



Darwin Initiative Main: Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note": (<u>https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/information-notes-learning-notes-briefing-papers-and-reviews/</u>).

It is expected that this report will be a maximum of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2023

Submit to: <u>BCF-Reports@niras.com</u> including your project ref in the subject line

Project reference	28-017
Project title	Establishing a biocultural heritage territory to protect Kenya's Kaya forests
Country/ies	Kenya
Lead Partner	International Institute for Environment & Development (IIED)
Project partner(s)	Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI)
Darwin Initiative grant value	£ 347,626.41
Start/end dates of project	01 October 2021 to 30 September 2024
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2022 – Mar 2023) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Krystyna Swiderska
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.iied.org/establishing-biocultural-heritage- territory-protect-kenyas-kaya-forests
Report author(s) and date	Krystyna Swiderska and Chemuku Wekesa, 8 May 2023

Darwin Initiative Project Information

1. Project summary

Biodiversity is declining rapidly in Kenya's sacred Kaya forests. These ancestral Mijikenda homesteads are protected by Kaya elders for rituals and burial grounds by traditional rules and taboos. Kaya forests form part of Coastal Forests which are a global biodiversity hotspot. But due to poverty and weakening of traditional institutions, exacerbated by prolonged droughts impacting crops, these forests are experiencing significant degradation particularly for firewood and charcoal production for income by youth and women.

The project aims to protect and restore 4 Kaya forests in Rabai community/sub-county, Kilifi county, about 19 km north of Mombasa, including endangered endemic tree species, eg: Bauhinia mombassae (fuelwood/medicinal); Combretum tenuipetiolatum (fuelwood/charcoal): Synsepalum subverticillatum (fruit/construction poles); nutritious indigenous vegetables and cowpea and coffee wild relatives that provide genetic resources for food, climate adaptation and income; endangered endemic golden-rumped elephant shrew (Rhynchocyon chrysopygus); and endemic butterflies which have become rare (eg. Acraea aubyni, Euxanthe tiberius and Hypolimnas usambara). Drought tolerant Indigenous crops (sorghum, millets, cowpeas) have significantly declined due to promotion of monocultures and weakening of Kaya elders' institutions. These problems were identified through meetings with National Museums of

Kenya, Kaya elders, farmers, youth and women in Rabai; and previous research by IIED, KEFRI and others.

The project is supporting a community-led process to:

- establish a collectively governed Biocultural Heritage Territory (building on the successful Potato Park in Peru) that empowers Kaya elders to enforce conservation rules and enables the community to protect its land rights;
- build capacity to generate alternative income for 1600 forest dependent households particularly women and youth;
- restore endangered trees and elephant-shrew habitat in 4 Kayas, halve fuelwood consumption and restore multi-purpose trees on-farm, to reduce pressure on Kayas;
- restore agrobiodiversity, butterflies and ecological connectivity on-farms surrounding Kayas.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The project emerged out of an existing partnership between IIED and KEFRI and the Rabai community since 2012 and was jointly designed. Over the last year, the relationship between IIED and KEFRI has become even closer. IIED has emphasised the need for the process to establish the BCHT and all project activities to be led by the Rabai community as far as possible, to ensure strong ownership and sustainability beyond the project, and revitalise traditional knowledge and institutions. Over the past year the 2 project coordinators at KEFRI have fully embraced this community-led approach, and IIED has supported leadership by the communities and KEFRI in planning activities etc. So the partnership is very much driven by demand from the host country and community, but IIED has provided mentoring guidance to build on and adapt the successful Potato Park approach.

Rabai Cultural Village (RCV) was included as a formal project partner, and we had envisaged that it would provide a lead facilitation role at community level in the project proposal. But we decided to work with the 5 community researchers (CRs) equally, each facilitating the work in 2 project villages, following a conflict that emerged between RCV and Kaya elders in March 2022. The conflict has been resolved but the 2 CRs from RCV have at times been slow to deliver on project activities. They are good facilitators, but we have only engaged them on 1 year contracts as a precaution. The planning and implementation of community level activities is facilitated by Community Researchers with active participation of village members. During our mid-term workshop on 7-9 March 2023 we spent the last day going through each planned activity for the next year and asking communities to design them – see draft workshop report.

A Project Advisory Committee was established at the project launch workshop in Rabai in February 2022, involving key government agencies – National Museums of Kenya (responsible for Kaya forest conservation), the County director for Culture, Rabai Chiefs, as well as Kaya elders and CRs. The PAC met for 2 hours on 19 November 2022 to review project progress, plan activities based on community proposals and discuss challenges. Local community technical specialists have been involved in delivering training. A good relationship has been established with Kaya elders and village elders, as well as government agencies such as NMK, Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and the County director for Culture who strongly support the project. Good relationships are also emerging with Rabai's Area Chiefs, local agriculture official, and the Kilifi County Minister for Gender and Culture and Kilifi County Assembly Member for Ruruma Ward who attended the mid-term workshop. The British High Commission officer responsible for the Darwin Initiative (Anita Siro) plans to visit the project in June and may plan a visit by the High Commissioner. KEFRI has also met the new County Governor of Kilifi to present the project.

3. Project progress

3.1 **Progress in carrying out project Activities**

Following delays due to Covid in December 2021, a community conflict in March/April 2022 and elections (April-August 2022), changes to the activity Timetable were requested in December 2022 and approved – this report is against the revised Timetable.

Output 1: Establishing a BCHT

1.1 **Launch, mid-term & final workshops**: Following the Project Launch Workshop in February 2022, a detailed report of the workshop was prepared by IIED and KEFRI. The report was published on the IIED website, the project page and the biocultural heritage website, and promoted through social media (eg. Twitter) and IIED's biodiversity and biocultural heritage newsletters. See: Establishing a Biocultural Heritage Territory to protect Kenya's Kaya forests project launch workshop report | Publications Library (iied.org).

The **mid-term project workshop** was held on 7-9 March 2023 at Rabai Museum. It brought together about 60 participants in total, including Kaya elders, village elders, community researchers, women and youth from the 10 project villages, Rabai local government (Area Chiefs), the Kilifi County Director for Culture, National Museums of Kenya, Kenya Forest Service (KFS), and a local agriculture official. Community representatives and government officials provided opening remarks on Day 1, including a Member of County Assembly (MCA) for Ruruma Ward, the County Chief Officer for Gender and Culture and County Executive Committee Member for Gender and Culture. KEFRI presented progress with project activities and key challenges, and IIED presented lessons from the Potato Park BCHT in Peru. Break out groups discussed microenterprise design, the BCHT governance system, and biodiversity conservation and restoration activities, key challenges and ways forward. Kaya elders and village elders agreed that the traditional Mudzini concept, which integrates nature, culture and development, should form the overall goal of the BCHT. Short video clips where shown where villagers reported on 'stories of change' as a result of project activities (eg. training).

On day 2, a field trip to Kaya Kambe was held for a learning exchange with Kaya elders given that this Kaya forest near Rabai is very well conserved. Kaya elders then presented their vision for the BCHT and challenges they face in protecting Kayas – including threats of violence. It was agreed that funds are needed to employ village youths to support Kaya elders in protecting the forests, and that KEFRI, Kaya elders and youth would meet with the county government to request this. Participants identified strategies to strengthen BCHT village and landscape committees, revive Rome for traditional knowledge transmission to youth, address water challenges for tree restoration and beekeeping, and ensure sustainable raw materials for palm products (brooms, mats). Cultural values to guide microenterprises were identified and ideas for branding BCHT products discussed, along with criteria for benefit-sharing from microenterprises via a communal fund to support the poorest people and BCHT activities. On the 3rd day, plans for agrobiodiversity restoration and other activities in the coming year were developed based on suggestions from communities. Areas Chiefs expressed their support for the project. See draft workshop report.

1.2 **FPIC process & M&E surveys** (by Year 2 Qtr 3): The FPIC process began with the project launch workshop in year 1. This was followed by a meeting in April 2022 to present the project to all Area Chiefs in Rabai, get buy-in and support from the local government (as only 1 Area Chief had participated in the launch workshop). The meeting included a presentation on the Potato Park biocultural heritage territory by Alejandro Argumedo from the Indigenous NGO ANDES (Peru) (a project advisor). Area Chiefs expressed their support for the project (see Area Chief meeting report). Meetings were then held with all 10 villages in Rabai in May 2022 to present the project to village elders, Kaya elders, Wazee ya Nyumba Kumi (village authorities in charge of 10 clustered households), women and youth (about 20 people per village), and allow them to decide whether or not to participate in the project. Such a Free, Prior, Informed Consent process is an important power-equalising step in a community-led process as it allows communities to deny consent and place conditions. The meetings enabled co-design of the proposed project activities and also discussed the M&E approach and proposed indicators.

The socio-economic and gender baseline surveys (including focus groups on gender) were conducted from June to August 2022. We originally hoped to conduct these surveys by March 2022 (end of Year 1) – the delay was due to COVID which delayed the launch workshop and the start of the project, the need to resolve a community conflict in March/April, and the difficulty of engaging communities during the pre-election period from June to August. The forest and tree surveys were conducted in March and April 2022 when trees were planted in Kayas and on-farm. The elephant shrew and butterfly surveys were conducted by Qtr 3 ie. December 2022 (they were delayed due to the national election and a slow response from the Kenya Wildlife Service). See attached baseline report. The participatory M&E 'Most Significant Change'

approach was discussed at the meetings with the 10 villages held in May 2022, where key areas in which to monitor change and report 'stories of change' were agreed. See report of FPIC and community meetings.

Village and intervillage meetings on BCHT (By Year 3, Qtr 2): The meetings held 1.3 with 10 villages in May 2022 explored the idea of establishing a collectively governed biocultural heritage territory (BCHT) in Rabai to develop a common vision (objectives, governance system) (see report on FPIC and community meetings). Communities said they want to establish a BCHT to protect traditional foods, indigenous tree species. Rabai culture and traditions, and their land rights. Each village selected representatives who participated in an inter-village meeting in November 2022 to further develop the BCHT goals and governance system. Village and landscape level BCHT management committees were constituted in March and April 2023 respectively. The village level committees comprise 15 members of which 5 are executive committee members (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Vice secretary and treasurer) and 10 are ordinary members. The landscape level committee is comprised of 23 members constituting 10 village chairmen, 2 village elders (one male and one female), one Agriculture Officer, one Kenya Forest Service extension officer, 2 Kaya Elders, one member of community with good knowledge on bio-enterprises, 2 youth (1 male and 1 female), one ordinary female representative, one National Museums of Kenya officer and KEFRI officers. The two committees have been operationalized and have equitable representation of men. women and youth. As BCHTs are self-governed by communities based on customary laws and values, the government and KEFRI members only provide technical support and are not allowed to vote or influence decisions. Each village committee has developed a draft constitution, ie. rules to guide the Association and management of the landscape, including objectives, principles and rules/by-laws for conservation and equity; and an intervillage meeting was held on 17-18 April 2023 to harmonise this into a draft Constitution for the BCHT.

