11,000** posters were printed and distributed across the **6** project communities and two radio programmes broadcasted, with a total of **1,530 people sensitized in the region**. The radio programs allowed a wider audience to be sensitised with awareness-raising radio programs on biodiversity conservation.
- **Sensitisation campaigns in schools:** By the end of the project, the project had sensitised children in **9** local schools which was a critical complementary action to the wider environmental sensitization campaign.

#### **Impact on Poverty Alleviation**

Another major focus of this project was to provide alternative sources of income to the targeted farmers. Achievements included:

- **Implementation of the climate-smart cocoa-farming program (Output Indicators 2.a/ 2.b/ 2.c):** the project provided trainings and technical assistance to **527** farmers on sustainable cocoa farming trainings. The distribution and planting of shade trees in farms, which will produce fruits and timber, will provide farmers years after the project end with additional income through the sales of their produce.
- **Introduction of revenue diversification micro-projects (Output Indicator 2.e):** Farmers have already been able to generate extra additional revenues with the chicken rearing scheme, see **Annex 9** on the project's last steering committee meeting for the revenues made on the chicken rearing project. The beekeeping component which is an innovation in the region is also well under way even if only 7 hives have been colonized by the end of the project. Beyond the commercial aspect, the diversification pilot project's main objectives were to train farmers and develop skills on revenue diversification opportunities and allow cocoa farmers and their families to experiment an improved standard of living, including better access to food and nutrition.
- **Association Villageoise pour l'Épargne et le Crédit (AVEC) activities:** This activity which was financed by MCFEA gave the opportunity to **87** women in Djouroutou, Diaoudi and Beoué to have access to small loans to launch micro-projects. It was an additional activity that has been complementary to this project and that contributed to increasing the interest of the communities, especially women, in the landscape's improvements efforts.

## 4. Contribution to Darwin Initiative Programme Objectives

### 4.1 Contribution to Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

The project supported the Global SDGs in the following ways:

**1. No Poverty:** The PLMP provides a guideline for economic growth in the communities. The revenue diversification strategies established by the project (chicken rearing and beekeeping) and products from shade trees such as fruit and timber will improve the revenue of the community over time.

**2. Zero Hunger:** By the end of the project a total of 57 farmers were engaged in revenue diversification micro-projects. By diversifying income sources, these farmers and their families will experience an improved standard of living, including better access to food and nutrition. The chicken rearing project also provides protein to the communities and discourages bushmeat hunting.

**8. Decent Work and Economic Growth:** Training activities under this project focused on agroforestry techniques and revenue diversification. This has encouraged entrepreneurship and promoted sustainable economic growth. The revenue diversification programs have allowed men and women in cocoa farming families to achieve productive employment, decent work and additional income during the cocoa off season.

**12. Responsible consumption and production:** All project partners are committed to promoting sustainable investment in the cocoa industry, sustainable production of cocoa and the efficient management of natural resources. The link to Costco also promotes the sustainable consumption of ethically produced chocolate.

**13. Climate Action:** Climate action is at the center of the efforts of the stakeholders in this project, through a combination of climate-smart agricultural trainings, environmental campaigns and shade tree planting.

**15. Life on Land:** The focus of the project on the protection of Taï National Park and its biodiversity is key for all project partners. Through the creation of an LMB this project has supported efforts to sustainably manage forests and protect biodiversity with a plan to tackle the major challenges present in the landscape.

### 4.2 Project support to the Conventions or Treaties (e.g. CBD, Nagoya Protocol, ITPGRFA, CITES, Ramsar, CMS, UNFCCC)

The project focused 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:** the project provided training on good agricultural practices, as per the OLC and the Rainforest Alliance Standard<sup>8</sup> guidelines, for climate-smart agriculture and cocoa agroforestry systems in the Taï region. These improved practices support biodiversity and habitat conservation, as well as restore degraded ecosystems and reduce impacts of pesticides. Training provided to farmers on the new Forestry code, together with environmental awareness-raising activities, also reinforced the project's impact on biodiversity enhancement and conservation.

**#4. Awareness and public participation:** Since the COP 22 and COP 23, the government of Côte d'Ivoire has been actively engaged in the fight against the drivers of deforestation in the Ivorian landscapes. Public participation and awareness are crucial to the achievement of this goal. This project conducted awareness-raising campaigns in collaboration with CEFCA, Olam

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<sup>8</sup> Please note as of January 2018, UTZ and RA merged under one organisation called Rainforest Alliance. The training standard ownership moved from the Sustainable Agriculture Network to RA [https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/business/sas/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/03\\_rainforest-alliance-sustainable-agriculture-standard\\_en.pdf](https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/business/sas/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/03_rainforest-alliance-sustainable-agriculture-standard_en.pdf)

and the OIPR (governmental agency in charge of forest protection). The success of the whole process is supported and strengthened by the LMB.

**#5. Integration of spiritual values and traditional knowledge in the conservation of biodiversity:** The sense of cohesion and belonging of the communities toward the LMB is cemented through consultations with traditional leaders and the local communities, ensuring that the structure incorporates both spiritual values and traditional knowledge as evidenced in the PLMP. The PLMP integrates traditional values and knowledge passed down from ancestral history, such as the use of plants for medicinal purposes. It integrates an action plan to sustainably monitor the use of those plants in conjunction with the LMB and the communities.

#### **4.3 Project support to poverty alleviation**

This project has contributed to poverty alleviation by providing revenue diversification opportunities to farmers in a gender inclusive way, through chicken-rearing and bee-keeping microprojects. A group of 57 farmers have been trained and are currently involved in chicken rearing and bee-keeping activities. Chicken also represents a source of protein and food security for the families.

