

## Darwin Initiative Main Project Annual Report

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

**Submission Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

### Darwin Project Information

Project reference	24-022
Project title	Strengthening Forest Management in Mali
Host country/ies	Mali
Contract holder institution	TREE AID
Partner institution(s)	Sahel Eco
Darwin grant value	£310,000
Start/end dates of project	July 2017 to June 2020
Reporting period (e.g., Apr 2017 – Mar 2018) and number (e.g., Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	July 2017 to March 2018, Annual report 1
Project Leader name	Amadou TANGARA
Project website/blog/Twitter	<a href="https://www.treeaid.org.uk/2017/strengthening-forest-management-mali/">https://www.treeaid.org.uk/2017/strengthening-forest-management-mali/</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/TREEAID/">https://www.facebook.com/TREEAID/</a> @TREEAID = twitter account
Report author(s) and date	Amadou TANGARA, Vanessa Depeyre (TREE AID), Pierre Dembele (Sahel Eco) 27 April 2018

### Project rationale

Mali’s forest habitat and the immense biodiversity it supports is under significant threat, as are the people who rely on the forests’ abundant resources for their livelihoods. From 1990-2015, Mali lost a staggering 30% of its forest area, or nearly two million hectares<sup>1</sup>. In the Segou region, part of the country’s semi-arid area, the previously green landscape has been devastated by various, inter-connected human and climatic pressures. As one of the world’s poorest countries<sup>2</sup>, nearly five million rural people live in poverty<sup>3</sup>.

Segou<sup>4</sup> contains Duwa and Sutebwo forests, which have been degraded through overgrazing, wood exploitation, unsustainable hunting and rapid agricultural expansion. The situation has been further exacerbated by low rainfall, increased bushfires, and resultant soil fertility

<sup>1</sup> FAO (2015). *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015*

<sup>2</sup> Mali ranks 179 out of 188 on the Human Development Index (2015).

<sup>3</sup> Rural Poverty Portal. *Mali Indicators*. Data Source: World Bank 2014. Accessed 3 August 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Specifically, within the “cercle” of Tominian, cercles are the second level administrative unit in Mali after regions – akin to counties.

degradation. Consequently, tree and gramineae diversity has been severely reduced<sup>5</sup> and wildlife populations have declined, including birds, insects and soil microorganisms. Due to the dependence of local livelihoods on natural resources, like shea and honey, biodiversity loss deeply affects local communities (including 22,148<sup>6</sup> people living in surrounding areas), further exacerbating poverty.

To address these issues, TREE AID and Sahel Eco supported the forest communities and authorities<sup>7</sup> to agree local forest use conventions and two participatory forest management plans (FMPs) in 2016. The FMPs, developed through a series of collaborative processes, established actions to protect, preserve and restore forest biodiversity by improving natural resource management (NRM), while balancing this with communities' food, energy and economic needs. The evaluation of this project highlighted clear the further support needed to ensure the FMPs successful implementation and to monitor these efforts. This project will enable communities to implement the plans by enhancing NRM capacities, improving forest monitoring, and restoration activities to increase threatened indigenous tree and gramineae species diversity, expand insect and wildlife habitat; while also strengthening non-timber forest product (NTFP) enterprises' incentives to sustainably manage forests while increasing household incomes.

### **Project partnerships**

Created in 2004, Sahel Eco is a national NGO, previously operating as the SOS Sahel International UK Mali programme. TREE AID has been working with SOS Sahel International UK since 1998 and formed a partnership with Sahel Eco after its creation. We have been working together in the Segou region since 2013. Together, we have led on the development of participatory forest management plans (FMPs) in Segou and Mopti regions, an innovative approach in the Mali context to improve community access, rights and forest governance. This project continues to build on and sustain these successes, and was jointly developed. Sahel Eco maintains in-depth technical knowledge of the targeted forests and the local community, given their extensive previous interventions in these locations.

Sahel Eco is leading the project implementation on the ground. Two "Forest Management Advisors", are based locally in Tominian, supervise and monitor the implementation of activities. They will work closely with the Project Coordinator based, whom maintains project oversight for Sahel Eco and carries out frequent field monitoring. These key staff are further supported with technical advice and monitoring support from Sahel Eco management and technical officers and TREE AID staff.

Sahel Eco have been actively involved in the design and planning of the project. On 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017, they also attended the start-up meeting where the responsibilities of each partners were reiterated. Sahel Eco staff were also trained on Darwin and TREE AID narrative and financial reporting templates. By the end of the meeting, a detailed work plan for the next quarter (Jul-Sep) had been collaboratively developed.

At the beginning of the project, the Project Coordinator from Sahel Eco was based at Sévaré (Mopti), distant from the project area implementation, Tominian. This situation led to some problems in terms of monitoring of activities and support to the project team. To solve these issues, Sahel Eco relocated the Coordinator to Tominian.

The financial and narrative report framework is still not well understood and implemented by the partner Sahel Eco. A workshop on the TREE AID reporting tool, allowed the Project Coordinator and the two Forest Management Advisors to better understand the activities and reporting needed. TREE AID will continue to support Sahel Eco in matter during the monitoring visits to the project sites.

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<sup>5</sup> This includes species such as *Isoberlinia doka*, *Cordyla pinnata* and *Bombax costatum* which the community has identified as under threat locally and are also of significant importance for either food or livelihoods. The demand for these species has resulted in their over-exploitation.

<sup>6</sup> Recensement Général de la Population et l'Habitat (RGPH) (2009).

<sup>7</sup> Including municipal authorities and the National Directorate of Water and Forests of the Malian Ministry of Environment

## **Project progress**

### **Progress in carrying out project Activities**

On 8<sup>th</sup> October, an agent of the Ministry of Agriculture and a forest guide were murdered in the Fangasso commune. This commune is one of three that surrounds Duwa Forest – one of our project sites. The project team followed directive from local leaders and government officials and immediately stopped work in this area. This does not affect our work in the Sutebwo forest area currently. Numerous activities were postponed in the Duwa forest area. With the recent improvement of the situation are confident that we will be able to resume our work in the Duwa are next year (see 3.4).

### **Output 1 Communities are undertaking best-practice NRM activities by 2020.**

#### **1.1 Two community nurseries established with materials/supplies provided**

Following a call for tenders, a construction enterprise was selected to undertake work to develop the two nurseries for the seedling production in the villages of Kian (Mafounè Commune) for the Sutebwo region and of Passialo (Koula Commune) for the Duwa region. Each nursery has an area of 625 m<sup>2</sup> (25mx25m) and has received an equipment kit composed of 2 wheelbarrows, 2 watering cans 2 rakes, 2 shovels, 2 picks, 2 hoes and one sieve.

#### **1.2 Trees raised and maintained in tree nurseries**

The nurseries received materials in order to be functional: 60,000 plastics containers (30,000 small and 30,000 medium size), 2kg of Eucalyptus seeds, 10kg of Baobab seeds, 10kg of Néré seeds, 5kg of Moringa seeds, 5kg of Gum tree seeds, 20k of Mango trees, 10kg of jujuber seeds and 5 kg of Mahogany seeds

#### **1.3 Define and demarcate land for protection and deferred grazing**

In December 2017, four blocs representing 215 ha have been identified and demarcated:

- ✓ **Bloc 1 (22 ha)** : situated between the villages of Soutè, Sanda and Kona
- ✓ **Bloc 2 (75 ha)** : situated between Bokuy Mankoinna, Lohan, and Sira
- ✓ **Bloc 3 (107 ha)** : situated between Gnimoukuy, Kénéso, Diarracoungo and Damouana
- ✓ **Bloc 4 (11 ha)** : situated between Mandoulôh, Mafouné, BôkuyMankoinna

The process has involved the Cantonment of the Waters and Forests (Cantonnement des Eaux et Forêts) as well as the Sous-préfets, technical services of agriculture and livestock farming, the local communities through the Hirosin Cooperative and the communal authorities. Several steps were needed: organisation of diagnostic workshop, demarcation of the protected areas, small study of the environment, elaboration of the technical record of the demarcation, signature of the establishment act, and installation of four sign boards

#### **1.4 Restore 7,846 ha of degraded lands by village communities, using soil and water conservation (SWC) techniques**

In order to facilitate the restoration of land using SWC techniques, equipment has been purchased and will be distributed amongst volunteer farmers. The kits include 50 wheelbarrows, 20 spirit levels 20 hammers of 3kg, 20 hammers of 5kg, 20 crowbars, 20 Chisels, 20 picks and 50 shovels. All the equipment will have Darwin logos on it for visibility of the project. The work of restoration will start in April 2018.

#### **1.5 150 ha are defined and enriched with threatened, indigenous species.**

The year one target of 25 ha defined and enriched has been reached and exceeded with 39 ha of forest now defined and enriched with 3,000 gum trees. 22 ha are in Sutebwo forest and 15 ha in Duwa forest. The planting was carried out collectively by members of the cooperatives Farakunna and Hirosin.

#### **1.6 Agroforestry techniques and tree planting carried out on 3,623 hectares of land**

Agroforestry planting was carried out by individual farmers on their own land as well as at the community level on communal land (e.g. schools, town halls, public squares). In total 10,000

trees were planted of various species such as baobab, cashew, eucalyptus, mango and locust. 6,000 were planted in the Sutebwo region and 4,000 in the Duwa region.