1.4 **Project advisory committee (PAC) meetings** (By Year 2, Qtr 4): A PAC was established at the launch workshop comprising KEFRI, Rabai Area Chiefs, NMK, county government agencies, Kaya elders, village elders and IIED. The first meeting was held on 16 November 2022. Project progress and activities were discussed, particularly the design of microenterprises, protection of Kaya forests and registration of the BCHT. See report of the PAC meeting. The PAC members participated in the mid-term workshop in March 2023 and will meet again in September 2023.

1.5 **BCHT registration explored & submitted** (By Year 3, Qtr 2): In November 2022, KEFRI and IIED met with 2 legal experts who had participated in the launch workshop to discuss options for legal registration of the BCHT. They agreed that registration under the Community Lands Act may be challenging as most land in Rabai (outside Kaya forests) is privately owned. It may be easier to establish a Rabai Biocultural Territory Association (comprising Kaya elders and village elders from each village) and register it under the Societies Act. Bylaws for sustainable land use will still need to be developed by the communities to register the Association. We decided to wait until the community has designed the BCHT association and collective governance system before making the final decision on the registration option. It will take time to develop by-laws inclusively and build consensus amongst the 10 villages, so we expect application for registration to be submitted by Year 3 Qtr 2.

1.6 **Blog, briefing, news-story, side-events:** The work to establish a BCHT in Rabai was presented at a side event at the Biodiversity Convention COP15 in Montreal on "Small farmers, farmer seed systems and sustainability" by Chemuku Wekesa (KEFRI), on 9th December 2022. The trip also enabled Chemuku to meet with Kenya's CBD delegation and inform them about the project. IIED co-funded travel to COP15 and side event costs. IIED and KEFRI will prepare a blog to share progress with establishing a BCHT in Rabai and key lessons emerging, building on the mid-term workshop. This is planned for publication in June, and will include a link to the report of the workshop.

Output 2: Cultural Villages / Sustainable livelihoods

2.1 - Establishing Cultural Village enterprises & houses – by Year 2 Qtr 4

- 2.2 Training workshops for beehives & honey by Year 2 Qtr 4
- 2.3 Training workshops for brooms, baskets, oil by Year 2 Qtr 4

A Cultural Village is being established in Bofu village, next to Kaya Fimboni. One traditional house has been built with basic facilities (see photo), and the community has developed a plan and prepared a sketch for building more traditional houses. This activity was delayed as it took longer than expected for the community to agree on the location for the Cultural Village, and given challenges in getting traditional materials to build houses due to drought, but it should be completed by June 2023 (Year 3 Qtr 1). The Cultural Village at Bofu comprises 80% women members and 20% men. Members of the CV groups are also members of micro-enterprises such as broom and cooking stokes (Jikos) production.

Training for bee keeping and honey, broom making and oil production was completed by March 2023 (Year 2 Qtr 4). A training workshop on cooking stoves (Jikos), coconut oil, bee-keeping and broom making was undertaken from 6^h to 8th February 2023, while training on briquette-making was undertaken from 22nd to 24th February 2023. For bee keeping, 146 community members were trained, 157 for cooking stoves, 54 for broom making, 10 for coconut oil and 106 for briquette making (see lists of training participants). The training workshops took 3 days, half a day for theory, followed by practical training. 80% of those trained comprised of women and youth. On average, 47 people were trained from each of the ten villages. A total of 473 people were trained form different forest dependent households; each person trained will be incentivised to train 4-5 neighbours to spread the training to a total of 1600 households. The video clips taken of community members reporting stories of change (as part of the project's participatory M&E) includes training participants giving positive feedback on the training workshops – see video clips submitted (in Swahili). A number of videos were taken Training on basket making will be done in June 2023.

Ten beehives will be installed in 10 BCHT villages – 2 beehives in 5 households (100 beehives in total) – the community requested that the beehives be distributed in this way to ensure good care/maintenance (water etc) (rather than installing 25 beehives in each Kaya). The beehives will be delivered and installed by early May. The BCHT logo will be put on the beehives to promote community ownership beyond the project – alongside the Darwin Initiative logo. The community also requested goats to support income generation – this will be supported by the project in July 2023; the project will work with the local Livestock officer for technical guidance and will prioritise hardy local/traditional breeds.

A draft benefit sharing agreement has been developed by members of broom making enterprise, and broom collection centres have been identified. Members have agreed that benefits will be distributed as follows: 10% of proceeds to go to the communal fund, 5% will go towards environmental conservation initiatives, and the remaining 85% will be equitably divided amongst group members. Brooms are now being sold via a stall on the main road in Rabai (in Mukapani), which acts as the main collection centre. The main market is in Rabai and the bulk buyer has already made a collection. The coconut oil microenterprise is up and running and producing oil manually, mainly for medicinal use (but also for cooking). A coconut extractor will be delivered in early May. Rabai BCHT coconut oil is being sold in markets in Nairobi and Mombasa; packaging and branding will be improved. Bulk buyers have collected 15 litres of oil (which fetches about \$20 per litre), benefiting producers in villages adjacent to the 4 Kayas.

Output 3: Fuel efficient stoves & briquette presses - Planned activities:

- 3.1 Training to produce stoves by Year 2 Qtr 4
- 3.2 Stoves installed by Year 3 Qtr 1
- 3.3 Installing briquette presses & training by Year 2 Qtr 4

Training for production of energy saving stoves (jikos) and briquettes (using fallen twigs & leaves) was completed by end of March 2023 (see Output 2 above). For jikos enterprises, soil quality testing is currently underway and a new soil harvesting site (Lutsangani) has been proposed. A kiln has been purchased to fire the clay earth stoves and will be installed in a central location for all 10 villages. 100 fuel efficient stoves were produced during the training and a further 700 will be produced and 800 installed in forest dependent households by end of June 2023. The coconut microenterprise is already producing briquettes with a small manual machine. 4 electric briquette presses were ordered and delivered to the KEFRI office in Taita Darwin Initiative Main Annual Report Template 2023 5

Hills. The community has identified 4 preferred sites with electricity which have been made secure so the machines can be installed by early May.

Output 4 – Tree restoration – by Year 2 Qtr 4

All planned activities to plant native trees in Kayas and on-farm were completed by May 2022 (Year 2 Qtr1). In 4 Kaya forests (Activity 4.2), the project has planted:

- 4 endangered endemic fuelwood/medicinal/fruit species: *Bauhinia mombassae, Anglocalyx braunii, Combretum tenuipetiolatum, Coffea pseudozanguebariae* and *Afrocanthium kilifiense*
- 2 native palms (*Hyphaene compressa* and *Phoenix reclinata*) and small native palm (elephant shrew habitat/food) (*Encephaiartos hildebrandtii*)
- 15 associated species: Afzelia quanzensis, Sclerocarya birrea, Ziziphus mucronata, Brachystegia spiciformis, Terminalia spinose, Vernonia hildebrandtii, Hymenaea verrucosa, Annona senegalensis, Hyphaene compressa, Tamarindus indica, Julbernardia magnistipulata, Bombax rhodognaphalon, Lannea schweinfurthii, Maytenus buchananii and Acalypha fruticose.

On 400 farms surrounding Kayas (Activity 4.3), the project has planted 10 native fuelwood/multi-purpose tree species: *Azadirachta indica*, *Senna siamea*, *Melia volkensii*, *Cocos nucifera*, *Milicia excels*, *Anacardium occidentale*, *Mangifera indica*, *Psidium guajava*, *Tamarindus indica* and *Citrus limon*.

Conservation and management plans have been agreed by Kaya elders and farmers (Activity 4.4). Monitoring of growth and survival (6-monthly) and maintenance (quarterly) of planted trees has begun and is ongoing. During the mid-term workshop, it was proposed that farmers who take good care of their trees and have the highest level of survival should be rewarded. Commitment by farmers in taking care of trees will be assessed, and drought severity (in some villages) will also be taken into consideration. The proposed reward system is in line with the presidential reward scheme for best performing tree farmers. Kaya elders in best performing Kayas will also be rewarded. The project advisory committee will determine the type of reward to be given with Kaya elders. Green certificates will be issued/awarded to best performing tree farmers under the presidential tree planting award initiative which has many benefits.

Output 5 – Agrobiodiversity restoration

Activity 5.1. Awareness raising meetings by Year 2 Qtr 2: Awareness raising on the importance of traditional crops for resilience and nutrition was conducted through the meetings with 10 villages in May 2022, and is part of all project meetings with Rabai community.

5.2. Farmer Field Schools by Year 3 Qtr 1: We had budgeted a total of £ over the lifetime of the grant for co-funding the FFS and biocultural festivals – which we had hoped would be provided by AHRC, but the proposal was not successful. The project team will apply for IIED internal funds in May, to provide co-funding to organise 8 FFS by end of June 2023.

5.3. Biocultural Festival by Year 2 Qtr 3: We had planned to hold a biocultural festival as part of Rabai's annual New Year festival in late October (Qtr 3). However, this was not possible as we did not have the AHRC co-funds envisaged. Rabai Chiefs received funding for the festival from the county government but did not make this known to the project, and the festival was small-scale in 2022 due to the election. However, we plan to organise a biocultural festival at the next New Year festival in Rabai Cultural Village in October 2023 to share the BCHT activities, results and lessons with all Rabai villages, Rabai Chiefs, Kilifi county government, and with Kaya elders and government officials from other Mijikenda communities including in Kwale county to promote scaling out. The festival will enable exchange of traditional seeds, foods and cultural and spiritual values relating to Kaya forests, and will be co-funded by IIED.

5.4. Community seed bank & register expansion initiated by Year 2 Qtr 2: This has not been initiated as the Farmer Field Schools and biocultural festivals for seed exchange have not been held (as explained in 5.2 and 5.3 above), but work to expand the community seed bank and register will be conducted alongside the FFSs to be held in June. Discussions on how to revive the CSB have been held - the community suggested it should be housed in the Rabai Museum building for relatively cool storage and protection. KEFRI will discuss this with the Rabai Museum and National Museums of Kenya. The community seed register developed through the Darwin Initiative Main Annual Report Template 2023 6

SIFOR project (Smallholder Innovation for Resilience) will be expanded. Traditional seeds gathered through seed exchanges at the Biocultural Festival in October will be added to the community seed bank and register by November 2023 (Year 3 Qtr 3).

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

<u>Output 1:</u> Collective gender-balanced culturally-rooted BCHT institution established for Kaya forest conservation and sustainable development, legally registered and internationally recognised.