The 57 farmers who participated in the micro-projects have expressed a great interest to set their own small project and have adopted those activities for additional income, which provided a good perspective of continuity at project end. Indirect beneficiaries include family members of these farmers, who will benefit from additional income in their households.

The project has also provided cocoa nurseries plants and 40,000 shade tree plants that can produce timber and other Non-Timber Forest Products to be sold by farmers.

An important point to note is that with good agricultural practices, cocoa yields increase naturally, so to some extent farmers have registered some cocoa yield increases in their farms, although not at the rate that would have been experienced if they had been able to use fertilisers.

#### **4.4 Gender equality**

The project has supported the integration of women throughout its three years of implementation:

A total of 13 women registered in the LMB village committees. Participation in the village committees gives them a voice in local decision-making processes and contributes to their empowerment. 41 women have actively participated in the climate-smart agriculture training program. The project also encouraged gender integration in the cocoa sector by providing women with the knowledge and skills to participate in revenue-diversification micro-projects. 31 women have been trained in beekeeping and chicken-rearing and by the end of the project 23 women were engaged in these activities.

As shared with AR2, RA produced a [gender study](#) supported by the Darwin Initiative and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which gives details of the current challenges faced by women in the cocoa sector, such as restrictive cultural practices, discriminatory laws, and a lack of access to land, education, as well as credit and markets. As few women own a cocoa farm, there were only a low number of female cocoa farmers the project was able to work with.

In Year 3 with the funding from MCFEA, the project integrated the AVEC project (see **Section 2** of this report) which aims to secure loans for women, and improve their purchasing power, providing more stability for their children, as women are known to share their revenues with their families and children. 87 women were involved in the AVEC project.

#### **4.5 Programme indicators**

- **Did the project lead to greater representation of local poor people in management structures of biodiversity?**

The project lead to greater representation of local poor people (farmers earning less than \$2 a day), in the management of biodiversity, through the creation of the **Landscape Management Board (LMB)**.

- **Were any management plans for biodiversity developed and were these formally accepted?**

The Participatory Landscape Management Plan (**PLMP**) was developed as a participatory and inclusive process that engaged all the stakeholders and was formally endorsed by the local authorities.

- **Were they participatory in nature or were they ‘top-down’? How well represented are the local poor including women, in any proposed management structures?**

As mentioned above, the development of the PLMP was a participatory process. Local poor women were well represented in the project, they participated in defining the plan as active members of the Landscape Management Board. Women also successfully engaged in revenue diversification activities.

- **How did the project positively influence household (HH) income and how many HHs saw an increase?**

As explained above in **section 3.3**, the project has registered an income increase through best agricultural practices, shade tree planting and revenue diversification strategies.

- **How much did their HH income increase (e.g. x% above baseline, x% above national average)? How was this measured?**

The income increase was not formally measured throughout the project, but the funds generated by the revenue diversification strategy have been reported, see **Annex 10** for the last workshop presentation where the revenues generated were evaluated.

#### **4.6 Transfer of knowledge**

The project has allowed the transfer of knowledge and technology through the technical assistance and capacity development of the project’s stakeholders through **Farmers Field School trainings**, exchange of knowledge among the members of the LMB, **Training Of Trainers**, and community workshops which used posters, images boxes, PowerPoint presentation, videos and radio programs. Furthermore, throughout the length of the project, exchanges of knowledge occurred in training sessions, national platforms and workshops, as well as through communication media materials shared with a wide range of stakeholders. No formal certificates or qualifications were delivered or obtained as part of this project. All the experts were local Ivorian technicians, and included women.

The LMB allowed stakeholders in the landscape to come together for the first to discuss their common challenges and take collective action. Also, the transfer of knowledge regularly happened between **Olam technicians, CEFCA technicians (agronomists and animal husbandry technicians)**, the **OIPR technicians**, the **bee-keeping experts**, and **Internal Management System (IMS) strengthening experts**.

Moreover, the creation of the demonstration plots and the method used to set them up were a replication of proven methodology from other agroforestry projects led by the **Rainforest Alliance, IDH, Mars**, experts from the **ANADER (Agence National de Developpement Rural)** and the **World Agroforestry (ICRAF)** in 2013, in the other side of the cocoa belt in the southeast of the country utilising the SYM<sup>9</sup> (Sustainable Yield module strategy).

#### **4.7 Capacity building**

In general, the capacity building aspect of the project englobed the details discussed above in section 4.6. The project did not register any partner. In terms of national expert committees, both the Rainforest Alliance and Olam continue to participate in cocoa industry and sector

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/sites/default/files/2017-04/toward-sustainable-cocoa-sector.pdf>

developments meetings with the CCC; while CEFCA continues to participate in national workshops organized on the topic.

## 5 Sustainability and Legacy

This project has contributed to the improvement of livelihoods for farmers and communities, reduced threats and fostered the long-term conservation of biodiversity in the region. The project has achieved widespread raising of awareness and strengthening of capacity among communities, agroforestry and animal husbandry professionals from NGOs and local authorities. These are now strongly reinforced by the new Ivorian Forestry law. The actions of RA in this regard have attracted the interest of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) which has injected funds to support our efforts in the northern area of Taï National Park, as well as funding from the MCFEA.