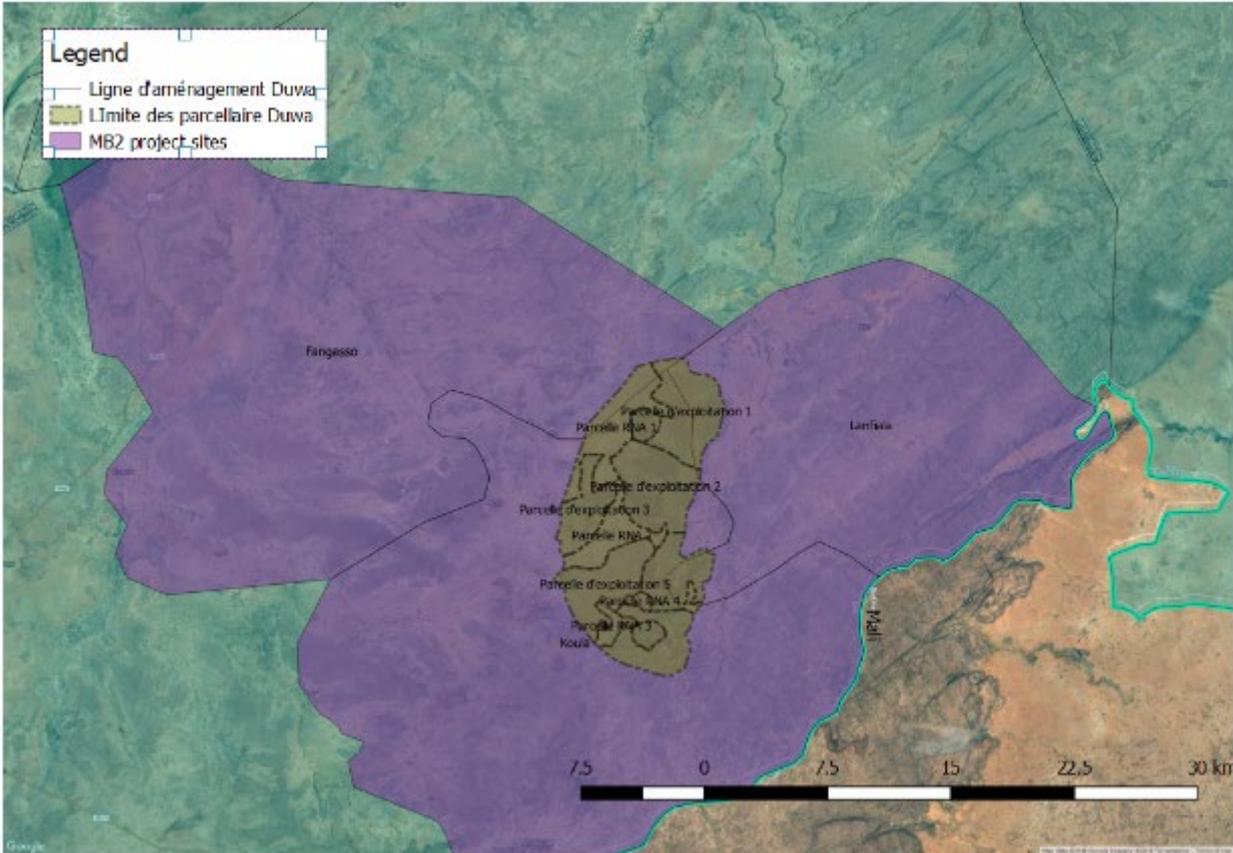
Out of the 13,000 trees planted (in activity 1.5 and 1.6) to date 5,608 are indigenous species and 7,392 exotic species. The low number of indigenous tree species planted is due to the lack of native species available from the supplier. Setting up community nurseries will allow us to produce indigenous seedlings, restoring the balance between native and exotic species next year.

**1.7 Establish firebreak (182 km) to protect restored lands**

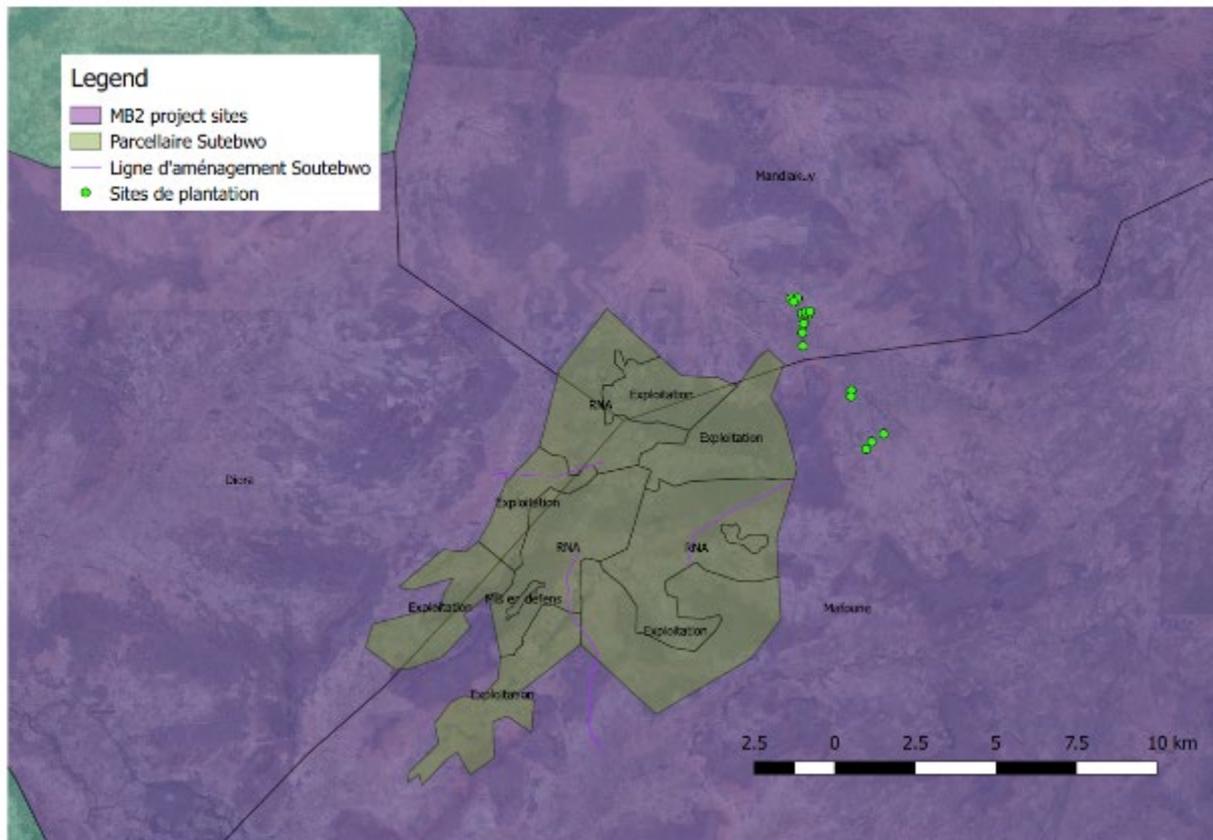
39 people form the Hirosin cooperative and the community were mobilised to establish 172 kilometers of firebreaks in and around the Sutebwo forest from the 10<sup>th</sup> October to the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017. These actions were undertaken under the supervision of the forest guard chief of Diara. The GPS coordinates of all the firebreaks have been recorded. The establishment of firebreak in the forest of Duwa was not possible this year but they will be done in November 2018– ready for the next dry season.

**1.8 GPS mapping of site locations and data shared with the department of environment.**

All the plantation sites have been geo-referenced as well as the firebreak sites. These will be integrated into the project maps (see below), which currently contain the delimitation of land uses within the forest areas. A map has been created using all the GPS coordinates. The GPS coordinates as well as this annual report will be shared by the project lead to the department of environment as well as with SIFOR Mali (the forest information system)



**Figure 1: Map showing the Duwa forest**



**Figure 2: Map showing Sutebwo forest and plantation sites**

**Output 2 Strengthened capacities of stakeholders (municipal authorities, technical services, village communities) to manage the Duwa and Sutebwo forests.**

**2.1 Training in data collection and monitoring SWC, assisted natural regeneration (ANR) and planting activities for 41 Village Extension Officers**

The selection of the 41 Village Extension Officers (3 per village) has been completed with one designated as the focal point.

25 Village Extension Officers from the Hirosin area (around Sutebwo) including 3 women and 2 members of the Hirosin Cooperative benefited from a training on data collection tools in order to monitor the SWC, ANR and planting activities held between the 20<sup>nd</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017 at the cooperative headquarters (Sanda Village). For security reasons, the training couldn't be organised in the Duwa area this year and it's postponed to next year.

**2.2 Training in SWC (soil quality improvement) techniques for 1,282 people**

Training is planned for April and May 2018. 21 of the expected 41 village extension officers to monitor the adoption of activities means that activities in the Hirosin area can easily be monitored. In Karakunna area (Duwa), the monitoring training will take place in April 2018 in order to ensure extension officers can track progress

**2.3 Training in ANR techniques for 2,672 people (30% women) trained**

Between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017, the two Forest Resources Management Advisors organised training in assisted natural regeneration (ANR) techniques in 16 villages. 600 people including 107 women attended this training. The training was composed of two parts, one theoretical organised in village assemblies with the second being more practical organised in the field.

The theoretical part focused on the objectives and importance of ANR; the principles and techniques as well as the benefits. The next stage involved practical demonstrations on the best practice of ANR in the field, where participants learned how to identify shoots and how to take

care of them. The participants also learned actions needed to upkeep trees such as pruning, weeding and the input of organic matter to stimulate growth.

#### **2.4 Training in nursery management for 40 people (50% women)**

20 people including 6 women have been directly trained on nursery management and seedling production techniques by the project Forest Resources Management Advisors in two training sessions, one in the Koula center between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018 and another one between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup> March in the Mandialuy Center. The project team decided that 20 people for the management of the two nurseries was sufficient to ensure effective nursery management. The training was composed of a theoretical part on the selection of nursery sites, material and techniques for the production of seedlings and management of the seedlings and a practical part which consisted of demonstration of the techniques.