Significant progress has been made towards achieving this output. Discussions on the BCHT goal and collective governance institutions were held during meetings with 10 villages including Kaya elders and village elders (200 people in total), in May 2022 (see report on FPIC and community meetings). This was followed by an intervillage meeting, where the community agreed to establish BCHT management committees at village level and landscape level. At the mid-term workshop, Kaya elders, village elders, women and youth also agreed that 'Mudzini' should be the overall goal of the BCHT (see workshop report). Village and landscape level BCHT management committees have been constituted and operationalized with at least 50% women (see report on the constitution of the landscape level committee). Each village committee has developed a draft constitution, ie. rules to guide the BCHT Association and management of the landscape, including objectives, principles and rules/by-laws for conservation and equity; and an intervillage meeting was held on 17-18 April 2023 to harmonise this into a draft Constitution for the BCHT (see report on the constitution of the landscape level committee). KEFRI is currently compiling a report with the results/draft constitution which is expected to be agreed at an inter-village meeting in May or June. A Kenyan lawyer will then be contracted to prepare an application for legal registration of the BCHT, probably as an Association under the Societies Act, which we expect to submit by end of September.

International recognition has been promoted through:

- the project web-page, promoted via Twitter, see: <u>Establishing a biocultural heritage territory</u> to protect Kenya's Kaya forests | International Institute for Environment and Development – this has had 295 page views
- the launch workshop report published on IIED's website, downloaded 68 times.
- a podcast on Mijikenda Kaya forests and the BCHT in Rabai: <u>'Whispers of the Earth'</u> published in October 2022, ahead of CBD COP15, along with a news story on the biocultural heritage website <u>Establishing a biocultural territory in Kenya | Biocultural Heritage (iied.org)</u> (page visited 84 times).
- a presentation at a side event at CBD COP15, attended by about 60 people.

Achievement of this output by end of the project is highly likely, provided the application for registration does not encounter undue bureaucratic hurdles and is accepted.

<u>Output 2:</u> Rabai Cultural Village is strengthened and scaled-out to 1 other Kaya and capacity of 3200 forest-dependent women and youth is built to triple incomes from sustainable products with high demand.

The conflict resolution meeting held on April 2022 (report submitted with half year report) has strengthened relationships between RCV coordinators and Kaya elders and was followed by capacity building by KEFRI to strengthen the record keeping practices of RCV (see first annual report, 3.1). RCV has also been strengthened through the establishment of a new microenterprise for brooms involving 30 women and 10 youth (see broom making training participants list). RCV is being scaled out to establish another Cultural Village in Bofu village, next to Kaya Fimboni. 1 traditional house has been built (see photo attached), and the CV is expected to be completed by July 2023 with the building of 2-3 more traditional houses. Training in sustainable products with high demand – brooms, coconut oil, beekeeping, stove and briquette making, has been provided to 332 forest dependent women and youth (see training lists). Progress has been made with product branding, which was discussed at the midterm workshop and a subsequent meeting with KEFRI. The community has agreed to name the

association "Rabai Biocultural Heritage Territory Association" and to include the following slogan on products "celebrating Rabai culture for intergenerational benefit"; the wording proposed for the actual logo is "Rabai Kaya Product". The final logo and brand specifications will be agreed at a meeting with the community in the 2nd week of May, and will then be sent to a designer. The output is likely to be achieved by end of the project - the CV will definitely be scaled out to 1 other Kaya by then. The baseline survey found monthly incomes ranging from KES 1,000 to 40,000, with an average of KES 13,125 or USD109 per month. Some microenterprises have started to generate income, and all will be doing so by end of June. As microenterprises become established and grow, women and youth will be able to join several microenterprises which should enable them to triple their incomes by the end of the project. Domestic tourism is also expected to grow following Covid and to generate income from products sold at the Rabai Museum and cultural villages.

Output 3: 800 fuel-efficient stoves and 4 briquette-making machines are installed, halving fuelwood consumption, reducing pressure on endangered fuelwood trees and enhancing income.

The baseline condition is zero fuel-efficient stoves and steady degradation of Kaya forests. To date 157 people have been trained in how to make a fuel efficient stove (see training list), and 100 fuel efficient stoves have been produced during the training. A total of 800 stoves will be produced and installed by end of June, once the kiln is installed in early May. The 4 briquette presses will be installed by early May. The number of households using the fuel efficient stoves and briquette presses and level of fuelwood use per household will be assessed through a household survey in November/December 2023 and at the end of the project (September 2024). We feel that the project is likely to achieve this output by its end, with Outputs 1 (establishing a BCHT), 2 (sustainable products) and 4 (planting trees on farm) also helping to reduce pressure on endangered trees in Kaya forests.

Output 4: Endangered endemic fuelwood species, threatened native trees and elephant-shrew food/habitat are restored in degraded Kayas (50 ha), and on-farm (80 ha) providing alternative fuelwood, medicine and fruit and enhancing ecological connectivity.

All planned activities to restore native trees in Kayas and on-farm were completed by May 2022. The project has planted 4 endangered fuelwood, medicinal and fruit species, 2 native palms and small native palm (elephant shrew habitat/food) and 15 associated species were planted in degraded sites in 4 Kaya forests (approximately 50 ha in total). On farm, 10 native fuelwood and multi-purpose trees were planted covering 400 farms (80 ha); the species were selected with communities. The planted trees should start providing alternative medicine, fruit and fuelwood sources by end of the project. 6-monthly monitoring of survival and growth and quarterly maintenance of trees planted in Kayas and on-farm began in January 2023 and is ongoing. The latest survey which is being completed indicates a 75% survival rate. Surveys of tree survival and growth rate in the 4 Kayas and 400 farms will be conducted again in November/December 2023 and at the end of the project. A survey of elephant shrew was also conducted in the 4 Kayas in December 2022, using camera traps and transect walks. This output is likely to be completed by end of the project.

Output 5: Traditional crops and agroecological practices are restored and indigenous vegetables 'domesticated' on 800 farms, enhancing resilience, nutrition, ecological connectivity and butterflies, and reducing pressure on Kayas

Awareness about the importance of traditional crops and agroecological practices has been increased through the launch workshop, meetings with all 10 project villages in May 2022 involving 200 participants and through all other project meetings. However, the main activity to deliver this output - 8 Farmer Field Schools to train 400 farmers to restore traditional crops and agroecological practices - has been delayed as co-funding expected from AHRC did not materialise (our proposal was not successful). IIED will seek internal funding for this so that the FFFs can be held by June 2023, which is 1 year and 1 guarter (15 months) before the end of the project. We believe this is enough time for 400 trained farmers to share seeds and knowledge for restoration by another 400 neighbouring farming households, particularly given limited rainfall in Rabai in recent years and the need for drought tolerant traditional crops. The baseline survey recorded an average of 5 traditional crops grown by each household (the range being 1-10 crops); and use of chemical inputs (fertilizers, pesticides and fungicides) by about Darwin Initiative Main Annual Report Template 2023 8

60% of households (see baseline report). The survey will be repeated again in December 2023 and at the end of the project. A butterfly survey was also conducted at the start of the project, which found 51 different species in Kaya forests (see baseline report); a survey of butterfly species on farm was also conducted but the data has not yet been summarised and added to the report. The two butterfly surveys will be repeated at the end of the project. FFF follow-up meetings will be held with farmers in December 2023 to provide further technical support and assess progress with restoration of traditional crops and agroecological practices, and farmers will be asked to report on changes in resilience, nutrition and butterfly sightings on-farm. Short interviews will be video recorded for PM&E and presented at the final project workshop. This output is expected to be achieved by the end of the project. Pressure on Kayas will be evaluated at the end of the project through tree, elephant shrew and butterfly surveys (Outcome indicator 0.1).

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

<u>Outcome</u>: Biodiversity and endangered species are protected and restored in Rabai's Kaya forests and surrounding farming landscapes, poverty is reduced, culture and TK revitalised and indigenous peoples and women empowered.

Progress has been made in raising awareness of farmers, women and youth of the need to protect Kaya forests and empowering Kaya elders to enforce conservation rules through the establishment of village and landscape BCHT committees. But the forests are still being degraded, with increased youth unemployment since Covid, low rainfall/drought reducing food security, and migration into the area adding pressure on forests (see mid term workshop report). However, we expect this pressure to be notably reduced in the next 6 months with growing income from alternative livelihoods and employment in microenterprises. It is also likely that the county government will provide funds to employ youths to work alongside Kaya elders to protect forests – following the mid-term workshop where the Member of County Assembly mentioned that Kilifi county government has a fund that can support Rabai Kaya forest conservation, and a visit to the MCA by the project team (see mid term workshop report).

The project has gained good community support, as evident from active engagement of about 60 community members, including women, youth and local officials in the mid-term workshop. However, there are about 80,000 people in Rabai. The 6 microenterprises will all be up and running soon and will be expanded over the next 6 months to engage about 3200 forest-dependent women and youth. To raise wider awareness, KEFRI plans to produce a 10-12 minute video on Rabai's BCHT and the need to protect Kayas including interviews with local leaders, to show at festivals and public events and share through social media. The community wants to set up a social media page for the BCHT once the logo is ready. The video will cost about USD5,000 – IIED will seek co-funds for this internally. Activities to address other challenges identified at the mid-term workshop will be implemented and monitored through regular meetings with the community – eg. inter-faith dialogues to engage Christian residents in BCHT activities, and revival of Rome (traditional family gatherings involving elders) to transfer traditional ecological knowledge and values to youth.

Good progress has been made with restoring endangered tree species in 4 Kayas and surrounding farming landscapes, with planting completed by May 2022 for 4 endangered and 2 threatened tree species, 15 associated species and small native palm on 50 ha of degraded forests (4 Kayas) and trees on 400 farms. The emerging data from latest monitoring indicates a tree survival rate of 75%. However, less progress has so far been made with restoring agrobiodiversity (see sections 3.1 and 3.2). Capacity building to generate income is almost complete and 5 different microenterprises have been established and have started or are about to start generating income. The project has trained 473 producers and with a multiplier effect, it is expected that each will share their skills with 4-5 other households, enabling about 1600 households to engage in microenterprises by December 2023. Training in basket making will be conducted by June 2023. The baseline survey shows an average household income of USD 109/month rather than \$40/month, so the indicator needs to be adjusted to "increased income from a baseline average of \$100/month in 2022, to \$200/month by 2023 and \$300/month by 2024".

The project has started to revitalise cultural values and traditional knowledge of Kaya elders by recognising their vital importance for Kaya forest conservation, climate resilience and food security. It has increased respect of Kaya elders amongst youth from a baseline of 40% (indicator 0.5) through participation of youth in all project activities – particularly microenterprises and the mid-term workshop. A youth organisation representative at the workshop said the workshop had shown that claims that Kaya elders are engaged in witchcraft are false (see draft workshop report). The baseline shows that 75% of youth participate in the annual New year festival and other cultural events. Therefore we suggest that the sub-indicator in indicator 0.5 "attendance of traditional ceremonies increases by 50%" is changed to "number of traditional ceremonies celebrated by the community". The project has started to empower the Rabai community by establishing a collective BCHT institution that can better protect its land and resource rights and strengthen the community's voice and influence, and by building government support. It has empowered women by enabling 50 women to take on leadership roles in microenterprises and village and landscape BCHT committees (indicator 0.5).