For Olam International, a scalable and regionally replicable model for community-led governance, natural resource management and biodiversity conservation that aligns with regional and government priorities and demonstrated in cocoa production landscapes is a proposition that is currently engrained in its strategy. It has, together with the Rainforest Alliance, presented concept notes to the USAID-HEARTH program and is exploring projects that will include expanding the scope and building on the Darwin project as part of overarching Guinean forests protection efforts across the sub-region. Through its Olam Living Landscapes Policy (OLLP), Olam International has pledged to support 'Net-Positive' sustainable landscape management to secure co-existence of prosperous farmers and food systems, with thriving communities and healthy ecosystems; and apply across products, scale and integrate plantations and smallholder farmers. For Olam, this is a step-change in ambition to re-imagine agriculture.

Olam and the other private sector participants in its supply chain are therefore working to drive demand for cocoa that is produced in these landscapes and will continue to mobilize its technical teams in West Africa to train, coach and support farmers. The partners in the project will work together to promote gender inclusion and new economic opportunities for young people, including as service providers to farmers. A similar concept and project approach has also been presented to Unilever as part of their Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI) action plan with the possibility of working with RA and/or CEFCA.

The planned exit strategy of the project is still valid and relies on the community's capacity to follow the PLMP to ensure a secured market for their cocoa supply through Olam International and other potential public-private partnerships. As discussed above, based on the opinions of the farmers interviewed, most activities are likely to endure, the community members are motivated to keep the LMB plan ongoing, as the LMB, in the long term, is also self-sustaining and community-led and will oversee the planning, implementation, and monitoring of sustainable practices in the landscape even after the project completion.

The climate-smart agricultural practices and environmental sensitisation campaigns will be maintained as part of the strategy of Olam and the local extension agencies. Moreover, through AVEC (Association Villageoise pour l'Épargne et le Crédit), the community members, particularly women, will continue to invest in their revenue diversification micro-projects that will allow them to sustain and improve their livelihoods.

CEFCA's project staff will be moved to other locations as they were not specifically hired for this project, but the project's fund contributed to pay for their salaries on the project location.

## 6 Lessons learned

Over the course of this project, the team and all the participating stakeholders have learnt the importance of the following lessons to ensure success in the project. These lessons could also be used to manage any other Darwin projects:

- **The importance of clearly identifying all the participating farmers with accurate geodata:** If the farmer data from Olam at the start of the project had been accurate with location points and polygons for all its farms, and if RA had therefore been able to analyse

the geodata to understand that Olam farmers on the Tai National Park-Hana River corridor were insufficient to deliver landscape connectivity, the project proposal may not have presented the Hana River component as a sole effort of the project. More emphasis would have been put on building collaboration with identifiable stakeholders which was effectively sought in year 2 and 3, and more farmers along the Hana river would have been engaged in a way to create synergies between projects and interests.

- **The importance of understanding all costs related to the engagement of public stakeholders:** Understanding the associated costs of the engagement of public stakeholders like OIPR, is essential to ensure their meaningful participation. Though government pays the salaries of public staff, these officials require specific per diems to cover their lodging, daily subsistence and transportation costs whenever they are asked to travel out of their location. Payment of these costs to public representatives to cover their expenses needs to be factored into budget planning to secure their full participation. During the project cycle, most of these reimbursements of expenses were covered by Olam.
- **Landscape projects require collaboration and synergies among local, national and international stakeholders:** Through the benefit and funding support from MCFEA and Olam, from the start of the project, planned activities under this project were expanded, and new complementary activities were introduced, allowing the Darwin project to increase its scope and impact.
- **Need to conduct survey on farmers to understand landscape-specific interests and viability of different income generating activities:** Beekeeping did not attract many female farmers, as explained under **Output indicator 2.e**, so one lesson learned is that it is important to conduct a quick survey and supply chain analysis before starting any micro-enterprise initiatives to assess interest of participants in the different potential options and business viability of those enterprises as different enterprises thrive differently in a given landscape.
- **Need to plan for M&E data collection:** This lesson has been learnt and the last impact survey for the project was delivered on time to avoid delays experienced during the baseline survey data collection and results.

## 6.1 Monitoring and evaluation

The project has successfully conducted a baseline and end-of-project impact surveys, the results of which were shared with DARWIN as annexes to previous reports. It has also successfully developed a **Performance Monitoring and Environmental Plan (PMEP)** that greatly helped the project team to report on trainings and meetings attendance. Progress on the project workplan has been tackled quarterly throughout the project using the PMEP tool and has been communicated during RA's Africa quarterly meetings on project evaluation and progress for internal evaluation.

Olam's M&E department also participated in collecting data and analysing project progress; overall, all this M&E data collected was useful to provide feedback to the stakeholders during project reports and steering committee meetings. During these steering committee meetings key findings identified, such as the issues with the shade tree provider (reflected in previous reports), were highlighted; this was useful for providing an alternative plan with the provider and the project team on the ground to compensate for the loss of shade trees. The impossibility of setting up the Hana River corridor was another of the main issues reported and the project team had the idea to link up with other stakeholders to find synergies and collaborate with these other initiatives.

## 6.2 Actions taken in response to annual report reviews

- 1) **The project team have outlined the reasons for the lack of progress on the Hana River corridor (output 2d). Once the team realised that Olam didn't have enough farmers along the corridor, they then collaborated well and as recently as March 2020 with GIZ and Cocoonect to achieve the corridor but still didn't have enough farmers. Who are**

**the farmers in this area? Why did the project think at the beginning that this might be achievable?**

The Rainforest Alliance inserted this deliverable in the initial proposal because Olam was quite sure that their farmer data around that corridor was accurate and reliable. Unfortunately, after completing the location point and polygon of their farmers they finally realised that they did not have a critical mass of farmers in that area to enable a corridor development. For this reason, in Years 2 and 3 of the project RA actively engaged with GIZ to find an alternative way of establishing the corridor.