The participant list and photos can be found in annex 4.

#### **2.6 Review the 5-year “Economic and Cultural Development Plan” (commune level plan - PDSEC), taking into account the forest management plans.**

In March, the six communes of intervention were supported to hold an extraordinary session in order to take into account the project activities in their “Communal Economic and Cultural Development Plan”.

The minutes from this meeting are currently being finalised.

#### **2.8 Training workshops on community forest managements texts (covering the forestry code for NRM, management principles for forests, and transfer of powers to municipalities)**

These training workshops facilitated by the Cantonment of Waters and Forests (Cantonnement des eaux et forêts) took place in Tominian between the 21<sup>st</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup> February for the participants coming from the Duwa area and from the 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February for the participants coming from the Sutebwo area. In total, 80 participants attended including mayors, municipal councillors, general secretaries of the city halls, members of the communal environmental commissions, village monitoring brigades members and representatives of the Hirosin (Sutebwo) and the Farakunna (Duwa) cooperatives. During this training, the technical services on agriculture and livestock farming made a presentation on relevant laws.

#### **2.10 Establishment of 2 Forest Dialogue groups for forest management, composed of cooperative members, local authorities and technical specialists.**

On the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018, Sahel Eco in collaboration with TREE AID organized in Tominian a workshop in order to establish the two Forest Dialogue groups on the forest management. This meeting was chaired by the Prefect of Tominian Circle and attended by 38 including members of the Circle council, municipal councillors, representatives of the technical services, the Sous-Prefect of the targeted communes, representatives from NGOs, representatives from Farakunna and Hirosin Cooperatives and the press. During the meeting the role and responsibility of each stakeholders in the forest management have been discussed. The National Radio ORTM and the local radio covered the event.

Following this meeting, a steering committee was established under the chair of the Prefect. This committee will have an important role in the village monitoring brigades information system. The two Forest Dialogue groups were also established.

#### **2.11 Forest Dialogues meetings (2 per group per year).**

As soon as they were established, the Forest Dialogue groups held their first meeting under the chair of the Tominian Circle Prefect. The groups were familiarised with the project activities and they exchanged on the major challenges of the project and proposed solutions to overcome these challenges.

The excessive / illegal cutting of wood, the limited functionality of the newly formed cooperatives, unchecked grazing, bush fires and a lack of water were the problems highlighted by the

meetings. The proposed solutions included the information and awareness raising of the population around these problems, good application of the law, and establishment of firebreaks and strengthening the capacities of the cooperatives.

### **Output 3: Enhanced capacity of shea and honey enterprises.**

#### **3.1 Installation of processing equipment with cooperatives (press, candle making, shea butter processing).**

A procurement process is underway to identify suppliers for the shea and honey processing units of a good quality and value for money. Unfortunately, our project lead couldn't find adequate equipment in Mali so he had to go through our Burkina Faso office to get some support to find appropriate suppliers.

The activities 3.2 and 3.3 are related to the completion of 3.1 and so have been postponed to the second year of the project

#### **3.2 Training of cooperative bodies management to manage and maintain shea butter processing units and hives for honey, including roles and responsibilities**

#### **3.3 Training of 60 cooperative members to use the processing units**

#### **3.4 Participation in fairs, exchange visits and national events (committees of management units and officials of cooperatives)**

Six people attended the FENA 2018 (National Environmental Forum) including 2 Mayors, 2 representatives of the cooperatives one representative from the women NTFPs groups and a Sahel Eco officer.

During the forum the participants were:

- Informed about the challenges linked to the sustainable management of the resources and to the current security context in the Sahel
- Informed and sensitised to the issues and challenges of climate change, particularly on the impact of climate change on the smallholder farmers.
- Informed about funding opportunities around the renewable energy, the local economic development, job creation and reduction of migration among the youth.
- Able to share with the other participants their experiences and challenges in the management of the Duwa and Sutebwo forests.

The forum was also the occasion to promote shea and honey products from the cooperatives and the women NTFPs groups as well as the project. The stand rented by the project had numerous visitors including the Minister of Environment and her delegation.



### **Project Start up, Monitoring and Evaluation**

#### **1. Project Start Up workshop (Partner Agreement, M&E Plan, Security and Response Plan), including at community level**

A start up meeting was held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017 in the office of the implementing partner (Sahel Eco) between TREE AID and Sahel Eco staff. The purpose of the meeting was to remind participants of Darwin's expectations and also their responsibilities in the project. During the meeting, Sahel Eco staff were trained in the Darwin and TREE AID narrative and financial reporting templates. At the end of the meeting, a detailed work plan had been developed.

The official launch of the project took place on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017, under the chairmanship of the prefect of the circle of Tominian. It was attended by the mayors of the six municipalities involved in the project, representatives of the cooperatives of Farakunna and Hirosin, representatives of the Water and Forest services, NGOs involved in the circle of Tominian and local radio stations. The ceremony aimed to inform the different stakeholders of the project including: the context, the approach, the duration, the source of funding, the activities planned, etc. The event was also an occasion for the local communities to reiterate the support to the project.

## **2 Recruitment of new staff positions**

The project team is composed of a part-time TREE AID Project Lead, a part-time Sahel Eco Coordinator (30%), 2 full-time Sahel Eco Forest Resources Management Advisors and part-time Sahel Eco and TREE AID administration staff (Finance and Administrative Officer, Executive Secretary, driver).

The majority of positions were filled with staff already working for TREE AID and Sahel Eco. Sahel Eco had only to recruit one new Forest Resources Management Advisor (Pobanou Dena).

Finally, the project lead and primary contact for this project (Maurice Kone) has resigned from his role at TREE AID to pursue a new opportunity outside of the organisation. Recruitment for his replacement has been completed and the new Country Manager (Amadou Tangara) began in his role on the 16<sup>th</sup> October. Mr Tangara's CV is attached to this report (translated into English).

## **3 Training/Induction for new staff**

The induction and training was undertaken at the beginning of the project in July. It was an opportunity to familiarise the staff with the details of the project and to the Darwin requirements. The induction of the new project lead took place in mid-October in the TREE AID regional office in Burkina Faso.

## **4 Baseline survey**

This cessation of activity in the Duwa forest has also unfortunately affected our planned baseline work which took place two weeks after the events in Duwa. As the plans were already in place, including international travel bookings, we had to continue with the baseline work but focus this exclusively on the Sutebwo forest as our sample for the project. This is of course, not ideal as it limits our sample to a specific zone, but for the importance of baselining early and cost effectively we believe this was the best option at this stage.

The socio-economic part of the baseline was done using the RHoMIS (Rural Household Multi Indicator Survey) methodology, which required specific training from TREE AID UK staff. The training for TREE AID Mali and Sahel Eco was organised between 30<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017. The collection of data happened the following week.

In total, 363 households were surveyed and the results will be used as baseline for both forests. The household selection was done across the target communities before beneficiary selection had taken place for NTFP production.

Key figures relevant for our indicators are included in section 3.2. Some other key things to note include:

- Total value of activities: 86% below the poverty line
- Actual cash incomes: 93% below the poverty line
- Potential food availability: 17% below the calorie line

Furthermore, a study of the current situation regarding tree proliferation and biomass, as well as current forest governance practices and attitudes towards natural resource management has been undertaken by a national consultant. However, the report is not expected to be finalised until May 2018.

### **5 Sahel Eco field monitoring**

From 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017, the Forest Resources Management Advisors conducted monitoring visits to a number of plantation sites. The objective of this mission was to determine the survival rate of the planted seedlings. At the end of the mission, the survival rate was estimated to be 97%.

### **6 TREE Aid field monitoring**

Following the resignation of the TREE AID Mali Country Programme Manager (the Project Lead) the Director of UK Operations and the Director of West Africa Operations visited the TREE AID office in Mali and the partners in order to recruit the new project lead, to organise this transition and to monitor project progress.

## **Progress towards project Outputs**

### **1 Output 1 Communities are undertaking best-practice NRM activities by 2020.**

**Indicator 1.1:** 360,000 seedlings cultivated in communal nurseries by 2020. (*Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 0 plants; Year 2: 275, 000 plants in total; Year 3: 350,000 plants in total.*)

With a starting date in July the project couldn't produce any seedlings in the first year. However, the two nurseries have been set up in March 2018 and are now ready to produce 275,000 seedlings in quality and quantity for the next planting season.

**Indicator 1.2 :** 350,000 trees planted (soil/water enrichment approaches, planting on degraded land) by 2020. (*Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 10,000 trees; Year 2: 267,500 trees; Year 3: 350,000 trees in total.*)

As the nurseries were not functional seedlings were bought from local producers in order to reach our target for this year. At the end of the year 1, our target has been exceeded as 13,000 trees have been planted (3,000 for the enrichment planting of the protected area and 10,000 from the agroforestry planting).

**Indicator 1.3:** 289,840 trees regenerated through ANR by 2020. (*Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 15,000 in total; Year 2: 200,000 in total; Year 3: 289,840 in total.*)

The assisted natural regeneration activities will start in April 2018 and will continue until July. The target for year 1 couldn't be reached however with 600 farmers already trained on the assisted natural regeneration techniques we are confident that the year 2 target will be met.

**Indicator 1.4:** 182 Km of firebreak established by end of Year 1.

The target for the first year of the project was to establish 182km of firebreak in Sutebwo and Duwa. However, due to security reasons this activity was only carried out in Sutebwo this year. In an attempt to try and achieve total, 172km of firebreak have been established this year out of the 182 km planned. As the security conditions are improving in Duwa, we are confident that a significant number of kilometres can be established there to protect the forest areas during the next dry season (October – November). The firebreaks at Sutebwo will be maintained during years 2 and 3 of the project.