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

The following assumptions have changed:

0.2 & 4.1 – "rainfall patterns remain largely unchanged" - rainfall has declined rather than remaining unchanged and this has resulted in periods of limited water availability for planted tree seedlings and beekeeping – the project will support farmers to put in place water harvesting measures and to get funding from the county government to dig boreholes. 2.2 – "beehives thrive in forest" – beehives will be installed on farm to overcome water challenges.

2.2 – "access to sufficient sustainable sources of raw material" – reduced rainfall has killed some palm trees; palms have been restored, but while they mature, sustainable sources outside the community have been identified.

We could add an outcome level assumption: The BCHT process gets buy-in from 80,000 people in Rabai, including people who identify mainly as Christian.

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

Impact: Self-sustaining BCHT is established in Rabai, conserving biodiversity in 4 Kaya forests (580 ha) and farmland (14,000 ha) and reducing poverty, and scaled-out across Kilifi and Kwale counties

It is too early to measure impacts on biodiversity and poverty - this will be done through the mid-term survey in November/December 2023 and the final project survey. However, the project has conducted several activities that aim to achieve this impact. It has raised awareness amongst at least 473 forest dependent households (80% women and youth) in 10 Rabai villages of the importance of protecting Kaya forests to conserve globally threatened species (endemic trees, elephant shrew, butterflies) and genetic resources for food and adaptation, enhance water resources, and protect ancestral heritage which can help generate tourism revenue (see workshop reports, training lists, report of community meetings). It has conducted surveys of biodiversity in Kayas (endemic trees, elephant shrew, butterflies) and is restoring endangered trees, associated species and elephant shrew habitat in degraded areas in 4 Kayas (see baseline report, mid-term workshop report). It has raised awareness of the importance of conserving traditional crops and sharing seed for food security during recurring drought (reports of community meetings and project workshops). It is empowering Kaya elders to better enforce Kaya forest conservation rules through the creation of village and landscape BCHT committees that bring together village elders and Kaya elders and will develop by-laws for conservation and equity (see report on landscape committee and mid-term workshop). It has established 5 microenterprises which are about to become operational to provide alternative income to 473 forest dependent youth and women, will provide training in basketry to all villages by June 2023, and each person trained is expected to train a further 4-5 households, enabling about 1600 households to generate alternative income (c.400 per Kaya). It is beginning to build a collective social movement to restore Rabai cultural values (sacredness of land etc), identity and rights and responsibilities. It has planted trees on farm for

food and fuelwood which will reduce pressure on Kayas when they begin to mature towards the end of the project, and is installing fuel efficient stoves in 800 HHs and 4 briquette machines to reduce dependence on fuelwood from endangered trees in Kayas. These measures together are expected to result in transition to sustainable livelihoods that conserve biodiversity and reduce poverty.

In order for the BCHT to be self-sustaining, the project is taking a highly community-led approach: it is engaging 5 'community researchers' (each responsible for 2 villages) as part of the project team to co-design activities and build capacity; it is establishing collective governance institutions for the BCHT which will be legally registered; seeks to create a lasting social movement for cultural revival and rights; and is establishing links to markets for sustainable products with high demand via bulk buyers and collection centres, as well as 2nd Cultural Village to promote ecotourism. Inspired by the Potato Park experience, village elders at the mid-term workshop proposed to establish a communal fund for benefit-sharing (where a % of revenues is invested) to support poverty reduction and conservation activities beyond the project. The project has actively engaged key government officials - Rabai Chiefs, Kilifi county government, NMK and KFS (eg. via the PAC and project workshops) to build support and promote wider scaling out. We will support other Mijikenda communities from Kilifi and Kwale counties (including Kaya elders and Chiefs) to participate in biocultural festivals in October 2023 and at the end of the project to share the BCHT initiative and promote scaling-out, including from Kaya Kambe, building on the exchange visit during the mid-term workshop.

4. **Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements**

The project coordinator, Dr. Wekesa was part of the Kenya delegation at COP15, in Montreal Canada and contributed to the discussion on how to align Kenya's NBSAP with the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework, drawing on the project. The outputs of project are also contributing to the process to develop a national and county government mainstreaming framework for biodiversity conservation. The BCHT concept has also been included in the resource mobilization strategy for biodiversity conservation by county government of Kilifi.

The project activities and outputs have been shared with KEFRI board of management which has Dr. Lucy Wambui Ng'ang'a as one of the board members. Dr. Ng'ang'a is the Assistant Director, MEAs in the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and a Convention on Biological Diversity focal point in Kenya. Dr. Ng'ang'a was also part of Kenyan delegation at COP15, where the project work was shared with Kenyan delegates.

5. Project support to poverty reduction

Rabai has high levels of poverty with 70% of the community living below the poverty line. The baseline survey found an average HH income of \$109 a month, which is about \$3.5 per household per day, which is below the UN extreme poverty line of \$2.15 per person per day (see survey report). The project is targeting poor women and youth in particular. It has trained 473 people to establish microenterprises of whom 80% are poor women and youth, and will provide training to approximately 100 more people in basket making and goats to enhance incomes. Each person trained is expected to share their skills with 4-5 other households, which is expected to double household incomes for about 1600 households by end of 2023, and triple household incomes by end of the project as people get involved in more than 1 enterprise. The community microenterprises are establishing a communal fund to share a % of the revenues with the poorest people in the community (eq. orphans, widows, disabled). The project is supporting Rabai to establish a collective BCHT institution that will enhance community capacity to defend its land and resource rights from pressures for industrial development and to negotiate with more powerful external actors (eg. companies, local government, politicians, investors). This, along with revival of culture is expected to enhance wellbeing, identity and community cohesion, while recognition of traditional knowledge is enhancing the dignity, pride and social status of marginalised groups such as Kaya elders and women farmers, and is expected to improve the personal security of Kaya elders. This has been evident at project workshops – which have been designed to give voice and recognition to Kaya elders and traditional knowledge. See mid-term workshop report.

6. Gender equality and social inclusion

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	The project does not have a project Board. 3 out of 5 community researchers on the project team are women. The Project Advisory Committee includes 2 women, ie. 30% of community representatives are women
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women ² .	None

The project has conducted analysis of gender roles in the community with separate FGDs as part of the baseline study. The findings show that most decisions at household level and related to farming and natural resources are made by men, and that women have low capacity for negotiation in value chains (see baseline survey report). Men believe that they should make decisions about culture, rather than women (see report of community meetings). The project team held an in-depth discussion with IIED's gender and MEL advisor to identify ways to address culture-based gender inequity, such as highlighting instances where decisions made by women have led to positive outcomes, and talking to women at the margins of project meetings to continually monitor how they are included in and affected by project activities. As per log frame indicator 0.5, the project has enabled 50 women to take on leadership roles in community enterprises, villages committees and landscape committee, and in the Kaya elders' Council. Women still don't have full decision-making power in the Kaya elders' council and the project is trying to encourage Kaya elders to address this, with reference to traditional concepts such as Mudzini that require balance in society and with nature.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

The forest and tree baseline surveys were conducted in March-April 2002 when seedlings were planted in 4 Kayas and on-farm, while the socio-economic household survey (income, traditional crops) and gender analysis were conducted from June to August 2022. The socio-economic survey targeted 50 households adjacent to the 4 Kaya forests and an additional 100 households through Focus Group Discussions. The mid-term survey in November-December 2023 survey will target all households involved in microenterprises, which is expected to be around 400 HHs per Kaya or 1600 in total, and will record monthly household income before and after participation in the microenterprises (for households not included in the baseline survey). It will also assess changes in the number of traditional crops grown and indigenous vegetables domesticated and in the use of chemical inputs.

The butterfly survey was completed in October 2022 and the elephant shrew survey in December 2022 (due to the delay with getting support from Kenya Wildlife Service). Meetings were held with all 10 villages in May 2022 to help design the baseline survey. The community reaffirmed the need to monitor many of the indicators identified (eg. income, Kaya forest conservation) and also proposed social indicators around cohesion, trust and participation which were included in baseline survey and will be monitored in the mid-term and final surveys. The meetings also provided some useful insights on gender dynamics and confirmed this as a key area for M&E. See report of community meetings.

KEFRI has had regular meetings with the community – it has visited Rabai at least once a month to facilitate project activities and meet with community researchers, Kaya elders, village

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¹ A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

² Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

elders, women and youth to monitor progress with activities. Trees planted in Kayas are being monitored weekly by Kaya elders involved in planting, and trees planted on-farm are being monitored weekly by farmers, in accordance with agreed conservation and management plans. The project has begun conducting monthly monitoring and guarterly maintenance of planted trees and this is ongoing. Initial monitoring was done in January 2023 by a Kenya Forest Service officer (Truphena) and community researchers. The first in-depth M&E of tree seedlings planted on farm and in Kayas including survival and establishment is being finalised. Maintenance and management is being conducted alongside this to ensure seedlings are getting enough water during dry spells and protected from grazing animals and to replace dead seedlings during the long rains. All planted trees are being assessed, guided by a list of beneficiaries households. This approach where responsibility for monitoring is shared by Kaya elders and farmers is working well, as they have a stake in tree survival and have been offered prizes for the best survival rates. Community researchers will continue to conduct monthly monitoring of trees planted in their 2 villages and adjacent Kayas and will report any problems to the project. Kaya elders are monitoring degradation in Kayas through regular visits for rituals and prayers.

KEFRI has participated in all the training sessions held from January to March 2023 for alternative livelihoods to monitor effectiveness and attendance levels. Following a discussion with IIED's gender MEL advisor on 23 January (see note of meeting), KEFRI has organised side meetings with women during project meetings to ensure that the project is not imposing unseen costs on them and is benefiting them. KEFRI has also consulted Kaya elders and community researchers to ensure that there have been no further disputes following the conflict resolution workshop in April 2023.

IIED has held monthly meetings with the two project coordinators at KEFRI – Chemuku Wekesa and Leila Ndalilo - to provide mentoring on establishing a BCHT and discuss progress with activities. IIED has also monitored progress through meetings with key stakeholders – notably the PAC meeting in November 2022 and the mid-term workshop on 7-9 March 2023. KEFRI and community researchers have facilitated participatory M&E using the Most Significant Change approach – the following key areas to monitor were identified by the community (report of community meetings): unity of purpose and trust among community members, improved income, women's involvement in the management of the landscape, restoring traditional foods which are healthy and nutritious, improved Kaya forests conditions, respecting traditional laws/regulations/rules and strengthened Kaya council of elders. A number of videos were taken of community members providing 'stories of change' (in Swahili).

The elephant shrew population was estimated at between 6 and 40 across the 4 Kayas, based on camera traps and existing snares and nests. The survey was undertaken within a short period of time; hence it was difficult to establish the exact population of the elephant shrew. A longer term study using camera traps mounted on the trails for 30 days will be done in May-June to provide more accurate baseline data on the population status of the species.