- 2) **AR2 referred to plans to include local NGO IMPACTUM to assist with strengthening the Landscape Management Board. This was commended by the AR reviewer and then submitted as a change request in this year to cover the costs of IMPACTUM's consultancy fees; the change request was approved but the report notes that IMPACTUM's fees were too high to use them so an alternative solution from within the consortium was found. Why was the cost of IMPACTUM not known in advance, or the consortium solution explored earlier?**

The project team sought the change request before receiving the quotation from IMPACTUM, assuming their fees would be similar to those of other local partners. Upon receipt of the quotation and pre-award evaluation, the team realized that due to the high fees of IMPACTUM, it was not possible to engage them for the proposed activity. While it is now clear that this information should have been obtained before submitting the change request, this was not a deliverable planned in the initial proposal, but rather an additional activity proposed by the team in Year 3 to strengthen the LMB and consolidate project results.

- 3) **The final sentence of section 3.3 states “the project will realistically no longer be able to effectively meet full productivity improvement without the use of fertilisers”. The final report would benefit from clarification as to why this is and whether they are expecting that organic fertilisers will be used in alignment with climate-smart agriculture practice. If farmers are expected to now invest in inorganic, chemical fertilisers it would damage the work done on CSA to encourage and protect biodiversity.**

Large amounts of cocoa, as required by the cocoa industry, cannot be produced without the use of agrochemicals. Organic fertilisers do not allow to produce the same amounts of cocoa than agrochemicals, which explains why the productivity targets expected by the project could not be realised without the use of fertilisers. However, it should be noted that the Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard includes a list of prohibited pesticides that are not allowed to be used in the production of RA certified cocoa.

To achieve both the productivity goal while ensuring compliance with the RA Standard, the project promoted the use of CSA techniques to increase productivity and taught farmers best agricultural practices, such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices, while protecting the environment. Farmers have learned to prioritise IPM and only use chemical fertilizers in case of need. It does not mean that the use of all agrochemicals is banned but it is recommended to use them (those that are not prohibited in the RA Standard) in combination with other methods (biological, mechanical).

- 4) **As Olam have been such an influential partner and are such a large global company it would be good to clarify if they have utilised any Darwin funds in this project or if they are a net contributor?**

Olam has not utilised any Darwin funds, and thus, Olam is a net contributor to the project. Olam International has provided technical assistance and farm inputs, and paid for cooperatives trainer's salaries and the establishment of shade trees nurseries.

## **7. Darwin identity**

The project made efforts to promote the Darwin logo throughout the length of the project. It was used on stakeholders' presentations and was clearly displayed on evidence collection materials distributed to project beneficiaries and other stakeholders in the region. The Darwin logo was displayed on training materials, environmental awareness posters and image boxes used in all



project activities, and on articles as shared in this report and in previous reports. Olam Cote d'Ivoire published a report which is linked in the list of publications section below. The project also extended its outreach in schools in Year 3, further increasing awareness in the region of the Darwin Initiative.

Additionally, project efforts have been recognized by the Ivorian regional authorities and the governmental extension agencies representatives participating in workshops held during the project, as well as by various stakeholders in the region that project team members have engaged with, such as the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) Initiative for Sustainable Landscapes (ISLA). The project has also benefited from the recognition of Cocoanect, KFW and the GIZ, with whom RA shared project's outcome vision as evidenced in previous sections above.

Finally, as part of its institutional relations engagement, RA has shared information on the project with other government donors, multilateral organisations and foundations that are interested in RA's work in West Africa, acknowledging Darwin's support.

## 8. Finance and administration

### 8.1 Project expenditure

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2020/21 Grant (£)	2020/21 Total actual 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)				
<b>TOTAL</b>				

Staff employed (Name and position)	Cost (£)
Ruth Kabanya, Finance Manager-Africa	
Edward Millard, Director Africa	
Beatriz Avalos, Monitoring and Evaluation Expert	
Christian Mensah, Regional Cocoa Expert	
Melanie Bayo, CEFCA Director	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

Capital items – description	Capital items – cost (£)
<b>TOTAL</b>	

Other items – description	Other items – cost (£)
Training materials (posters printing)	
Purchase food for chicken and training cost N°69-2020	
Purchase chicks	
Purchase food for chicken and training cost N°22-2020	
Purchase food for chicken N°2020/112	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

## 8.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

During the project cycle, additional funds were raised to strengthen different aspects of the milestones planned and to broaden the impact of the work in the landscape. The Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa (MCFEA), a charitable foundation established in 1992 by Mitsubishi Corporation and its UK-based subsidiary Mitsubishi Corporation International (Europe) Plc, supported the project with a total of £. As a foundation, MCFEA supported the project because it aligned with its central aims: the promotion of environmental conservation; the support of environmentally focused education and research; and the alleviation of poverty.

Rainforest Alliance supported its long-term partner, CEFCA, to secure US\$ (equivalent of £) from the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund for a project to “Strengthen Ivorian Cocoa Stakeholder Landscape Management Capacity to Foster Conservation”. Through this project, a total of about £ served as match-funding for this project.

Olam provided technical assistance to farmer cooperatives engaged in the project, with direct sourcing of their certified cocoa to the market. Over the three-year project, Olam supported the project with an in-kind co-financing amount of £ from Olam, equivalent to the costs of their technical team on the ground, and provided improved hybrid cocoa seedlings in the first year of the project, prior to the ban of this activity in subsequent years as discussed extensively in our annual reports.