### **Output 2 Strengthened capacities of stakeholders (municipal authorities, technical services, village communities) to manage the Duwa and Sutèbwo forests**

**Indicator 2.1 a)** By 2019, 1,282 (1,082 men, 200 women) trained in technical SWC, tree planting and care (*Annual Targets: Year 1: 100 people, Year 2: 1,282 people in total.*)

The training activities on SWC and tree planting and maintenance didn't happen this year. The best period for this kind of training is from April to July. Using a training of trainers approach, 41 people will train directly by the project team in April 2018 who will be responsible to train 1,282 people at village level by June 2018.

**Indicator 2.1 b)** By 2019, 2,672 people (30% women) trained in Assisted Natural Regeneration and agroforestry techniques. (*Annual Targets: Year 1: 500 people, Year 2: 2,672 people in total*)

600 people have been trained this year against the 500 targeted. Although, this target was reached, the number of the women participating in training ( 18% -107 women) didn't reach the 30% targeted. In year 2, the project team will put in place adapted approaches in order to attract more women and reach the 30% of participation. Women only training will be organised in the next year - at the season and time of the day that fits most with women's schedules.

**Indicator 2.1 c)** By 2018, 41 Village Extension Officers will receive training in monitoring and data collection of project NRM activities (*Year 1: 41 village leaders (36 men, 5 women)*)

The 41 Village Extension Officers have been selected and out them 21 from Sutebwo received a training on monitoring and data collection for the NRM activities of the project. Due to security reasons during the first year of implementation the training of the Village Extension Officers from Duwa will be organised next year.

**Indicator 2.1 d)** By 2019, 40 people (50% women) trained in nursery management and cultivation

20 people including 6 women have been trained directly on nursery management and cultivation.

The list of participants can be found in annex 4.

**Indicator 2.1 e)** By 2018, 20 people participating in forest governance exchange visits with other community forests

This activity has been postponed to year 2 of the project as the best period to see the NRM activities being June.

**Indicator 2.1 f)** By 2018, 120 people trained on forest management legislation

80 people have been trained on forest management legislation. The training was supposed to reach 120 people and be done by officers from the Waters and Forests technical services at the village level. However, for security reasons the training couldn't be done at the village level and so it has been relocated to Tominian. Unfortunately, the budget didn't allow us to bring the 120 people to Tominian so only 80 people benefitted from the training.

**Indicator 2.1 g)** By 2019, 246 local volunteers (206 men, 30 women) trained to monitor FMP implementation and form village monitoring brigades.

No progress toward this indicator have been made this year

**Indicator 2.2** Functional Forest Dialogue groups in place for forest management by end of Year 1.

The Forest Dialogue Groups have been established and held their first meeting. The list of participants can be found in annex 4.

### **Output 3: Enhanced capacity of shea and honey enterprises.**

**Indicator 3.1** Honey and shea processing units installed and operational (press, candle making, shea butter production) supporting 2 NTFP cooperatives by 2020. (*Cumulative, Annual Targets: 2 units installed in Year 1, Year 2: 4 units installed and operational*) .

Good quality equipment couldn't be found in Mali by our Project lead (see section 3.1), so he had to ask our regional office in Burkina Faso for support. As our regional office have extensive experience in purchasing this type of equipment, we are confident that the problem will be solved rapidly and that the year 2 target will be met.

**Indicator 3.2** 600 people (400 women, 200 men) engaged directly on honey and shea butter value chains by 2020. (*Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 300 people in total; Year 2 : 600 people in total*)

The activities of training being linked to the installation of the processing units, no action has been taken towards the target this year.

**Indicator 3.3** 120 people participate in NTFP national events, fairs or exchange visits by 2018. (*Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 2: 80 people in total, Year 3: 120 people in total*).

Six people participated in the FENA 2018 (National Environmental Forum) this year. We are expecting to have more participants from the Cooperative Unions next year once the units are installed and the training is done,

## Progress towards the project Outcome

**Indicator 1a)** By 2020, 150 ha defined, protected and enriched with suitable indigenous, threatened species<sup>8</sup> and applied SWC approaches. (*Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 25 ha, Year 2: 100 ha in total; Year 3: 150 ha in total*).

4 blocs with a total surface area of 215 ha have been defined and demarcated and 39ha have been enriched by 3,000 gum trees (22ha in Sutebwo forest and 17ha in Duwa forest). SWC techniques will be applied on this 39ha during the year. The plantation sites have been geo-referenced and gather in one map (see section 3.1). The project is confident that the year 3 target will be reached.

**Indicator 1b)** 7,846 ha of marginalised, degraded land is restored through enrichment with appropriate indigenous or threatened tree species, and applied SWC approaches (*Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 1,500 ha in total; Year 2: 5,000 ha in total; Year 3: 7,846 ha in total*)

The SWC equipment has been purchased and will be distributed to the farmers to support the SWC activities in year 2. It is expected that the trees from established nurseries will be utilised alongside the implantation of these SWC approaches to start to restore 6,500 ha of degraded land.

**Indicator 1c)** 3,623 ha planted/restored using applied agroforestry and Assisted Natural Regeneration approaches (*Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 1,000 ha; Year 2: 2,500 ha in total; Year 3: 3,623 ha*).

10,000 trees have been planted on approximately 100ha. With the start of the assisted natural regeneration activities and the production of seedlings by the nurseries, the project will make up for the lost time and restore 2,600ha in year 2

**Indicator 2)** By 2020, 2,672 households from 6 communes (Mandiakuy, Mafoune, Diora, Koula, Lanfiala, and Fangasso) will demonstrate and incorporate good natural resource management practices on their land. (*Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 752 households; Year 2: 1,642 households in total; Year 3: 2,672 households in total.*)

Training on plantation and assisted natural regeneration has been done for 600 people and will continue next year and the training on the SWC techniques will take place in year 2. The best period to apply these techniques being May to June, the households trained haven't yet applied the techniques on their land. The collection of data for this indicator will happen next year.

**Indicators 3a)** Functional, established structures are managing and implementing development plans for Duwa and Sutebwo forests, including: 41 village monitoring brigades monitoring forests by the end of Year 2, supporting and reporting to the inter-communal association

Two forest dialogue groups and a steering committee have been established. The exchange framework put in place a mechanism to bring up information and manage the conflicts linked to the Village Monitoring Brigades' role. This exchange framework involves all the local stakeholders (local communities, cooperatives, technical services, administration and justice)

**Indicator 3b)** 2 inter-communal associations representing 41 villages (10 members each, 30% women) effectively engaging in forest management by end of Year 1.

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<sup>8</sup> These include the locally identified threatened species: *Isobertinia doka*, *Cordyla pinnata* and *Bombax costatum*.

Planned for year 2. This activity can take place only after the revision of the Economic and Cultural Development Plan. The process of revision is being done and should be finished in a few months which will allow to reach this target by year 2

**Indicator 4)** 600 targeted NTFP producing households increase incomes by an average of 25% by 2020 (resulting from enterprise income).

The median average total cash income per year was \$34 per household for the lowest quartile. As the target 600 households were not known at the time of the survey, this amount is the most relevant one as the target households for NTFP support have been selected based on their wealth ranking.

The 600 VTE members including 400 women will benefit from installation on the processing unit that will be installed and the trainings that will be organised will increase the enterprise capacities of the VTE's members and production capacities which will lead to an increase in their income.

## Monitoring of assumptions

**Risk 1: Violence/political insecurity delay or halt activities:** The security context change in Duwa during this first year of project implementation. The presumed presence of terrorists hinders the movement of the project team and the officers from the technical services. As consequences several activities have been delay.

The 1st of February 2018, a press release (N°0001/CEMGA-S-CEM/OPS/COIA, see annex 5) from the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces prohibited the utilisation of motorbikes and pick-ups in the project area. This decision had a very important impact on the good implementation of project activities, as the project team were not able to move freely.

To adapt to this situation the project team took some measures:

- Activities involving technical services have been relocated to Tominian
- The training workshops have been relocated to the chief towns of communes
- Forest Resource Management Advisers travel either by public transport or by cart.
- The monitoring of activities at the village level by TREE AID and the Sahel Eco management has been put on standby
- The strategy for using village extension officers have been prioritised

TREE AID is regularly assessing the risk in the Duwa region and are in constant contact with the local authorities to stay inform of any evaluation of the situation. Based on the last information collected, the situation in Duwa has improved and we are confident that activities can be continued next year.

The other concerns of the project team in term of security are the presidential and legislative elections in Mali in 2018. In the election periods, there is always a risk of violence and insecurity. The project Team will monitor the situation closely and will adapt the *Security and Response Plan* with the help of the different stakeholders on the project accordingly

The rest of the risks and the assumption are unchanged and are still true

**Risk 2: Fraud or corruption:** Effective financial management procedures with checks and balances across all stakeholders to prevent fraud and corruption are established. TREE AID reviews partner expenditure and supporting documentation, including by national, regional and UK staff. The procurement of equipment and recruitment of consultants are carried out in accordance to TREE AID procurement procedures to ensure transparency and value for money.

**Risk 3: Climatic change/weather undermines interventions:** To reduce the adverse impacts of climate change on the local community (including drought), communities are being trained in effective planning of NRM actions (timely production of seedlings, timing of tree planting, etc.)

**Risk 4: NTFPs benefits not shared sufficiently with women:** For this project, women are being actively targeted to ensure they are the majority recipients of NTFP benefits. Training

activities will be designed to build women's capacities to negotiate with buyers, and they will be encouraged to take leadership positions and have a greater role in decision-making.

#### **Outcome Assumptions:**

- Legislation and decentralisation of natural resource management remains favourable to local authorities
- The local communities work together in forest protection activities, and accept and adopt NRM approaches to restore the forests.
- NTFP cooperative activities are collectively capable of raising household incomes to the target level.
- The climatic conditions continue to favour the production of honey and shea nuts.