A mid-term M&E survey/study will be conducted in October-December 2023, to repeat the baseline surveys conducted in March-December 2022, including a survey of tree and butterfly populations and diversity and elephant-shrews populations in 4 Kayas; a household survey of incomes, traditional crops and vegetables domesticated and Kaya fuelwood use; and interviews or focus groups with elders, women and youth to assess progress with empowering elders and women and revitalising culture. These surveys will explore and are expected to demonstrate how the outputs and activities are contributing to the project outcome.

8. Lessons learnt

It has become increasingly clear that Rabai provides a far more challenging context for establishing a BCHT than the Andes of Peru, due to weaker cultural and spiritual values amongst much of the population except for Kaya elders and different religions, higher population and poverty, exacerbated in the last 2 years by drought and reliance on markets for food, putting pressure on Kaya forests. Christians have not wanted to participate in project activities saying that they do not share Rabai sacred Kaya forest culture – this could be a problem for enforcing BCHT conservation by-laws on private land and in Kaya forests. Hence

the project is planning to hold inter-cultural dialogues to highlight the vital importance of Rabai culture to preserve Kaya forests for climate resilience, food security and livelihoods/eco-tourism for the benefit for the whole community, and the need for dual religions (as practiced by Rabai's Muslims). The patterns of migration to Rabai will also be further explored to understand and mitigate potential impacts on the BCHT. Youth unemployment has increased post-Covid putting additional pressure on Kaya forests. A strong and early focus on microenterprises is absolutely vital for establishing a BCHT in this context – targeting high demand products, ensuring sufficient raw materials for sustainable supply, and engaging as many households as possible, particularly those dependent on forests (which may not all be close to forests).

The community-led approach has been very much appreciated by the community and has helped to foster active engagement in project activities, as has the recognition of traditional knowledge. The coordinators at KEFRI held meetings with all villages to co-design the activities which enhanced local ownership, deepened understanding of community challenges (on biodiversity, livelihoods, culture, gender etc), and generated several useful suggestions, including additional indicators for M&E of the process to establish a BCHT (eg. unity of purpose and trust) (see report of community meetings). The project has addressed the community's suggestions and requests wherever possible. IIED noticed a clear difference in their approach to facilitation at the mid-term workshop, compared to the launch workshop, from being more instructive and prescriptive (including in tone of voice and body language) to handing over decisions to the community, eq. when IIED made a suggestion at the mid-term workshop. KEFRI said that it was up to the community to decide. This shows that it is possible for scientists from a government research organisation to change their facilitation style and take a highly participatory and decolonising approach in a relatively short time, with mentoring and guidance (from IIED). The active participation of 60 villagers for 3 whole days in the workshop suggests that KEFRI's community-led approach has been effective in generating community buy-in and ownership. The project activities and implementation approach have stressed the importance of the process to establish the BCHT, rather than focusing only on the project, to encourage community ownership and sustainability/continuity of the initiative beyond the project.

The community, particularly village elders and Kaya elders, have enthusiastically taken up a number of innovations from the Potato Park biocultural territory and adapted them to the local context - eg. establishing inclusive village and landscape committees, collective microenterprises and norms for benefit-sharing with the poorest people and to support ecological goals. The community is more united than before to protect and conserve Kaya forests and associated biodiversity both in Kayas and on farmlands - the project activities and approach have enhanced unity of purpose. The community now appreciates that climate change is real, and that biodiversity and Kaya forests are key in building their resilience and adaptation.

Working with community researchers as part of the project team has brought capacity and employment benefits to the community - eq. Aisha, the least educated community researcher said (at the mid-term workshop) that she has learnt to use a computer and social media thanks to the project. Working with community researchers has also ensured all activities are codesigned with communities and are facilitated with or by community members, enhancing community ownership. The community researchers were proposed by the community and regularly report to the Kaya elders and village elders and get guidance from them, promoting community leadership and accountability to the community as well as the project. However, the two most powerful (male) community researchers (from Rabai Cultural Village) have been a bit unreliable as they have at times prioritised other work for local politicians over conducting agreed project activities. KEFRI has made it clear that we will not renew their annual contracts if they do not do the work agreed in the time agreed. The other community researchers (3) women, less educated) have been very reliable and hard working.

The national election caused longer delays to activities than expected, as it was hard to engage community researchers and members for 5 months (April to August) due to involvement in political campaigning. This delayed the completion of the baseline study. The delay was also due to a community dispute, in which a Kaya elder accused a RCV community researcher of taking funds and assets that were meant to be for Kaya elders; and due to the slow response from KWS to provide support for the elephant shrew survey which added another 2 months' delay. A key lesson and recommendation for Darwin projects is to start project activities and the Darwin Initiative Main Annual Report Template 2023

launch workshop as quickly as possible – as the baseline surveys can take time and face unforeseen delays. Our approach to the community dispute was to use existing community dispute resolution mechanisms and that resolved the dispute quite quickly and effectively. However, we suspect that the 2 community researchers from RCV are not 100% trustworthy and do not always prioritise the interests of the community – hence we will not transfer any project funding via RCV. However, they do have power and influence in the community and links to politicians so there could be repercussions for the project if they feel they are unfairly dismissed and we need to handle the situation carefully.

By establishing a self-governed BCHT, the project is shifting power away from Rabai's Chiefs who are appointed government officials (introduced by British colonial rule) to Kaya elders and village elders. To enhance recognition of the importance of Kaya elders and traditional knowledge, the mid-term workshop gave space for Kaya elders to speak while others including government officials listened. Rabai Chiefs appeared in their official uniforms carrying batons on the last day of the workshop, probably to assert their power and authority. It will be important to continue to engage Chiefs and higher level officials actively in the project to ensure the Chiefs support the BCHT.

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

All the recommendations from the review of the last Annual Report have been address through:

- 1) Project summary included in this report
- 2) Reports and minutes of project meetings included in this report
- 3) The setting of the baseline was prioritised in Year 2 quarter 1 but was delayed by factors beyond our control as explained above (election, community dispute, KWS)
- 4) A change request for Log Frame indicators 1.1 and 1.2 was submitted in December 2022.
- 5) Progress in relation to the outcome was presented in the half year report and this report
- 6) The mainstreaming of project activities in Kilifi county integrated development plans and KEFRI annual plans was highlighted in the half year report. Conservation and restoration of Kayas has been prioritised in KEFRI's annual plan for 2023, and in the Kilifi county integrated development plan.
- 7) Comments on the feedback from the DEC was provided on 30 August 2021. Additional responses to the comments in the award letter were provided in the half year report.

A revised timeline was submitted in December 2022 to reflect the changes in the timing for indicators 1.1 and 1.2. However, we forgot to also add Activity 4.5 on monitoring & maintenance of trees as indicated in our response to the comments from DEC – this has now been done in the revised timeline submitted with this report.

10. Risk Management

Yes a new potential risk has arisen – we are no longer confident that the 2 community researchers who coordinate RCV are 100% trustworthy. Therefore we have decided not to issue a sub-grant to RCV or to transfer any project funds to them, except for the individual monthly salary that goes to every community researcher. As their delivery of project activities has been slow at times, we will only renew their contracts if things improve. There is also termination clause in their contracts, which can be used at any time, based on evidence to be submitted to KEFRI senior management. Also, it is possible that some Rabai Chiefs may be reluctant to devolve power to Kaya elders and village elders, therefore KEFRI will visit Rabai Chiefs monthly and engage them in project activities and the PAC to build support.

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

IIED has developed a proposal to support a few Rabai Chiefs, youth, women and elders to visit the Potato Park in Peru following requests by women and Chiefs – we feel this is important for capacity building and mobilising community action. We will keep trying to fundraise for this to happen in autumn 2023 or spring 2024 (provided the security situation in Peru improves). The main difficulty was the community dispute that arose in April 2023 – this has been resolved (see report of the resolution meeting submitted with the half-year report). The situation is being monitored during regular visits to the community by KEFRI (at least monthly).

12. Sustainability and legacy

A meeting was held with Rabai's Area Chiefs in April 2022 to present the project and the BCHT concept, including presentations by ANDES (Peru) on the Potato Park and by IIED, where the Chiefs expressed their support. Village meetings were then held in May 2022 to present the project and co-design the activities with at least 20 key stakeholders in 10 project villages (200 people). Meetings were also held with Kilifi county government officials, including the new County governor, to present the project and enhance its profile. The county director for Culture has been very active and supportive of the project from the start. 3 high-level Kilifi County government officials participated in the mid-term workshop: a Member of County Assembly, the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Gender and Culture, and the County Chief Officer for Gender and Culture. This means that the project is guite well known and supported by the county government. The active engagement of these politicians in the 1st day of the workshop, and of 60 participants including Area Chiefs for 3 full days provides evidence for increasing interest in the project – the mid-term workshop engaged about 30 more community members and government representatives than the launch workshop. We have also spoken to the person responsible for Darwin projects at the British High Commission in Nairobi (Anita Siro), who will visit the project soon and may arrange a visit by the UK High Commissioner. According to Anita, this could lead to additional UK funding from other sources.

A project web-page has been set up with open access outputs: the launch workshop report and a podcast on the work to establish a BCHT in Rabai, and links to other open access IIED publications on biocultural territories.

The intended sustainable benefits post-project are still valid: we expect the microenterprises to expand to benefit more people in Rabai and the availability of natural resources for microenterprises and subsistence to increase as trees planted mature - including palm trees, fuelwood, fruit and medicinal trees. We expect that this, along with the establishment of a collective governance system and rules for the BCHT, cultural revitalisation and the need to mitigate climate change impacts, will lead to substitution of forest-degrading livelihoods with alternative livelihoods and reduce pressure on Kaya. We expect that the community-led approach and the establishment of an inclusive community institution that is legally registered and empowers the community to control development in Rabai and protect its land and resource rights, along with cultural revitalisation and growth in the local economy, will create a social movement that continues to strengthen the power and authority of the BCHT and related benefits for biodiversity and poverty, beyond the project. IIED and KEFRI plan to continue providing technical support to the BCHT in Rabai beyond the project until it is self-sustaining. A communal fund will be established with a percentage of profits from microenterprises so that the community has its own source of funding to continue investing in biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction beyond the project.

13. Darwin Initiative identity

A link to the Darwin Initiative is provided on the project webpage. The DI logo was included on the back cover of the launch workshop report. The DI logo will be included on all equipment installed in Rabai purchased with DI funds. DI funding have been recognised at all project workshops and meetings with the community and government agencies – but we have equally emphasised the importance of the community-led BCHT process that goes beyond the project to promote community ownership and sustained impact. The DI is well known amongst the environment community in Kenya, in government, research and NGO sectors – it is less well known amongst the culture and heritage community in Kenya and the project is helping to address this gap. IIED tweeted to announce the launch of the project page and publication of the launch workshop report – the latter tweet referred to the DI.

14. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in	No		
Have any concerns been investigated in the pa	ast 12 months	No	
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?			
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?Yes/No [If yes, please provide date and det of training]			
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding? Past: 75 % [3] Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses. No			
Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify. No			

15. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

All figures reported below are **indicative only**, since we are still preparing the financial expenditure reports with partners (due in May).