Source of funding for project lifetime	Total (£)
The Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa (MCFEA)	
Olam International	
Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

Source of funding for additional work after project lifetime	Total (£)
<b>TOTAL</b>	

### 8.3 Value for Money

Throughout the life of the project, the project team has made an efficient use of financial resources to ensure value for money in the procurement of goods and services. For example, in a labour market that traditionally charges £ rate for field enumeration, this project was able to secure the services of high-quality trainers of cooperatives for which it paid a rate of £ to cover their fuel and meals. Our evaluation results show that these enumerators conducted high quality work. Leveraging on the long-term relationship between Olam and the cooperative, and already working for the cooperative, the IMS trainers of the cooperatives offered to provide their services at no additional fee, compared to paying £/day if the project had contracted consultants.

Moreover, through the additional funds and in-kind contributions described above, the project was able to expand its scope and reach by supporting additional activities such as the Greenest School competition.

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

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

The project: **“Empowering Ivorian communities to conserve biodiversity and improve their livelihoods”** has successfully established partnerships with key stakeholder organisations from the private, public and civil society sectors.

After three years of implementation, the partnership has worked well and been governed by an active Landscape Management Board that has amplified the voice of community members, including women. It has facilitated a process to develop a Participatory Landscape Management Plan to contribute to tackling key environmental challenges impacting the landscape, in a joint effort of farmers and local communities, and key project stakeholders. The Plan will be used in the landscape as a long-term planning tool, with adaptive management in a full project cycle of Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA). This has resulted in improved community-led governance and an empowered civil society, who will continue to have capacity to analyse information, monitor governance improvement, and effectively advocate and hold the government accountable.

At project end, we note that overall, farmers and community members living adjacent to Tai have a greater understanding of the role of biodiversity and its importance for their welfare and a thriving cocoa production for the future. Farmers have experienced livelihood improvements through increased productivity and market access for sustainable cocoa, while household economies have grown and become more secured through improved gender inclusive income diversification and household food security. This project has therefore demonstrated that it is possible to protect forests and reduce threats to biodiversity loss by providing economic incentives from productive and sustainable cocoa production and value-added export markets. As more cocoa farmers in the region confidently apply climate-smart practices, it will lead to increased productivity of their farms and resilience to future climate shocks.

The project successfully leveraged complementary co-financing to integrate additional activities such as sensitisation campaigns in local schools and savings and loans for women. The success of this project will continue to attract the interest of donors for communities living adjacent to Tai National Park. This will help to increase conservation efforts in the wider region.

## Annex 1 Project's original (or most recently approved) logframe, including indicators, means of verification and assumptions.

Note: Insert your full logframe. If your logframe was changed since your Stage 2 application and was approved by a Change Request the newest approved version should be inserted here, otherwise insert the Stage 2 logframe.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<b>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.</b>			
<b>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.</b>	<b>0.1</b> By 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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).	<b>0.1</b> 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.
	<b>0.2</b> 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.).	<b>0.2</b> 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.
	<b>0.3</b> 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.	<b>0.3</b> 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.
	<b>0.4</b> 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.).	<b>0.4</b> 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><b>0.5</b> 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><b>0.5</b> 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><b>0.6</b> At least 3 demonstration plots on sustainable, climate-smart cocoa management practices are established by lead farmers by 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of Year 1, and maintained by them, through project-end.</p>	<p><b>0.6</b> Demo-plot activity logs and photographs (quarterly).</p>	<p>Lead farmers are willing to establish and maintain demonstration plots.</p>
	<p><b>0.7</b> 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><b>0.7</b> 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><b>0.8</b> At least 50% of individuals that participate in income diversification training courses (bee-keeping and chicken-rearing) are female adults.</p>	<p><b>0.8</b> 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
	<b>0.9</b> 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.).	<b>0.9</b> 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.
<b>OUTPUTS:</b>			
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 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> 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 shade tree seedlings produced, are distributed by project mid-term.	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
	<i>We requested in the change request form to remove the number of seedlings listed in Measurable Indicator 2.c. We would like to leave the new forecasted numbers of cocoa and shade trees unspecified.</i>		
	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 <sup>rd</sup> 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, 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.
<b>KEY ACTIVITIES:</b>			
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 2 Report of progress and achievements against final project logframe for the life of the project