#### **Output Assumptions:**

- Communities are willing to participate in NRM activities and apply practices, including planting, NRM and firebreak development.
- Community nurseries will be well functioning and organised, following training (see Output 2) and provision of materials. They will have the capacity to cultivate the required amount of seedlings.
- Village Extension Officers, Sahel Eco and TREE AID are able to effectively train and engage community members to complete NRM work collectively.
- Communities/inter-communal associations continue to have access to land as relevant.
- Trainings are effective in building the NRM capacity and knowledge of biodiversity of local stakeholders.
- Volunteers are willing to step forward to form village monitoring brigades, with training and support of partners.
- NTFP groups effectively use equipment and labelling materials following training.
- Market demand increases for honey and shea products produced by NTFPs, due to quality and volume improvements and use of MIS system.
- NTFP groups make contacts with potential buyers at fairs and events.
- Cooperatives continue to actively embrace roles and responsibilities to implement and monitor FMPs.
- NTFP groups effectively use equipment and labelling materials following training.
- Market demand increases for honey and shea products produced by NTFPs, due to quality and volume improvements and use of MIS system.
- NTFP groups make contacts with potential buyers at fairs and events.

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

By strengthening the natural resource management of two Malian forests (Duwa and Sutebwo), and developing enterprises based on NTFPS, the project will protect and restore biodiversity while contributing to poverty reduction. We will work with local communities to restore forests while building their capacities in forest governance and NRM, and developing enterprises to improve livelihoods and increase incomes

During this first year of implementation, the project created good conditions to achieve our broader objective of biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation. Effectively, 215 ha were identified and demarcated to be enriched, equipment for the SWC approaches have been purchased, 2 nurseries have been set up and the staff have been trained which will allow them to produce seedlings in quantity and quality for the restoration of more than 2,675 ha in year

two. To protect the new trees planted from bush fires in the Sutebwo Forest 172km of firebreak have been established. In addition, essential structures for the sustainable management of the forests (Forest dialogues groups and Steering Committee) have been created. All these activities are vital to set in motion in the restoration and protection of the biodiversity in Duwa and Sutbewo.

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

This project contributes to various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- **Goal 15: “Life on Land”**. This project contributes most strongly to this SDG, which includes the target: “By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.” This project will contribute to the sustainable management of forests target, and the restoration of the degraded forest through planting or regenerating approximately 650,000 trees, and strengthening forest monitoring and management. This year, 10,000 trees were planted to restore around 100ha of degraded land. The process of revising the Communal Economic and Cultural Development Plan to include a component on Natural Resource Management was started and the Forest Dialogue groups have been established and held their first meeting.
- **Goal 1: End Poverty in all its forms everywhere** – The project will support NTFP enterprises to improve their production and quality of products, in order to increase incomes and alleviate local poverty in targeted households. The cooperatives had the chance to promote their products during the National Environmental Forum.
- **Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls** – The project will work to engage more women in NRM capacity building and implementation, including nursery activities, tree planting and ANR, the latter two being traditional male activities locally. NTFP groups composed of primarily women will be supported to increase their business-related capacities and household income, which can result in positive gains in terms of women’s household status and autonomy. This year, 6 women participated to the training of nursery management, 200 on the seedling production techniques and 107 on the ANR techniques.

## Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

Our project aims to contribute to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), particularly the article 8 (c, d, e, and f) on the in-situ Conservation and the article 10 d) on the sustainable use of components of biological diversity.

In 2001, Mali adopted a *Stratégie Nationale et Plan d’Actions pour la Diversité Biologique (SNPA/DB)*<sup>9</sup> for implementing the CBD at the national level. Eight priority ecosystems were identified for conservation in Mali, including forests, the focus of this project. In 2014, this was revised to address some constraints experienced in implementing the original plan. The 2014 SNPA/DB also stipulates that NRM should empower local communities and ensure equitable distribution of the benefits of sustainable use. TREE AID’s project approach aligns with the national strategy and reinforces implementation by means of participatory planning, knowledge management and community capacity building, while increasing economic benefits through strengthening NTFP enterprises.

The focal point of the CBD in Mali is the National Directorate of Water and Forests within the Ministry of the Environment. This department is a strategic partner of TREE AID as it is involved in the implementation of our various NRM projects through its regional directorates and staff at the municipal level, where TREE AID projects take place. The National Directorate of Water and Forests formally appointed a TREE AID focal point in accordance with Decision No. 033 / MEADD-DNEF in order to facilitate collaboration between the two structures.

The National directorates of Water and Forests through its staff at the municipal level are actively participating to the project. They attended the project launch on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September

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<sup>9</sup> *The English translation is National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)*

2017 and participated to the demarcation of the lands that will be enriched in the Sutebwo Forest. Finally, they made a presentation on the applicable law for the natural resource management. (See part 3.1 on activities)

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

The project aims to increase income for 600 households by 25% (outcome indicator 4) through family member's participation to NTFP enterprise activities. In turn, this will indirectly benefit a total of 3,600<sup>10</sup> people. These people will be able to use the increased income to meet their basic household needs. Women, who are the most significantly impacted by poverty, compose 67% of the direct recipients of this support. Because of the sustainable nature of the NTFP enterprise interventions, household income increases will continue after project completion. To achieve this objective cooperative members will be trained and equipped in order to increase their productivity and their profit. The processing units, which will be installed in the cooperatives, are being purchased. This activity had a face a small delay due to difficulties to find adequate equipment that provided good quality and a good value for money. As soon as the units are installed, the training will start.

The cooperative members already benefit from the participation to the National Environmental Forum to promote their products, get visibility and connect with potential national buyers.

Furthermore, 2,672 households will also be directly involved in implementing agroforestry and ANR techniques. In turn, improvements made to soil through agroforestry techniques will also have benefits to agricultural production on the land. This should lead to an improvement in harvests, which will also make an important contribution to enhancing people's livelihoods and food security. 600 people were already trained on the ANR techniques this year and the training should continue in the second year to reach the 2,672 people trained in ANR and agroforestry techniques. The project team will monitor the good application of these techniques on the beneficiary farmlands (outcome indicator 2).

### **Project support to gender equality issues**

The project will work to engage more women in NRM capacity building and implementation, including nursery activities, tree planting and Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR), the latter two being traditional male activities locally. NTFP groups composed of primarily women (400 out of 600 people) will be supported to increase their business-related capacities and household income, which can result in positive gains in terms of women's household status and autonomy. Effectively women will be empowered through participating in the NTFP activities, by contributing an income to the household, increasing their skills and confidence through the trainings, and taking up leadership positions within cooperatives. This is expected to increase women's voice in household decision-making (such as how income is spent) and control over their own lives. By working collaboratively in business development, this will also foster a greater sense of community and shared understanding amongst women and men. The NTFP groups are based on equitable revenue sharing and inclusivity of women and marginalised groups. Furthermore women are encouraged to actively participate in the exchange platform like the Forest Dialogue groups or the steering committee, the village monitoring brigades and management of the cooperatives.

This will ensure that the project's economic benefits are also directed more towards women, thereby working toward DFID's strategic vision for women and girls which includes actions to *ensure that girls and women gain direct access to, and control over, economic assets*

This year, 107 women were trained in ANR techniques and 200 women on seedlings production techniques. The number of women trained on ANR technique is lower than expected. To engage more women in this activity, women only trainings, which fit with their schedule, will be organised. Next year with the installation of the processing units and capacity building of the cooperative members more results with a greater inclusion of women should be visible.

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<sup>10</sup> This assumes an average household size of 6 people. Source: *Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitat (2009)*.

## Monitoring and evaluation

TREE AID has recently significantly invested in M&E staff, systems and tools which are utilised within this project to effectively measure the outcomes and feed learning into adapting on-going project management. Partner staff have been trained to use these tools effectively.

A **project start-up workshop** was carried out by TREE AID and Sahel Eco, which included a logical framework review and establishment of a **detailed monitoring & evaluation plan**. This articulated M&E methods, tools, roles and responsibilities, data collection timelines, and reporting processes between both organisations. A start-up workshop was also held at the community level.

**Baseline studies** were carried out this year, in order to assess current household status. TREE AID's approach to monitoring the household level aspects, including poverty, of the outcomes and impacts is using the newly developed, Rural Household Multi Indicator Survey (RHoMIS) tool. RHoMIS is a rapid, cost-effective, digital household-level survey and analytical engine for characterising, targeting and monitoring household and natural resource practices. RHoMIS is action-ready, and has been tested and adapted for diverse systems in more than 7,000 households across the developing world. RHoMIS was developed to efficiently collect a series of harmonised and standardised performance indicators at rural household level, especially targeting smallholder farmers in low income countries. It is a highly accurate, efficient and cost effective monitoring system. Our use of RHoMIS for the project also contributed to a global data set, furthering global understanding and contributing to the continual improvement of international development practices. We used RHoMIS to capture detailed information for the project baseline and we will use it to capture information at end line around outcome indicators of household level income, income from NTFPs and changes in agricultural practices. In addition, RHoMIS will enable us, in an efficient and cost effective manner, to capture data beyond that outlined in the project logframe such as dietary diversity, food security and livelihood strategies, and women decision-making power. This additional information will help us gain understanding and monitor the wider impacts of the project on the poverty and wellbeing of beneficiaries. Furthermore, as the tool requires computer-assisted interviewing, TREE AID provided training and follow up support to in-country teams increasing capacity in Mali and linking on-the-ground practitioners to important, exciting emerging technologies.