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2022/23 Grant (£)	2022/23 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (se below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				

Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Monitoring &				
Evaluation (M&E)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	د 109,805	± 109,805		

Table 2: Project mobilising of matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

	Matched funding secured to date	Total matched funding expected by end of project
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project.		
Total additional finance mobilised by new activities building on evidence, best practices and project (£)		

16. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

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

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption, country and credit	Online accounts to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact Self-sustaining Biocultural Heritage Territory is established in Rabai, conserving biodiversity in 4 Kaya forests (580 ha) and farmland (14,000 ha) and reducing poverty, and scaled-out across Kilifi and Kwale counties.		BCHT institutions established at village and landscape level, and draft principles and rules for biodiversity conservation and equity developed. Sustainable microenterprises established and training provided.	
Outcome (Insert agreed project Outcome statement) Biodiversity and endangered species are protected and restored in Rabai's Kaya forests and surrounding farming landscapes, poverty is reduced, culture and TK revitalised, and indigenous peoples and women empowered.	 0.1 By 2024, forest degradation is significantly reduced or halted in Kaya Bomu, Kaya Fimboni, Kaya Mudzi Muvya and Kaya Mudzi Mwiru, as indicated by little or no reduction in the density and diversity of endangered or threatened trees (excluding restored trees), and an increase in elephant shrew and butterfly populations, compared to baselines established in 2022. 0.2 By 2024, 4 endangered endemic and 2 threatened native tree species, c. 15 associated species, and small native palm (elephant-shrew habitat), are restored in a total area of 50 ha of degraded forest in 4 Kayas; and 10 native fuelwood/multi-purpose tree species are restored on 400 surrounding farms (100 farms/ Kaya), covering 80 ha in total (0.2 ha per farm) – with at least 75% survival rate. 0.3 Sustainable products increase incomes of 3200 forest-dependent women and youth (1600 households) from 2022 baseline of c.\$30-40/month 	 (Report against the indicators on progress towards achieving the project Outcome) 0.1 Trees planted on 400 farms adjacent to 4 Kayas, 5 microenterprises established for alternative livelihoods, collective BCHT institutions for conservation and equity at landscape level created, and awareness enhanced, to reduce pressure on Kaya forests. 0.2 Endangered & endemic trees have been planted in 4 Kayas: 4 endangered endemic and 2 threatened native species, c.15 associated species, and small native palm (elephant-shrew habitat); and 10 native fuelwood/multi-purpose tree species have been planted on 400 surrounding farms (100 farms/ Kaya). 0.3 Training to develop 5 sustainable products has been delivered to 473 people from different households (average of 47 per village) and each person trained will be encouraged to share training with 4-5 households in line with cultural values (eg. 	 (Highlight key actions planned for next period) 0.1 Monitoring trees planted onfarm; installing final equipment and training for basketry and goats; agreeing landscape level by-laws and registering BCHT association; video of BCHT produced to raise wider awareness. 0.2 Monitoring trees planted in Kayas on-farm: weekly by Kaya elders and farmers, monthly by community researchers and 6-monthly through project surveys; and quarterly maintenance. 0.3 Bee hives, briquette presses and kiln to be installed in early May; about 100 more people to be trained in basketry; support for goat keeping to be explored.

	 to: \$65/month by 2023, and \$100/month by 2024 (\$3.3/day). 0.4 By 2024, 800 forest-dependent farmers (at least 50% women) have restored 4 traditional crops and domesticated 4 indigenous vegetables on-farm compared to a baseline in 2022. 0.5 By 2024, Kaya elders are better respected by youth and relations between them improve; the number of conservation resolutions passed by the Kaya Elders' Council being successfully implemented increases; attendance of traditional ceremonies increases by 50%; and 50 women have taken on leadership roles (in Kaya Elders' Council, BCHT institution, Cultural Villages and micro-enterprises, and as community researchers), compared to baselines in 2022. 	 collectiveness) during meetings to develop branding 0.4 Awareness of about 473 farmers raised of the value of traditional crops and indigenous vegetables through project/BCHT meetings, training for microenterprises, project workshops. 0.5 Respect and relations between youth and Kaya elders have improved with engagement in microenterprise training, project meetings and the mid- term workshop; the baseline study found high attendance of traditional ceremonies (over 50%) but only 2 ceremonies so the no. of traditional ceremonies attended may be a better indicator; and 50 women have taken on leadership roles through project activities. 	 Logo of BCHT to be designed, labels created and packaging improved for products. Those training will be encouraged to share training with neighbours, in accordance with the Rabai values of solidarity and collectiveness. 0.4 IIED to apply for internal co- funds in May so that 8 Farmer Field Schools can be held by June/July 2023; followed by quarterly follow-up meetings and seed exchanges. 0.5 Engaging youth in all project & BCHT meetings and microenterprises and securing funds to employ youth to protect Kaya forests; meetings to agree BCHT by-laws at landscape level; focusing on revival of TK, cultural and spiritual values and traditional ceremonies in all project & BCHT activities and holding 2 biocultural festivals.
Output 1. (Insert agreed Outputs with activities relevant to that Outputs in lines below. Activities relevant to more than one Output should be cross- referenced rather than repeated) Collective gender-balanced culturally- rooted Rabai Biocultural Heritage institution (or 'Association') established for Kaya forest conservation and sustainable development, legally	(Insert original Output level indicators) 1.1 By mid-2022, Kaya elders and 10 village leaders have agreed to establish a collective BCHT institution comprising 30-50% women; and by mid-2023 have agreed culturally-rooted objectives, guiding principles and rules for conservation and equity (eg. prohibitions on felling trees, grazing in Kayas, selling land).	 (Report general progress against indicators, and reference where evidence is provided e of report and Annex X)) 1.1 Collective BCHT institutions have been level comprising 30-50% women; and exculturally rooted objectives, guiding primequity which will be used as the basis for at further community meetings in May/Jeres 	.g. Evidence provided in section 3.2 constituted at village and landscape ach village BCHT has proposed ciples and rules for conservation and or agreeing by-laws at landscape level
registered, and internationally recognised.	1.2 By September 2023, proposed BCHT institution has been presented to local government agencies; suitable	1.2 Options for registration under Communi Association have been explored and the BCHT Constitution has been agreed by decision on how to register the BCHT w	e latter looks most feasible. Once the the community in May, a final

	option for registration identified; and documents for registration submitted.	BCHT institution will be presented to loo experts will prepare the documents for		
	1.3 By 2024, BCHT institution has been legally registered in Kenya.	 September 2023. 1.4. A blog on the project will be published by late May or early June 2023. The project page has had 295 views, the page with the COP15 podcast has been visited 84 times, and the report of the launch workshop has been downloaded 		
	1.4 By June 2023, blog on the project is downloaded 100 times. By 2024, briefing paper, case study (English, Swahili) and news-story on the BCHT are downloaded 100 times each; Rabai BCHT is presented at CBD and FAO side events; and journal article on the BCHT and biodiversity-culture- livelihoods links is submitted to open access journal.			
Activity 1.1 Project launch/inception workshop to discuss and plan the project with local stakeholders and establish the Project Advisory Group (involving NMK and local environment/forest, culture, agriculture and development officials).		(Report completed or progress on activities that contribute toward achieving this Output)	(Outline what will be carried out in the next period)	
		Completed		
Activity 1.2 Training and co-design works elders and community researchers on Pa and tools for establishing collectively ma	articipatory Action Research methods	Completed		
1.3 FPIC meetings are held in 10 villages (and baseline surveys).	s in Rabai. Gender analysis conducted	Completed		
1.4 Village and inter-village meetings are held to discuss and agree BCHT objectives and rules; and the results are documented and presented to local government agencies through project advisory group.		Village and inter-village meetings held to agree BCHT objectives/vision; village meetings held to develop rules for conservation and equity	Community wide meeting will be held in early June 2023 to agree a common set of by-laws for the BCHT; and these will be presented to local government agencies by late June.	
1.5 Options for legal registration of BCHT (eg. as a community association or group ranch) are explored, and information and documents for registration are prepared and submitted.		Options for legal registration have been explored	Documents for registration will be prepared and submitted in September 2023	
1.6 IIED prepares blog, briefing paper, c with input from KEFRI and RCV (co-auth Swahili; all outputs are published online, study are printed (50 in each language) a events.	norship); case study is translated to	A project page and podcast have been produced, and the launch workshop got national prime time news coverage.	A blog will be published in late May or early June 2023; a briefing paper, case study and journal article will be prepared in 2024.	
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Resources meetings to present the results; and journal article is submitted.		The work to establish a BCHT in Rabai was presented at a side event at CBD COP15.	A side event will be organised at the CBD Working on Article 8J or the FAO Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources – in November 2023
Output 2. Rabai Cultural Village is strengthened and scaled-out to 1 other Kaya and capacity of 3200 forest- dependent women and youth is built, tripling incomes from sustainable products with high demand.	2.1 By March 2023, 1 new Cultural Village with enterprise groups comprising c.80% women established in Kaya Bomu including 3-4 traditional houses with basic facilities (toilet, water); and new micro-enterprises established in villages adjacent to 4 Kayas (Bomu, Fimboni, Mudzi Mwiru and Mudzi Mwiru).	al villages adjacent to 4 Kaya forests.	
	2.2 By March 2023, in each of 4 Kayas 25 beehives are installed and 50 forest degrading households (200 in total), particularly women and youth, are trained in beekeeping and honey value addition and linked to bulk buyers. By 2023, Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) quality mark obtained; and each Kaya honey group (50 households) is selling 500 litres of honey per year, generating \$5,000/yea or \$100/year per household (ie. \$8/month).		nd 146 community members (80% eeping and honey value addition and
	2.3 By March 2023, 3200 forest- dependent women and youth (1600 households, c.400 per Kaya, c.80% women) are trained in sustainable broom making, basketry, natural coconut oil production, and value addition (branding) and business skills and are linked to bulk buyers in Rabai, Mombasa and Nairobi. Each person sells sufficient products to make \$65 per month by 2023; and \$100 per month by end of 2024.	 1600 80% ble al ue ss skills n Rabai, erson e \$65 ber 2.3 By March 2023, 327 forest dependent households (80% women were trained in sustainable broom making, coconut oil production, ar of fuel efficient stoves and briquettes, value addition and business skills inked to bulk buyers selling to Rabai, Mombasa and Nairobi markets households trained are expected to share their skills with at least 4-5 and will be encouraged to do so by the project. 	
Activity 2.1. Meetings are held with at lead identify and design new Cultural Village	ast 400 households around each Kaya to enterprise groups (including identifying	Completed	