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2017 - March 2020	Actions planned after project end
<p><b>Impact:</b> 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.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness in the community about the interdependence between the health of the ecosystem and survival of human race, and the thriving cocoa industry.</li> <li>• Awareness among future generation (school children) about good stewardship of the environment</li> <li>• Increased focus on cocoa and climate smart means reducing threat on the forest</li> <li>• Increased capacity in diversification means more awareness of business ideas and entrepreneurship among rural folks</li> <li>• Awareness among business (Olam and Cooperatives) on collective action as the surest means to achieve impact on goals of conservation and avoiding deforestation</li> <li>• Contributing of business (MCFEA, Blommer/Costco, Cooperatives) to supporting efforts towards sustainable landscape</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Outcome</b></p> <p>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><b>0.1</b> By 3<sup>rd</sup> 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><b>0.2</b> 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><b>0.3</b> 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</p>	<p>The <b>6</b> communities of Beoué, Djouroutou, Petit Grabo, Poutou, Youkou and Diaoudi organized as an LMB since Year 1 have created a PLMP in Year 2, to tackle the most relevant landscape issues, principally deforestation.</p> <p>All 41 female cocoa farmers out of 527 targeted farmers (100%) actively participate in and are on track to satisfactorily complete training sessions on</p>	<p>The next step in this project is to continue to work on the implementation of the Action plan and discuss ways of financing these actions.</p> <p>Follow-up coaching visit to advise farmers on farming practices, as part of Olam 's farming program.</p> <p>Follow-up coaching visit to advise farmers on farming practices, as part of Olam 's farming program.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2017 - March 2020	Actions planned after project end
	participate and satisfactorily complete training on climate-smart cocoa farm management practices, according to the training programme timeline.	climate-smart cocoa farm management practices and coaching sessions.	
	<b>0.4</b> At least 70% of trained female 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).		Follow-up coaching visit to advise farmers on farming practices, as part of Olam 's farming program.
	<b>0.5</b> 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.	Only one farm of the project is located along the Hana River. The project has continued engaging with the Cocoanect and GiZ project to explore opportunities for collaboration. See <b>Activity 2.7</b>	Olam and the LMB will keep engaging with stakeholders working in the area. Rainforest Alliance will continue to pursue and raise funds to support efforts in consolidating the gains made in the project.
	<b>0.6</b> At least 3 demonstration plots on sustainable, climate-smart cocoa management practices are established by lead farmers by 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter of Year 1, and maintained by them, through project-end.	<b>6</b> demonstrations plots have been established since Year 1.	Monitoring of demonstration plots planned will continue under the leadership and supervision of Olam.
	<b>0.7</b> 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 2 <sup>nd</sup> year, and the rest by the end of the project).	Due to a flooding in the area during the last rainy season, a chicken rearing site was destroyed; the number of farmers in chicken rearing was thus reduced to 25. Out of a total of 82 farmers that participated in income diversification training courses, 57 are now involved in these activities (70%).	The engaged farmers will continue to implement the chicken rearing and the bee-keeping microprojects.
	<b>0.8</b> At least 50% of individuals that participate in income diversification training courses	Out of 82 farmers participating initially on revenue diversification, 31 were women, so 38 % in total. Due to a flooding during last raining season, the number of	The engaged farmers will continue to implement the chicken rearing and the bee-keeping microprojects

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2017 - March 2020	Actions planned after project end
	(bee-keeping and chicken-rearing) are female adults.	participants is reduced to 57 including 23 women. That represents <b>40%</b> .	
	<b>0.9</b> 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.).	All <b>23</b> women currently participating in income diversification training courses are newly involved in these activities, which represents <b>100%</b> .	The engaged farmers will continue to implement the chicken rearing and the bee-keeping microprojects
<b>Output 1.</b> Training and technical assistance delivered to leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Tai 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 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of Year 1.	The LMB was established in Year 1. Please refer to Year 1 annual report for more details.	Completed
	1.b. One community Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP) formulated by 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter of Year 1.	The PLMP was finalized and shared in Year 2.	Follow up on the Action plan and discuss ways of financing these actions.
Activity 1.1 Organize one consultative workshop jointly with CEFCA and OIPR to create the LMB in coordination with local Tai authorities.		A consultative workshop was organized in October 2017 to create the LMB.	None. Already completed
Activity 1.2 Organize 6 training sessions to train community members on the LMB's governance structure and procedures.		<b>7</b> trainings sessions have been organized as part of this project from Year 1 to Year 3 sessions to train community members on the LMB's governance structure and procedures.	Completed.
Activity 1.3 Facilitate 6 LMB Steering Committee meetings.		As part of this project, <b>6</b> Steering Committee meetings have taken place, as per project proposal. The last one on the <b>25<sup>th</sup> of September 2020</b> , please refer to <b>Annexes 9 &amp; 10</b> for pictures and attendance lists.	Completed.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2017 - March 2020	Actions planned after project end
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 project has documented the lessons learnt and has provided 3 project learnt reports for each year of implementation of the project. Those lessons were also shared during steering committee meetings.	Lesson learnt will continue to be shared even after project end to perform the remediation plan.
Activity 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 PLMP at the village level.		Completed in Year 2.	None. Already completed
<b>Output 2.</b> 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.	In total since the beginning of the project, <b>527</b> farmers have been trained.	Lead farmers will continue coaching sessions once the COVID restrictions are lifted.
	2.b Lead farmers to establish at least 3 demonstration plots on sustainable, climate-smart cocoa management practices are identified and engaged by 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter of Year 1, and supported through project-end	<b>6</b> demonstration plots have been established by the project since Year 1.	Monitoring of demonstration plots as part of Olam 's training program will continue .
	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	Over <b>40,000</b> in total shade trees have been produced and distributed to farmers by this project as of end of March 2020.	Under the supervision of Olam which kept his partnership with both cooperatives, the activity will continue
	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.  <i>A change of logframe was approved by Darwin in Year 2 to allow the forecasted number of cocoa and shade trees produced as part of this project unspecified.</i>		

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2017 - March 2020	Actions planned after project end
	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.	We do not have enough Olam farmers to build up a corridor along the Hana River on our own. The project has continued engaging with the Cocomanect and GiZ project to explore opportunities for collaboration, see project achievements section.	Keep contact with GiZ for synergy actions with local stakeholders along the corridor
	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.	<b>32</b> farmers have been trained in bee-keeping.  Due to a flooding in the area during the last rainy season, a chicken rearing site was destroyed; the number of farmers involved in chicken rearing was thus reduced to 25 (20 of which are women). However, 50 (of which 28 women) have received training on chicken-rearing by the project.	The engaged farmers will continue to implement the chicken rearing and the bee-keeping micro-projects under the supervision of the LMB as agreed during the final workshop organized in September 2020.
Activity 2.1 Identify and engage cocoa farmers' cooperatives and their members, to register in the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program.		<b>527</b> farmers have been identified and engaged in the climate smart agriculture training program. Please refer to Year 1 report for details.	None. Already completed
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 program on sustainable climate-smart cocoa farming was designed in <b>Year 1</b> .	None. Already completed
Activity 2.3 Identify lead farmers willing to set up demonstration plots, and engage them in the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program.		<b>10</b> Lead Farmers have been engaged to coach other farmers on CSA. <b>6</b> demo plots were established in Year 1.	Lead farmers will continue coaching sessions once the COVID restrictions are lifted.
Activity 2.4 Implement the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program.		In total, <b>more than 500</b> have been trained and coached	Lead farmers will continue coaching sessions once the COVID restrictions are lifted.
Activity 2.5 Engage CRNA and SODEFOR on the establishment of nurseries.		In total 4 shade trees nurseries have been established as part of the project.	Under the supervision of Olam which kept his partnership with both cooperatives, the activity will continue