Project sites to be enriched have been geo-referenced progressively to determine their coordinates and area. Additionally, a study on the current state of biodiversity and characteristics of the land, by carrying out a tree and gramineae assessment is being finalised by an external consultant.

These elements will be re-examined at project end through the independent **final evaluation** and **project audit** will also be carried out at the end of the project.

The **Sahel Eco field staff** responsible for directly implementing activities is **using monitoring tools and keep activity records** to ensure appropriate data collection such as the details of participating beneficiaries in training and, species planted, etc. This requires close liaison with the local authorities, cooperatives, and village communities. Sahel Eco will provide also quarterly reports to TREE AID. Sahel Eco management is carrying out frequent monitoring visits and present monitoring and financial reports.

TREE AID's Project Leader is carrying out **quarterly monitoring missions**, which simultaneously includes capacity building initiatives for local communities and the field teams. This will align to ensure presence at/or delivery of specific trainings for both stakeholders.

## Lessons learnt

Despite the security problems in Duwa forest, the project team managed to find certain strategies to implement most of the activities. This was possible only thanks to the good knowledge of the Implementing partner (Sahel Eco) of the intervention area, especially the

Forest Management advisors who are originally from the region. Effectively, they benefit from useful security information from the population and the local stakeholders. So we realised how important it is to recruit people originally, from the project area.

The technical services couldn't go to the project area, which made the implementation of certain activities difficult. For future projects in insecure areas, it would be important to find approaches that would enable the remote intervention of technical services or other strategic partners. For example, one could involve the local radio in order for the technical services to train the local population on NRM or plantation techniques without going into the field. This is something that can be explored if the technical services are unable to fulfil their function.

The lack of women's involvement has proven difficult to counter. For activities in future on the project – where possible – women's only activities will be implemented to ensure that women are encouraged to participate.

### **Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)**

N/A

### **Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere**

N/A

### **Sustainability and legacy**

The local authorities have been informed and involved throughout this first year of the project. They took part in the project launch where the project activities and objectives of the Darwin Initiative were presented. They were also involved in the meeting establishing the Forest Dialogues groups as well as in the training workshops on community forest managements texts. Officers from the Water and Forests technical services even, made a presentation on the applicable laws. The project design is grounded in strengthening the capabilities of the cooperatives to sustain NRM and NTFP activities, along with local authorities and technical services, so they are able to operate without further TREE AID and partner support following project completion. By building the capacities of these institutions and their members, they will carry on effective NRM to preserve and improve the state of the forests into the future. The different actions undertaken during this year are contributing to these objectives.

Our exit strategy is still the same and the key activities are:

- Continued strengthening and building understanding of local forest governance including conventions, structures, and roles and responsibilities for joint management and monitoring so all stakeholders can continue to collaborate effectively.
- NRM capacity building, so village leaders and cooperatives can continue to carry out various NRM techniques following the project's end.
- The established community nurseries will continue to operate and produce seedlings after project completion, to be sold to farmers for agroforestry planting.

Activities to increase NTFP enterprises capacities' to sustain and increase profits and linkages to businesses, so they continue to grow their businesses without further support

The technical reports and data sets derived through the project are made available as relevant through the TREE AID website and shared with appropriate stakeholders (departments of the Minister of Environment, Water and Forests National Directorate Mali CBD focal points, SIFOR Mali). This will include:

- Baseline Survey reports: The baseline includes the household survey (RHoMIS) and a situation of reference on the natural resources.
- Biodiversity data: Fauna and flora data collected throughout the project will be shared with relevant authorities and institutions.
- GPS Mapping: All of the locations on which natural resource management activities will be carried out will be geo-referenced, to determine their specific coordinates and area.

Photos and case studies about the project are shared through our social media channels (facebook, twitter and linkedin) which includes approximately ten thousand followers (see part 13)

### Darwin identity

As noted above, on activity 1.4, the Darwin logo has been used on project equipment in order to advertise the origin of the funding. The Darwin logo was also on the banner presented during the project launch



Furthermore, as the information below shows, TREE AID has utilised its social media accounts to promote the relationship between Darwin and TREE AID and news about the project.

- **Twitter** (6,192 followers): 11 Tweets from July 2017 – March 2018 talking about Darwin Initiative (see examples of tweets below)
- **Facebook** (2975 followers): 4 posts from July 2017- March 2018 talking about Darwin Initiative (see examples below).
- **LinkedIn** (1325 followers): 1 post talking about Darwin Initiative (see example below).
- **UPDATE magazine** full-length feature (sent to more than 4,200 people) in September 2017 talks about Darwin Initiative: [https://www.treeaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/TA\\_UPDATE\\_12pp-Sep\\_2017-WEB.pdf](https://www.treeaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/TA_UPDATE_12pp-Sep_2017-WEB.pdf)
- **TREE AID blog** provides a full briefing on the project (TREE AID website has more than 60,000 unique visitors a year): <https://www.treeaid.org.uk/2018/strengthening-forest-management-mali/>
- **Annual Review** 2017-2018 (more than 3,300 recipients) featured a thank you to Darwin: <https://www.treeaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/TREE-AID-Annual-Review-2016-17-2.pdf>

## Project expenditure

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

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

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

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2017 - March 2018	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Impact</b></p> <p>Sustainable forest management and tree-based livelihoods contribute to biodiversity conservation in the Duwa and Sutebwo forests (19,588 ha) in Mali and the poverty reduction of local people.</p>		<p>(Report on any contribution towards positive impact on biodiversity or positive changes in the conditions of human communities associated with biodiversity e.g. steps towards sustainable use or equitable sharing of costs or benefits)</p>	
<p><b>Outcome</b> Forest restoration and increased threatened, indigenous tree species<sup>11</sup> diversity within 11,619 hectares of Malian forest, and increased targeted household incomes by 25%, through strengthening natural resource management and enterprise development.</p>	<p><b>0.1</b> By 2020, 11,619 hectares of forest benefit from the better management of natural resources, including:</p> <p>a) 150 ha defined, protected and enriched with suitable indigenous, threatened species and applied SWC approaches.</p> <p><i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 25 ha, Year 2: 100 ha in total; Year 3: 150 ha in total.</i></p> <p>b) 7,846 ha of marginalised, degraded land is restored through enrichment with appropriate indigenous or threatened tree species, and applied SWC approaches.</p> <p><i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 0 ha in total; Year 2: 6,500 ha in total; Year 3: 7,846 ha in total.</i></p> <p>c) 3,623 ha planted/restored using applied agroforestry and Assisted Natural Regeneration approaches.</p> <p><i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 200 ha; Year 2: 2,500 ha ; Year 3:3,623 ha in total</i></p>	<p>a) 215 ha defined and demarcated including 39 ha enriched</p> <p>b) SWC Equipment available</p> <p>c) 10,000 trees planted on 100 ha</p>	<p>a)100 ha enriched with indigenous trees in year 2</p> <p>b) 6,500 ha will be restored in year 2 through tree planting and the application of SWC techniques</p> <p>C) 2,825 ha will be restored in year 2 through the plantation of 267,500 trees and the regeneration of 150,000 trees</p>

	<p><b>0.2</b> By 2020, 2,672 households from 6 communes (Mandiakuy, Mafoune, Diora, Koula, Lanfiala, and Fangasso) will demonstrate and incorporate good natural resource management practices on their land.</p> <p><i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 300 households; Year 2: 2094 households in total; Year 3: 2,672 households in total</i></p> <p><b>0.3</b> Functional, established structures are managing and implementing development plans for Duwa and Sutebwo forests, including:</p> <p>a) 41 village monitoring brigades monitoring forests by the end of Year 2, supporting and reporting to the inter-communal association</p> <p>b) 2 inter-communal associations representing 41 villages (10 members each, 30% women) effectively engaging in forest management by end of Year 1.</p> <p><b>0.4</b> 600 targeted NTFP producing households increase incomes by an average of 25% by 2020 (resulting from enterprise income).</p>	<p>2) 600 people trained on ANR</p> <p>3a) 41 village monitoring brigades selected</p> <p>3b) No progress toward this indicator</p> <p>4) No progress toward this indicator</p>	<p>2) 2,672 trained on ANR in year 2.</p> <p>3a) They will be trained in year 2</p> <p>3b) Validation of the revised Communal Economic and Cultural Development Plan including forest management aspect</p> <p>4) Installation of 4 units in year 2 Training of 300 VTE members including 200 women</p>
<p><b>Output 1.</b> Communities are undertaking best-practice NRM activities by 2020.</p>	<p><b>1.1</b> 350,000 seedlings cultivated in communal nurseries by 2020.</p> <p><i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 0 plants; Year 2: 275, 000 plants in total; Year 3: 350,000 plants in total.</i></p> <p><b>1.2</b> 350,000 trees planted (soil/water enrichment approaches, planting on degraded land) by 2020.</p>	<p>1.2 ) 2 nurseries established 20 trainers trained 420 farmers formed including 200 women (report in annex 4)</p> <p>1.2) 10,000 trees planted</p>	<p>275,000 plants to be cultivated</p> <p>264,500 trees to be planted in year 2.</p>