existing capacity and training needs, man CV coordinators, and agree on the locati traditional houses.				
Activity 2.2.Youth are employed to const with guidance from elders.	ruct 3-4 traditional houses in new CV	Youth were employed to construct 1 traditional house for new CV	2-3 more traditional houses will be constructed by youth in new CV	
2.3 Meetings are held with Kaya elders a best location for each beehive and beehi managing the apiary, processing, packag given by KEFRI, Tekida Nyuki Group and	ve custodians; training on beekeeping, ging and marketing of honey products	Location scoping and training completed.	100 beehives to be installed by end of May 2023 in forest-degrading households in 10 villages (covering 4 Kayas).	
2.4 Honey bulk buyers/traders are identit groups. KEFRI submits application to ob mark for honey.		Honey bulk buyers have been identified and introduced to producer groups.	KBS quality mark will be obtained; honey will be packaged with BCHT logo and label.	
2.5 Training provided by RCV, KEFRI, Ju and Imarisha Vijana Association to new of produce brooms, baskets, and natural co and labelling, and develop business skills	Cultural Village enterprises to sustainably oconut oil, add value through packaging	Training provided for producing sustainable brooms and coconut oil, and value addition and to develop business skills.	Basketry training will be provided to about 100 households by June 2023 and goat rearing will be explored; households that participated in training will be encouraged to share their skills with at least 4-5 neighbours	
2.6 BCHT institution and Cultural Village and identify a local artist. Bulk buyers in CV enterprise groups.		Village meetings have been held to design BCHT logo and producers have been linked to bulk buyers via collection points.	Designer to produce BCHT logo and label.	
Output 3. 800 fuel-efficient stoves and 4 briquette presses are installed, halving fuelwood consumption, reducing pressure on endangered fuelwood trees and enhancing income.	3.1 By March 2023, micro-enterprise groups in 4 Kaya Cultural Villages (at least 50% women) are trained to produce fuel-efficient stoves; and by June 2023 produce 800 fuel efficient stoves for project purchase (which they can continue to make and sell to generate income).	3.1 Training provided to 157 households (80% women and youth) to produce the efficient cook stoves.		
3.2 By mid-2023, fuel efficient stoves are installed and used in 800 forest- dependent households (c.200 per Kaya), leading to c.30% reduction in fuelwood consumption.		3.2 100 fuel efficient cook stoves produced	during training.	
Darwin Initiative Main Appual Report Template 2023	3.3 By 2022, briquette presses are installed in 4 Cultural Villages (for shared use), and by March 2023 800 forest-dependent households (c. 200	3.3 Briquette making presses purchased and 106 households have been trained in their u		

3.1 Meetings are held with c.200 forest d to explain the importance of fuel-efficient and Natural Char Energy to each Cultura and materials for building stoves are sust	stoves. Training is provided by KEFRI I Village to produce fuel-efficient stoves;	Training provided to 157 forest dependent households on importance and production of fuel-efficient stoves including RCV members and sustainable sources of suitable clay soil are being identified.	Results of soil testing to be shared with communities to make final decision on clay soil sources; each person trained will share training with another 4-5 people.
3.2 Household visits are arranged to insta their use and maintenance (including gui sources and energy efficient use).			700 more fuel efficient stoves to be produced and household visits to install 800 fuel efficient stoves to be conducted by July 2023
3.3 Four briquette presses are purchased and training workshops are held in each and maintenance, health and safety, and rules for their collective use and maintena	Cultural Village to demonstrate their use sustainable fuel sources, and agree	4 briquette presses purchased and delivered to KEFRI. 4 installation sites identified with the community and secured. Training workshops held.	4 briquette presses are being installed in early May, and further training on their use and maintenance is being provided to villagers during installation.
Output 4: Endangered endemic fuelwood species, threatened native trees and elephant-shrew food/habitat are restored in degraded Kayas (50 ha), and on-farm (80 ha) providing alternative fuelwood, medicine and fruit and enhancing ecological connectivity.	4.1. By 2022, 4 endangered fuelwood/ medicinal/fruit species, 2 native palms, and small native palm (elephant-shrew food/ habitat) and c.15 associated species, are planted in 4 Kaya forests, covering 50 ha of degraded forest in total; and 10 native fuelwood/ multi- purpose tree species are planted on 400 farms surrounding Kayas (amounting to 80 ha). Tree conservation and management plans are agreed for Kayas and farmland, with elders and farmers.	4.1 By May 2022, 4 endangered fuelwood/ n and small native palm (elephant-shrew food/ species, were planted in 4 Kaya forests, cov (see section 3.1), and 10 native fuelwood/ m planted on 400 farms surrounding Kayas (ar	nedicinal/fruit species, 2 native palms, / habitat) and c.15 associated ering 50 ha of degraded forest in total ulti-purpose tree species were
	4.2 By 2023, 75% of seedlings survive and double in size. By 2024, trees are well established on 50 ha of Kayas and 80 ha of farmland; and are protected and sustainably used once matured.	4.2 The first full round of monitoring is being rate and failed seedlings are being replaced every 6 months and seedlings are checked r sufficient water & protection, and maintenan Conservation and management plans have l farmers.	. Complete monitoring will be done regularly by villagers to ensure ce will be done every 4 months.

4.1 Seedlings of endangered and threatened trees and associated species (seeds from Kaya forests) are raised in tree nurseries in Rabai (or KEFRI field stations in Malindi or Taita Hills).		Completed		
4.2 Seedlings are planted in Kayas by co the project), with guidance from Kaya elo coordinators; and on farmland by farmers Field Schools (will include agroforestry co	s with guidance from KEFRI and Farmer	Completed		
4.3 Meetings are held with Kaya elders, f women and youth) and farmers to develo for trees planted in Kaya forests and on f	pp conservation and management plans	Completed		
4.4 Surveys of planted seedlings conduct researchers to monitor establishment in y		Full survey of survival & growth is being finalised by KFS.	Surveys will be repeated again in year 2 (November/December 2023) and in year 3 (2024)	
4.5 Kenya Wildlife Service establishes ba of elephant-shrew (using camera traps) i		Initial baseline established in December 2022	Longer term monitoring/camera trap (at least 30 days) to be done in June – July 2023; and will be repeated in 2024	
Output 5. Traditional crops and agroecological practices are restored and indigenous vegetables domesticated on 800 farms, enhancing resilience, nutrition, ecological connectivity and butterflies, and reducing pressure on Kayas	5.1 By 2022, awareness of the importance of traditional crops and indigenous vegetables for nutrition, health and resilience has been raised through 5 large village meetings involving 10 villages, and Rabai's annual Biocultural Festival; and by mid- 2023 400 farmers (c.100 per Kaya, 50% women) have been trained to restore traditional crops and agroecological practices and domesticate indigenous vegetables through 8 Farmer Field Schools.	5.1 Awareness of the importance of tradition for nutrition, health and climate resilience wa meetings in May 2022 involving 10 villages (project meetings. IIED will seek co-funds to 2023 and a Biocultural Festivals in October (as raised through 5 large village (100 people in total), and as part of all hold Farmer field schools in June	
	5.2. By 2023, FFS participants have each shared knowledge and seeds obtained with 2 neighbouring farmers; and regular farmer-scientist meetings have been established to provide follow-up support.			
	5.3 By 2024, 800 farmers have restored 4 open-pollinated traditional	5.3 No progress yet as FFS have not been h	neld.	

	 crop varieties, domesticated 4 indigenous vegetables and restored agroecological practices, enhancing resilience and nutrition; and 10 landraces/ indigenous varieties have been added to Rabai's community seed bank and TK register. 5.4. By 2024, endemic butterfly numbers and species diversity have increased on 400 farms compared to a baseline established in 2022. 	5.4 No progress yet as FFS have not been h agroecological practices have not yet been	
5.1 Large village meetings are organised of the importance traditional crops and in health (in a context of rising obesity/diab stable productivity (given increased droug Kaya elders.	digenous vegetables for nutrition and etc.	Completed	
5.2 8 Farmer Field Schools are held (2 per Kaya, each with c.50 participants) involving farm visits and demonstrations on agroforestry; domesticating indigenous crops; restoring traditional crops; inter-cropping and soil fertility; natural pest management (led by traditional farmers, KEFRI and KARLO).		No progress yet as co-funding expected from AHRC did not materialise.	IIED will apply for internal co- funding in May and the 8 FFS will be held in June/July 2023.
5.3 FFS participants are encouraged to share knowledge and seeds with at least 2 neighbouring farmers, and to participate in monthly farmer-scientist meetings to provide follow-up support.		As above	As above – IIED will include funds for follow-up meetings with scientists in our application for funds
5.4 Annual biocultural festivals are organised by RCV to raise awareness of the importance of traditional Mijikenda crops, foods, culture, Kaya forests and Kaya elders; and promote intergenerational transmission of culture and TK and sharing/exchange of traditional seeds.		Only a mini-biocultural festival was organised has been held, at RCV to showcase traditional dancing and drums as part of the project launch workshop. AHRC co-funding did not materialise	IIED will apply for internal co- funding in May, and we plan to organise a biocultural festival as part of Rabai's annual New Year festival in October 2023.
5.5 Farmers are encouraged to share and exchange traditional seeds with RCV community seed bank, and 10-12 traditional varieties are botanically identified and added to Rabai community seed bank and TK register.		Farmers have been encouraged to share seeds at project workshops and meetings (see mid-term workshop report.	This will be done through the FFS and follow-up meetings and the biocultural festivals
5.6 Youth from each project village are tr butterfly populations and diversity on 400 end of the project (by Kipepeo Project)	ained to conduct a simple survey of) project farms and Kayas at the start and	Youth have been trained by the Kipepeo project and conducted a butterfly survey on 400 farms and in 4 kayas.	Findings of the on-farm survey will be added to the baseline report. Surveys will be repeated at the end of project

Project Summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions				
Impact: Self-sustaining Biocultural Heritage Territory is established in Rabai, conserving biodiversity in 4 Kaya forests (580 ha) and farmland (14,000 ha) and reducing poverty, and scaled-out across Kilifi and Kwale counties.							
Outcome: Biodiversity and endangered species are protected and restored in Rabai's Kaya forests and surrounding farming landscapes, poverty is reduced, culture and TK revitalised, and indigenous peoples and women empowered.	0.1 By 2024, forest degradation is significantly reduced or halted in Kaya Bomu, Kaya Fimboni, Kaya Mudzi Muvya and Kaya Mudzi Mwiru, as indicated by little or no reduction in the density and diversity of endangered or	0.1 Surveys of tree density (stems/ha) and diversity, butterfly populations and diversity, and elephant shrew populations (using camera traps from Kenya Wildlife Service), in 4 Kaya forests in 2022 and 2024 (not including trees restored by the project).	Bulk buyers regularly purchase honey, broom, basket and coconut oil produced by Cultural Village enterprise groups associated with each Kaya, and market demand remains high.				
	threatened trees (excluding restored trees), and an increase in elephant shrew and butterfly populations, compared to baselines established in 2022.	0.2 Records of trace planted by the	Enough tree planting materials (seedlings/saplings) of each species can be raised in nurseries; and planted sites are protected from grazing				
	0.2 By 2024, 4 endangered endemic and 2 threatened native tree species, c.15 associated species, and small native palm (elephant-shrew habitat), are restored in a total area of 50 ha of degraded forest in 4 Kayas; and 10 native fuelwood/multi-purpose tree species are restored on 400 surrounding farms (100 farms/ Kaya), covering 80 ha in total (0.2 ha per farm) – with at least 75% survival rate.	0.2 Records of trees planted by the project (GPS location, number, species type, area size) in 2022; and surveys of tree survival rate, growth (height and diameter) and area restored in 2023 and 2024. High resolution satellite imagery of Kaya forests in 2021 and 2024 from the Department of Resource Surveys and Remote Sensing in Kenya.	animals. Rainfall patterns remain largely unchanged, and seedlings planted at the start of the rainy season get enough water to establish – if not water will be obtained from a perennial stream close to RCV or seedlings kept in KEFRI field stations.				
	0.3 Sustainable products increase incomes of 3200 forest-dependent women and youth (1600 households) from 2022 baseline of c.\$30-40/month to: \$65/month by 2023, and \$100/month by 2024 (\$3.3/day).	0.3 Surveys of women and youth incomes in forest-dependent households in 2022, 2023 and 2024.					
arwin Initiative Main Annual Report Template 2023	0.4 By 2024, 800 forest-dependent farmers (at least 50% women) have restored 4 traditional crops and	0.4 Surveys of numbers of farmers growing traditional crops and their gender, and number of traditional crops	Farmers are motivated to restore traditional crops and indigenous vegetables for resilience and nutritional value, as well as for market.				