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2017 - March 2020	Actions planned after project end
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.		In total over <b>40,000</b> plantlets distributed since the beginning of the project as part of the CSA program.	Under the supervision of Olam which kept his partnership with both cooperatives, the activity will continue
Activity 2.7 Coordinate the delineation and establishment of the biological corridor Buffer Zone along River Hana.		The project has continued engaging with the Cooanect and GiZ project to explore opportunities for collaboration. See <b>project achievement section</b> .	The project will keep in contact with stakeholders working in the area.
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 chicken rearing program was designed in Year 1, and the bee-keeping training program was designed in Year 2.	None/Already completed
Activity 2.9 Deliver the beekeeping and chicken rearing training program to at least 82 cocoa farmers and/or other adults.		<b>82</b> cocoa farmers have participated in the bee-keeping or chicken-rearing training programs. Over <b>500</b> chicken have been produced to date.	Follow up of chicken rearing and bee-keeping activities
<b>Output 3.</b> 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 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of Year 3.	At project end, a total of <b>11,316 copies</b> of different posters have been printed by the project and distributed to farmers, but also to children and schools' staff during awareness raising campaigns in communities and schools.	None
	3.b. Environmental education meetings held with 1,250 community members (including 250 women); 750 by project mid-term.	A total of <b>33 environmental sensitisation sessions</b> were held in the region, reaching <b>1,530 people, of which 121 were women</b>	Continuous environmental sensitization actions will be organized with the partners if the COVID-19 related restrictions are lifted with the partners.
	3.c 6 By project mid-term, at least 3 awareness-raising radio programs organized, involving OIPR, CEFCA and community leaders.	In total, <b>2</b> radio awareness-raising radio program were produced and broadcasted in Year 2 as part of this project.	None
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.		At project end, a total of <b>11,316 copies</b> of different posters have been printed by the project and distributed to farmers, but also to children and schools' staff during awareness raising campaigns in communities and schools	None

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2017 - March 2020	Actions planned after project end
Activity 3.2 Design training materials and agenda for the environmental education meetings aimed at key community members.		The agenda and sessions of the environmental education meetings were prepared jointly with OIPR and Olam	None
Activity 3.3 Organize 18 environmental education awareness meetings for 1,250 community members, jointly with the LMB, Olam and OIPR.		A total of <b>33</b> environmental sensitisation sessions were held in the region, reaching <b>1530 people, of which 121 were women</b>	More environmentally aware and sensitized citizens will continue to serve as agents of change and educators once the COVID-19 related restrictions are lifted.
Activity 3.4 Design the content of environmental awareness-raising radio programs.		<b>2</b> environmental awareness radio programs were designed in Year 2 partnership with Olam sustainability team.	None
Activity 3.5 Organize 6 environmental awareness-raising radio programs, involving OIPR, CEFCA, and community leaders.		In total, 2 radio were produced and broadcasted in Year 2 as part of this project.	None
<b>Output 4.</b> 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 was completed and delivered to the donor together with HYR2.	The PMEP templates are continuously used on the ground for attendees lists at trainings and will be used by the IMS team even after the project end.
	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.	3 half-year reports and 3 annual reports for Years 1, 2 and 3, including the present report, have been submitted to Darwin. Quarterly project progress updates (11 to date) are presented in internal quarterly Africa meetings by the Project Lead to RA's management.	Completed.
	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 was finalized and approved by Darwin and submitted with the Year 1 report.	Ongoing communication on the project is ensured with RA communication team and Olam International.
	4.d Semi-annual communications products delivered, and their diffusion operationalized through RA's online media outlets (website blog, publicized	Semi-annual communications products published and shared with Darwin.	None.



Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2017 - March 2020	Actions planned after project end
	through email and social/thematic networks) to relevant in-country 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 submitted to donor for approval.		The M&E workshop was held as part of the project inception workshop in October 2017.	None. Completed
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.		<b>In total, 2</b> impact surveys, baseline and end-of-project impact survey were conducted as part of this project, questionnaires and results for both surveys were shared.	None
Activity 4.3 Implement the projects Monitoring and Evaluation System, and produce and deliver quarterly and annual technical, evidence-based project performance reports		Completed	None
Activity 4.4 Formulate a Project Communication Strategy, and submit for donor approval		The project communication strategy was finalized in October 2017 by the Rainforest Alliance communication team and received Darwin's approval.	None.
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		In total 4 communications pieces were published as part of this project.	None