	<p><i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 10,000 trees; Year 2: 267,500 trees; Year 3: 350,000 trees in total.</i></p> <p><b>1.3</b> 289,840 trees regenerated through ANR by 2020.</p> <p><i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 15,000 in total; Year 2: 200,000 in total; Year 3: 289,840 in total.</i></p> <p><b>1.4</b> 182 Km of firebreak established by end of Year 1.</p>	<p>1.3) 600 People trained on ANR list of participants and summary of the training in annex 4.</p> <p>1.4) 172 km of firebreak established , list of geo-referenced sites and summary of activity report in annex 4</p>	<p>200,000 trees regenerated in year 2.</p> <p>Maintenance of 172km firebreaks at Sutebwo and establishment of firebreaks at Duwa.</p>
Activity 1.1 Two community nurseries established with materials/supplies provided	Activity completed the two nurseries are established and equipped		
Activity 1.2 Trees raised and maintained in tree nurseries	Activity in progress the nurseries are ready to produce the 350,000 seedlings for next year		
Activity 1.3 Define and demarcate land for protection and deferred grazing	Activity in progress, 215ha of land demarcated and defined for Sutebwo forest, if the security situation improved, some demarcation activities will also be done in the Duwa forest.		
Activity 1.4 Restore 7,846 ha of degraded lands by village communities, using SWC techniques	Activity in progress, the equipment is available and the restoration will start next year		
Activity 1.5 150 ha are defined and enriched with threatened, indigenous species	Activity in progress 215 ha have defined and demarcated and 39ha have been enriched with trees. Trees will be planted on 100 ha next year		
Activity 1.6 Agroforestry techniques and tree planting carried out on 3,623 hectares of land	Activity in progress 10,000 trees have been planted on 100ha and 267,500 trees will be planted in year on 2,675 hectares		
Activity 1.7 Establish firebreak (182 km) to protect restored lands.	Activity in progress 172 Km of firebreak established in Sutebwo forest, which need to be maintain in year 2 and 3. In addition, some firebreak will be established in Duwa area if the security situation allows it.		
Activity 1.8 GPS mapping of site locations and data shared with the Department of the Environment.	Activity in progress - 21 Village Extension Officers have been trained on GPS coordinate recording and the 215 ha defined and demarcated have been GPS mapped. All the ANR and plantation activities sites will be GPS mapped. This report as well as the GPS mapping will be share with Department of Environment and SIFOR Mali by the project lead.		
<b>Output 2.</b> Strengthened capacities of stakeholders (municipal authorities, technical services, village communities)	<b>2.1</b> By 2020, people will be trained in the following NRM approaches:		

<p>to manage the Duwa and Sutèbwo forests.</p> <p>a) 1,282 (1,082 men, 200 women) trained in technical SWC, tree planting and care. <i>Annual Targets: Year 1: 100 people, Year 2: 1,282 people in total</i></p> <p>b) 2,672 people (30% women) trained in Assisted Natural Regeneration and agroforestry techniques. <i>Annual Targets: Year 1: 500 people, Year 2: 2,672 people in total</i></p> <p>c) 41 Village Extension Officers will receive training in monitoring and data collection of project NRM activities <i>Year 1: 41 village leaders (36 men, 5 women)</i></p> <p>d) 40 people (50% women) trained in nursery management and cultivation by end of Year 2.</p> <p>e) 20 people participating in forest governance exchange visits with other community forests by end of Year 1</p> <p>f) 120 people trained on forest management legislation by end of Year 1.</p> <p>g) 246 local volunteers trained to monitor FMP implementation and form village monitoring brigades. <i>Year 2: 246 people (206 men, 30 women)</i></p> <p><b>2.2</b> 2 functional Forest Dialogue groups in place for forest management by end of Year 1.</p>	<p>a) Activity will start in year two, only the equipment is available.</p> <p>b) 600 people trained and 2172 people will be trained by July 2018</p> <p>c) 25 people including 3 women trained and 16 people will be trained in June 2018</p> <p>d) 20 people including 5 women were trained in nursery management in order to manage the 2 nurseries.</p> <p>e) The activity will take place in year 2 as the best period to see the NRM activities are in May/June.</p> <p>f) 80 people have been trained on forest management legislation</p> <p>G) Planned for year 2</p> <p>2.2 Two Forest Dialogue groups are in place and hold their first meeting, see summary of minutes and list of participants in annex 4.</p>	<p>a) Activity will start in year two, only the equipment is available.</p> <p>b) 600 people trained and 2172 people will be trained by July 2018</p> <p>c) 25 people including 3 women trained and 16 people will be trained in June 2018</p> <p>d) 20 people including 5 women were trained in nursery management in order to manage the 2 nurseries.</p> <p>e) The activity will take place in year 2 as the best period to see the NRM activities are in May/June.</p> <p>f) 80 people have been trained on forest management legislation</p> <p>G) Planned for year 2</p> <p>2.2 Two Forest Dialogue groups are in place and hold their first meeting, see summary of minutes and list of participants in annex 4.</p>
<p>Activity 2.1 Training in data collection and monitoring SWC, ANR, and planting activities for 41 Village Extension Officers</p>	<p>Activity in progress 25 Village Extension Officers were trained this year in the Sutebwo are, the Village Extension officers for Duwa will be trained next year if the security conditions allows it</p>	

Activity 2.2 Training in SWC (soil quality improvement) techniques for 1,282 people	Activity in progress, the material for the SWC have been purchased and the training will be organised next year
Activity 2.3 Training in technical ANR techniques for 2,672 people (30% women) trained	Activity in progress 600 people were trained this year and the rest will be trained next year
Activity 2.4 Training in nursery management for 40 people (50% women)	Activity completed 20 peoples including 6 women were trained in nursery management and production of seedlings
Activity 2.5 Training of 246 people to form village monitoring brigades to monitor forest management.	Activity planned for year 2
Activity 2.6 Review the 5-year “Economic and Cultural Development Plan” (commune level plan - PDSEC), taking into account the forest management plans.	Activity in progress, extraordinaire sessions were organised to discussion the review, the process will continue next year.
Activity 2.7 2 exchange visits to share experiences of forest governance from different localities (between village communities, municipal authorities, and technical services)	Activity planned for year 2 ( see section 3.1)
Activity 2.8 Training workshops on community forest management texts (covering the forestry code for NRM, management principles for forests, and transfer of powers to municipalities)	Activity completed. See annex 4 for the list of participants and a summary of the report of activity
Activity 2.9 Training of 2 inter-communal associations of local NRM conventions (20 people in total, 30% women)	Activity planned for year 2 ( see section 3.1)
Activity 2.10 Establishment of 2 Forest Dialogue groups for forest management, composed of cooperative members, local authorities and technical specialists.	Activity completed, the two Forest Dialogue groups are established. See the list of participants and the summary of the minutes in annex 4
Activity 2.11 Forest Dialogues meetings (2 per group per year).	Activity in progress, the two Forest Dialogue groups held their first meeting this year. List of participants and a summary of the discussions are in annex 4
Activity 2.12 Develop short documentary for advocacy.	Activity planned for year 3
Activity 2.13 Roundtable advocacy meeting with project stakeholders, Ministers and National Assembly members	Activity planned for year 3
<b>Output 3.</b> Enhanced capacity of shea and honey enterprises.	<p><b>3.1</b> 4 Honey and shea processing units installed and operational (press, candle making, shea butter production) supporting 2 NTFP cooperatives by 2020.</p> <p>Cumulative, Annual Targets: 2 units installed in Year 1, Year 2: 4 units installed and operational.</p> <p>3.1) Research is being done to find appropriate equipment. The 4 units will be installed next year.</p> <p>3.2) This result is dependent on the realisation of 3.1</p>

	<p><b>3.2</b> 600 people (400 women, 200 men) engaged directly on honey and shea butter value chains by 2020.</p> <p>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 300 people in total; Year 2 : 600 people in total</p> <p><b>3.3</b> 120 people participate in NTFP national events, fairs or exchange visits by 2018.</p> <p>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 2: 80 people in total, Year 3: 120 people in total.</p> <p>3.2</p>	<p>6 people participated in the National Environmental forum ( see 3.1), more people are expected to participate next year</p>
<p>Activity 3.1 Installation of processing equipment with cooperatives (press, candle making, shea butter processing).</p>		<p>Activity in progress – research is being done to find the good equipment</p>
<p>Activity 3.2 Training of cooperative bodies management to manage and maintain shea butter processing units and hives for honey, including roles and responsibilities</p>		<p>Activity planned year 2</p>
<p>Activity 3.3 Training of 60 cooperative members to use the processing units</p>		<p>Activity planned year 2</p>
<p>Activity 3.4 Participation in fairs, exchange visits and national events (committees of management units and officials of cooperatives)</p>		<p>Activity in progress 6 people participated to the National Environmental forum ( see 3.1), more people are expected to participate next year</p>
<p>Activity 3.5 Development of a Market Information System with local radio stations, to facilitate linkages with buyers.</p>		<p>Activity planned year 2</p>
<p>Activity 3.6 Development and production of professional labels</p>		<p>Activity planned year 2</p>

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

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Impact:</b> Sustainable forest management and tree-based livelihoods contribute to biodiversity conservation in the Duwa and Sutebwo forests (19,588 ha) in Mali and the poverty reduction of local people. (Max 30 words)</p>			
<p><b>Outcome:</b> (Max 30 words) Forest restoration and increased threatened, indigenous tree species<sup>12</sup> diversity within 11,619 hectares of Malian forest, and increased targeted household incomes by 25%, through strengthening natural resource management and enterprise development.</p>	<p>0.1 By 2020, 11,619 hectares of forest benefit from the better management of natural resources, including:</p> <p>a) 150 ha defined, protected and enriched with suitable indigenous, threatened species<sup>13</sup> and applied SWC approaches.</p> <p><i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 25 ha, Year 2: 100 ha in total; Year 3: 150 ha in total.</i></p> <p>b) 7,846 ha of marginalised, degraded land is restored through enrichment with appropriate indigenous or threatened tree species, and applied SWC approaches.</p> <p><i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 0 ha in total; Year 2: 6,500 ha in total; Year 3: 7,846 ha in total.</i></p>	<p>0.1 Partner NRM delivery records, partner and TREE AID monitoring reports, GPS mapping, baseline survey, evaluation report.</p> <p>0.2 Baseline survey, partner NRM activity records, GPS mapping, and final evaluation.</p> <p>0.3 Baseline survey, partner NRM delivery records, village brigade monitoring, project monitoring report, final evaluation.</p> <p>0.4 Baseline survey, cooperative records, monitoring reports, household surveys, and final evaluation.</p>	<p>Legislation and decentralisation of natural resource management remains favourable to local authorities</p> <p>The local communities work together in forest protection activities, and accept and adopt NRM approaches to restore the forests.</p>

<sup>13</sup> These include the locally identified threatened species: *Isoberlinia doka*, *Cordyla pinnata* and *Bombax costatum*.

	<p>c) 3,623 ha planted/restored using applied agroforestry and Assisted Natural Regeneration approaches.</p> <p><i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 200 ha; Year 2: 2,500 ha ; Year 3:3,623 ha in total</i></p> <p>0.2 By 2020, 2,672 households from 6 communes (Mandiakuy, Mafoune, Diora, Koula, Lanfiala, and Fangasso) will demonstrate and incorporate good natural resource management practices on their land.</p> <p><i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 300 households; Year 2: 2094 households in total; Year 3: 2,672 households in total.</i></p> <p>0.3 Functional, established structures are managing and implementing development plans for Duwa and Sutebwo forests, including:</p> <p>a) 41 village monitoring brigades monitoring forests by the end of Year 2, supporting and reporting to the inter-communal association</p> <p>b) 2 inter-communal associations representing 41 villages (10 members each,</p>		<p>NTFP cooperative activities are collectively capable of raising household incomes to the target level.</p> <p>The climatic conditions continue to favour the production of honey and shea nuts.</p>
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	<p>30% women) effectively engaging in forest management by end of Year 1.</p> <p>0.4 600 targeted NTFP producing households increase incomes by an average of 25% by 2020 (resulting from enterprise income).</p>		
<p><b>Outputs:</b></p> <p><b>1.</b> Communities are undertaking best-practice NRM activities by 2020.</p>	<p><b>1.1</b> 350,000 seedlings cultivated in communal nurseries by 2020. <i>Cumulative, Annual Targets:</i> <i>Year 1: 0 plants; Year 2: 275, 000 plants in total; Year 3: 350,000 plants in total.</i></p> <p><b>1.2</b> 350,000 trees planted (soil/water enrichment approaches, planting on degraded land) by 2020. <i>Cumulative, Annual Targets:</i> <i>Year 1: 10,000 trees; Year 2: 267,500 trees; Year 3: 350,000 trees in total.</i></p> <p><b>1.3</b> 289,840 trees regenerated through ANR by 2020. <i>Cumulative, Annual Targets:</i> <i>Year 1: 15,000 in total; Year 2: 200,000 in total; Year 3: 289,840 in total.</i></p> <p><b>1.4</b> 182 Km of firebreak established by end of Year 1.</p>	<p>1.1-1.4 Village brigade monitoring, partner NRM activity records, partner and TA monitoring reports, and final evaluation.</p>	<p>Communities are willing to participate in NRM activities and apply practices, including planting, NRM and firebreak development.</p> <p>Community nurseries will be well functioning and organised, following training (see Output 2) and provision of materials. They will have the capacity to cultivate the required amount of seedlings.</p> <p>Village Extension Officers, Sahel Eco and TREE AID are able to effectively engage community members to complete NRM work collectively.</p> <p>Communities/inter-communal associations continue to have access to land as relevant.</p>

<p>2. Strengthened capacities of stakeholders (municipal authorities, technical services, village communities) to manage the Duwa and Sutèbwo forests.</p>	<p>2.1 By 2020, people will be trained in the following NRM approaches:</p> <p>a) 1,282 (1,082 men, 200 women) trained in technical SWC, tree planting and care. <i>Annual Targets: Year 1: 100 people, Year 2: 1,282 people in total</i></p> <p>b) 2,672 people (30% women) trained in Assisted Natural Regeneration and agroforestry techniques. <i>Annual Targets: Year 1: 500 people, Year 2: 2,672 people in total</i></p> <p>c) 41 Village Extension Officers will receive training in monitoring and data collection of project NRM activities <i>Year 1: 41 village leaders (36 men, 5 women)</i></p> <p>d) 40 people (50% women) trained in nursery management and cultivation by end of Year 2.</p> <p>e) 20 people participating in forest governance exchange visits with other community forests by end of Year 1</p> <p>f) 120 people trained on forest management legislation by end of Year 1.</p>	<p>2.1 NRM training records, partner and TA monitoring reports.</p> <p>2.2 Partner event records, partner and TA monitoring reports, Forest Dialogue records/meeting minutes, and final evaluation.</p>	<p>Village Extension Officers, Sahel Eco and TREE AID are able to effectively engage and train community members,</p> <p>Trainings are effective in building the NRM capacity and knowledge of biodiversity of local stakeholders.</p> <p>Volunteers are willing to step forward to form village monitoring brigades, with training and support of partners.</p> <p>Local authorities and extension services are willing to continue to engage in Forest Dialogues.</p> <p>Cooperatives continue to actively embrace roles and responsibilities to implement and monitor FMPs.</p>
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	<p>g) 246 local volunteers trained to monitor FMP implementation and form village monitoring brigades.</p> <p><i>Year 2: 246 people (206 men, 30 women)</i></p> <p>2.2 2 functional Forest Dialogue groups in place for forest management by end of Year 1.</p>		
<p>3. Enhanced capacity of shea and honey enterprises.</p>	<p>3.1 4 Honey and shea processing units installed and operational (press, candle making, shea butter production) supporting 2 NTFP cooperatives by 2020.</p> <p><i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: 2 units installed in Year 1, Year 2: 4 units installed and operational.</i></p> <p>3.2 600 people (400 women, 200 men) engaged directly on honey and shea butter value chains by 2020.</p> <p><i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 300 people in total; Year 2 : 600 people in total</i></p> <p>3.3 120 people participate in NTFP national events, fairs or exchange visits by 2018.</p> <p><i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 2: 80 people in total, Year 3: 120 people in total.</i></p>	<p>3.1 Procurement documentation, partner and TA monitoring reports, and final evaluation.</p> <p>3.2-3.3 Partner records, partner and TA monitoring reports.</p>	<p>NTFP groups effectively use equipment and labelling materials following training.</p> <p>Market demand increases for honey and shea products produced by NTFPs, due to quality and volume improvements and use of MIS system.</p> <p>NTFP groups make contacts with potential buyers at fairs and events.</p>
<p><b>Activities</b> (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p>			

### **Output 1**

- 1.1 Two community nurseries established with materials/supplies provided
- 1.2 Trees raised and maintained in tree nurseries.
- 1.3 Define and demarcate land for protection and deferred grazing
- 1.4 Restore 7,846 ha of degraded lands by village communities, using SWC techniques
- 1.5 150 ha are defined and enriched with threatened, indigenous species
- 1.6 Agroforestry techniques and tree planting carried out on 3,623 hectares of land.
- 1.7 Establish firebreak (182 km) to protect restored lands.
- 1.8 GPS mapping of site locations and data shared with the Department of the Environment.

### **Output 2**

- 2.1 Training in data collection and monitoring SWC, ANR, and planting activities for 41 Village Extension Officers.
- 2.2 Training in SWC (soil quality improvement) techniques for 1,282 people
- 2.3 Training in technical ANR techniques for 2,672 people (30% women) trained
- 2.4 Training in nursery management for 40 people (50% women)
- 2.5 Training of 246 people to form village monitoring brigades to monitor forest management.
- 2.6 Review the 5-year "Economic and Cultural Development Plan" (commune level plan - PDSEC), taking into account the forest management plans.
- 2.7 2 exchange visits to share experiences of forest governance from different localities (between village communities, municipal authorities, and technical services)
- 2.8 Training workshops on community forest management texts (covering the forestry code for NRM, management principles for forests, and transfer of powers to municipalities)
- 2.9 Training of 2 inter-communal associations of local NRM conventions (20 people in total, 30% women)
- 2.10 Establishment of 2 Forest Dialogue groups for forest management, composed of cooperative members, local authorities and technical specialists.
- 2.11 Forest Dialogues meetings (2 per group per year).
- 2.12 Develop short documentary for advocacy.
- 2.13 Roundtable advocacy meeting with project stakeholders, Ministers and National Assembly members.

### **Output 3**

- 3.1 Installation of processing equipment with cooperatives (press, candle making, shea butter processing).
- 3.2 Training of cooperative bodies management to manage and maintain shea butter processing units and hives for honey, including roles and responsibilities
- 3.3 Training of 60 cooperative members to use the processing units
- 3.4 Participation in fairs, exchange visits and national events (committees of management units and officials of cooperatives)
- 3.5 Development of a Market Information System with local radio stations, to facilitate linkages with buyers.
- 3.6 Development and production of professional labels

### **Project Start-Up, Monitoring & Evaluation**

1. Project Start Up workshop (Partner Agreement, M&E Plan, Security and Response Plan), including at community level.
2. Recruitment of new staff positions
3. Training/induction for new staff.
4. Baseline survey
5. Sahel Eco field monitoring
6. TREE Aid field monitoring
7. Final Evaluation

## Annex 3: Standard Measures

**Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures**

Code No.	Description	Gender of people (if relevant)	Nationality of people (if relevant)	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
6A	People receiving NRM training	30% women, 70% men	Malian	600	2,073			2672
6A	People receiving SWC training	1,082 men, 200 women	Malian		1,282			1,282
6A	People receiving nursery management training	50% men , 50% women	Malian	20				20
6A	Training for People to form village monitoring brigades to monitor forest management		Malian		246			246
6A	Training workshops on community forest management texts		Malian	80				80
6A	Training of the cooperative members to use the processing units		Malian		60			60

**Table 2 Publications**

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)

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