## Annex 3 Standard Measures

Code	Description	Total	Nationality	Gender	Title or Focus	Language	Comments
<b>Training Measures</b>							
1a	Number of people to submit PhD thesis						
1b	Number of PhD qualifications obtained						
2	Number of Masters qualifications obtained						
3	Number of other qualifications obtained						
4a	Number of undergraduate students receiving training						
4b	Number of training weeks provided to undergraduate students						
4c	Number of postgraduate students receiving training (not 1-3 above)						
4d	Number of training weeks for postgraduate students						
5	Number of people receiving other forms of long-term (>1yr) training not leading to formal qualification (e.g., not categories 1-4 above)						
6a	Number of people receiving other forms of short-term education/training (e.g., not categories 1-5 above)	527		41 women, 486 men			Number of farmers to receive climate-smart agriculture training from CEFGA
6b	Number of training weeks not leading to formal qualification						
7	Number of types of training materials produced for use by host country(s) (describe training materials)	16					Number of training materials produced to increase

							environmental awareness
<b>Research Measures</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Language</b>	<b>Comments/ Weblink if available</b>
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) produced for Governments, public authorities or other implementing agencies in the host country (ies)						
10	Number of formal documents produced to assist work related to species identification, classification and recording.						
11a	Number of papers published or accepted for publication in peer reviewed journals						
11b	Number of papers published or accepted for publication elsewhere						
12a	Number of computer-based databases established (containing species/generic information) and handed over to host country						
12b	Number of computer-based databases enhanced (containing species/genetic information) and handed over to host country						
13a	Number of species reference collections established and handed over to host country(s)	1					1 reference guide produced related to planted species for climate-smart agriculture
13b	Number of species reference collections enhanced and handed over to host country(s)						

<b>Dissemination Measures</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Language</b>	<b>Comments</b>
14a	Number of conferences/seminars/workshops organised to present/disseminate findings from Darwin project work						
14b	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.						

<b>Physical Measures</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Comments</b>
20	Estimated value (£s) of physical assets handed over to host country(s)		
21	Number of permanent educational, training, research facilities or organisation established	1	LMB
22	Number of permanent field plots established	6	The project established six demonstration plots to serve as training field, to showcase good practices, monitor those plots with farmers so that training on best practices can be sustained.

<b>Financial Measures</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Language</b>	<b>Comments</b>
23	Value of additional resources raised from other sources (e.g., in addition to Darwin funding) for project work						

## Annex 4 Aichi Targets

Please note which of the Aichi targets your project has contributed to.

Please record only the **main targets** to which your project has contributed. It is recognised that most Darwin projects make a smaller contribution to many other targets in their work. You will not be evaluated more favourably if you tick multiple boxes.

	Aichi Target	Tick if applicable to your project
1	People are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	√
2	Biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.	√
3	Incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions.	√
4	Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	√
5	The rate of loss of all-natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.	√
6	All fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem-based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.	
7	Areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	√
8	Pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.	
9	Invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	
10	The multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.	
11	At least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	
12	The extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	

13	The genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.	√
14	Ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	√
15	Ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.	
16	The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.	
17	Each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.	√
18	The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.	√
19	Knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	√
20	The mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.	

## Annex 5 Publications

Provide full details of all publications and material that can be publicly accessed, e.g. title, name of publisher, contact details. Mark (\*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report

Type *	Detail (title, author, year)	Nationality of lead author	Nationality of institution of lead author	Gender of lead author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. web link, contact address etc)
Darwin Newsletter	Sarah Fadika and Melanie Bayo, December 2019	Ivorian	American	Female		<a href="https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/assets/uploads/Darwin-Newsletter-December-2019-Traditional-Culture-Conservation-FINAL.pdf">https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/assets/uploads/Darwin-Newsletter-December-2019-Traditional-Culture-Conservation-FINAL.pdf</a>
Article	Danièle Kouassi, January 2020	Ivorian		Female	Olam website	<a href="https://www.olamgroup.com/content/olamgroup/en/home-page/news/all-news/news-bites/cocoa-and-rainforest-alliance-educate-school-children.html?refer=https://www.olamgroup.com/news/all-news.html?source=allnews">https://www.olamgroup.com/content/olamgroup/en/home-page/news/all-news/news-bites/cocoa-and-rainforest-alliance-educate-school-children.html?refer=https://www.olamgroup.com/news/all-news.html?source=allnews</a>
Article	Rainforest Alliance, 2019	N/A	American	N/A	RA website	<a href="https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/articles/cocoa-farmers-help-protect-last-primary-rainforest-in-cote-d-ivoire">https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/articles/cocoa-farmers-help-protect-last-primary-rainforest-in-cote-d-ivoire</a>
Impact study supported by the Darwin Initiative and IFAD	Edward Millard Sarah Fadika, Martha Oduro, 2018	British Ivorian – British	American	Male Female	RA website	<a href="https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/white-papers/mitigating-gender-inequity-in-the-cocoa-sector">https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/white-papers/mitigating-gender-inequity-in-the-cocoa-sector</a>

## Annex 6 Darwin Contacts

<b>Ref No</b>	24-021
<b>Project Title</b>	Empowering Ivorian communities to conserve biodiversity and improve their livelihoods
<b>Project Leader Details</b>	
Name	Christian Mensah
Role within Darwin Project	Project Manager
Address	
Phone	
Fax/Skype	
Email	
<b>Partner 1</b>	
Name	Melanie Bayo
Organisation	Centre d'Études, Formations, Conseils et Audits (CEFCA)
Role within Darwin Project	Field Implementation Partner/Consultant
Address	
Fax/Skype	
Email	
<b>Partner 2 etc.</b>	
Name	Daniele Kouassi
Organisation	Olam Cote d'Ivoire
Role within Darwin Project	Commercial Partner
Address	
Fax/Skype	
Email	



## Checklist for submission

	Check
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk">Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	X
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> If so, please discuss with <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk">Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	X
<b>Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report?</b> If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	
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.	