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

Darwin Initiative Main Annual Report Template 2023

	 domesticated 4 indigenous vegetables on-farm compared to a baseline in 2022. 0.5 By 2024, Kaya elders are better respected by youth and relations between them improve; the number of conservation resolutions passed by the Kaya Elders' Council being successfully implemented increases; attendance of traditional ceremonies increases by 50%; and 50 women have taken on leadership roles (in Kaya Elders' Council, BCHT institution, Cultural Villages and micro-enterprises, and as community researchers), compared to baselines in 2022. 	and indigenous vegetables grown, in 2022, 2023 and 2024. 0.5 Interviews/FGDs with Kaya elders, youth and women, and household surveys, in 2021 and 2024. Annual project workshop reports. Observation during field visits. Governing documents of BCHT.	Kaya Council of Elders' resolutions/decisions are adopted as Rabai community by-laws, and enforcement is supported by government agencies.
Outputs: 1. Collective gender-balanced culturally-rooted Rabai Biocultural Heritage institution (or 'Association') established for Kaya forest conservation and sustainable development, legally registered, and internationally recognised.	 1.1 By mid-2022, Kaya elders and 10 village leaders have agreed to establish a collective BCHT institution comprising 30-50% women; and by mid-2023 have agreed culturally-rooted objectives, guiding principles and rules for conservation and equity (eg. prohibitions on felling trees, grazing in Kayas, selling land). 1.2 By September 2023, proposed BCHT institution has been presented to local government agencies; suitable option for registration identified; and documents for registration submitted. 	 1.1 Minutes of village and intervillage meetings to design BCHT institution; and governing documents for BCHT institution, including quotas requiring 30-50% of elected representatives and meeting participants to be women, and constitution or rules and regulations governing the management of the BCHT. 1.2 Minutes of project advisory group meetings and project workshop in 2022 and 2023; registration documents and submission confirmation email. 1.3 Legal registration documents; email 	Different village authorities are committed to working together, empowering Kaya elders and safeguarding biocultural heritage. Village authorities and Kaya elders recognise the critical role of women in sustaining resilient, nutritious traditional crops and farming systems, and the need to enhance gender equity. Local government agencies continue to be supportive and engaged through 6-
	 1.3 By 2024, BCHT institution has been legally registered in Kenya. 1.4 By June 2023, blog on the project is downloaded 100 times. By 2024, briefing paper, case study (English, Swahili) and news-story on the BCHT are downloaded 100 times each; Rabai BCHT is presented at CBD and FAO 	 1.3 Legal registration documents, email from registration authority; final project report. 1.4 IIED and biocultural heritage website publications and download statistics; photos and reports of side events; journal email confirmation. 	Appropriate legal framework can be found to register Rabai BCHT as a community association.

	side events; and journal article on the BCHT and biodiversity-culture- livelihoods links is submitted to open access journal.		Side event applications are accepted by CBD and FAO.
2. Rabai Cultural Village is strengthened and scaled-out to 1 other Kaya and capacity of 3200 forest- dependent women and youth is built, tripling incomes from sustainable products with high demand.	2.1 By March 2023, 1 new Cultural Village with enterprise groups comprising c.80% women established in Kaya Bomu including 3-4 traditional houses with basic facilities (toilet, water); and new micro-enterprises established in villages adjacent to 4 Kayas (Bomu, Fimboni, Mudzi Mwiru and Mudzi Mwiru).	2.1 Registration certificate of the new Cultural Village, and membership lists, and constitutions of the CV and micro- enterprises. Year 2 narrative report and photos of Cultural Village.	Market demand for honey, brooms, baskets and coconut oil remains high, bulk buyers can regularly purchase products (or KEFRI can help to link the community to Mombasa and Nairobi markets), and women and youth can produce sufficient quantities.
	2.2 By March 2023, in each of 4 Kayas, 25 beehives are installed and 50 forest- degrading households (200 in total), particularly women and youth, are trained in beekeeping and honey value addition and linked to bulk buyers. By 2023, Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) quality mark obtained; and each Kaya honey group (50 households) is selling 500 litres of honey per year, generating \$5,000/year or \$100/year per household (ie. \$8/month).	2.2 Beehive purchase receipts and photos of beehives in Kayas; training participants lists and evaluation surveys. Photos of products with KEBS quality mark; book-keeping records of Cultural Villages and surveys of income generated from honey products in 2023 and 2024.	Beehives thrive in forests and are managed safely by villagers. Trained community groups are able to apply practical skills and have access to sufficient sustainable sources of raw materials from trees on-farm (this is currently the case but will be monitored).
	2.3 By March 2023, 3200 forest- dependent women and youth (1600 households, c.400 per Kaya, c.80% women) are trained in sustainable broom making, basketry, natural coconut oil production, and value addition (branding) and business skills and are linked to bulk buyers in Rabai, Mombasa and Nairobi. Each person sells sufficient products to make \$65 per month by 2023; and \$100 per month by end of 2024.	2.3 Training participants lists and participant evaluation forms; household surveys in 2023 and 2024; photos of branded products. Signed agreements with buyers.	Alternative income, combined with increased enforcement of conservation rules and enhanced awareness, leads farmers to shift to sustainable livelihoods.
3 . 800 fuel-efficient stoves and 4 briquette presses are installed, halving fuelwood consumption, reducing	3.1 By March 2023, micro-enterprise groups in 4 Kaya Cultural Villages (at least 50% women) are trained to produce fuel-efficient stoves; and by	3.1 Training attendance lists (number of people trained) and participant feedback /evaluation forms; records of	800 fuel efficient stoves can be made by women and men in Rabai.

pressure on endangered fuelwood trees and enhancing income.	June 2023 produce 800 fuel efficient stoves for project purchase (which they can continue to make and sell to generate income).	CV enterprise groups on number of stoves produced in 2023.	Women and men like fuel efficient stoves, agree to install them in their houses, and have access to sustainable fuel and are willing to use it (twigs, crop residues, briquettes).
	3.2 By mid-2023, fuel efficient stoves are installed and used in 800 forest- dependent households (c.200 per Kaya), leading to c.30% reduction in fuelwood consumption.	3.2 Year 2 report, meetings with women's groups in 4 Cultural Villages; household survey on number of households using fuel-efficient stoves and level of fuelwood use in 2022 and 2023.	Level of cooking and stove use does not significantly increase.
	3.3 By 2022, briquette presses are installed in 4 Cultural Villages (for shared use), and by March 2023 800 forest-dependent households (c. 200 per Kaya, particularly women and youth) are trained in their use and maintenance. By 2023 briquette presses are being used, reducing fuelwood consumption by c.30%.	3.3 Training records (number of people trained) and participant evaluation forms. Cultural Village records of the quantity of briquettes produced per Kaya each month/year. Surveys of household fuel consumption in 2022, 2023 and 2024	
4 . Endangered endemic fuelwood species, threatened native trees and elephant-shrew food/habitat are restored in degraded Kayas (50 ha), and on-farm (80 ha) providing alternative fuelwood, medicine and fruit	4.1. By 2022, 4 endangered fuelwood/ medicinal/fruit species, 2 native palms, and small native palm (elephant-shrew food/ habitat) and c.15 associated species, are planted in 4 Kaya forests, covering 50 ha of degraded forest in	4.1 Reports of trees planted in each Kaya and on 400 surrounding farms (species, location, number, area planted) and Year 1 narrative reports. Tree conservation and management plans.	Farmers are willing to plant trees on- farm, nurture them to maturity, and sustainably use trees. Trees are planted at the start of the
and enhancing ecological connectivity.	total; and 10 native fuelwood/ multi- purpose tree species are planted on 400 farms surrounding Kayas (amounting to 80 ha). Tree conservation and management plans are agreed for Kayas and farmland, with elders and farmers.		rainy season and rainfall patterns remain largely unchanged, providing enabling conditions for the trees to establish and grow.
	4.2 By 2023, 75% of seedlings survive and double in size. By 2024, trees are well established on 50 ha of Kayas and 80 ha of farmland; and are protected and sustainably used once matured.	4.2 Surveys to monitor tree survival rate and growth rate in Kayas and on-farm in 2023 and 2024. Interviews with Kaya elders and household survey in 2024.	
5. Traditional crops and agroecological practices are restored and indigenous vegetables domesticated on 800 farms, enhancing resilience, nutrition,	5.1 By 2022, awareness of the importance of traditional crops and indigenous vegetables for nutrition, health and resilience has been raised	5.1. Reports and photographs of village meetings, biocultural festival and FFS; signed participants lists indicating	Awareness of nutrition, health and resilience value of traditional crops/foods, leads to greater demand amongst Rabai villages; and costs to

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ecological connectivity and butterflies,	through 5 large village meetings	number and gender of participants, and	consumers are kept down due to
and reducing pressure on Kayas	involving 10 villages, and Rabai's annual Biocultural Festival; and by mid- 2023 400 farmers (c.100 per Kaya, 50% women) have been trained to restore traditional crops and agroecological practices and domesticate indigenous vegetables through 8 Farmer Field Schools.	participant feedback / evaluation forms.	reduced input costs. Farmers are motivated to restore traditional crops and agroecological practices for health, resilience, food security and cultural benefits (not just
	5.2. By 2023, FFS participants have each shared knowledge and seeds obtained with 2 neighbouring farmers; and regular farmer-scientist meetings have been established to provide follow-up support.	5.2. Surveys of FFS participants in 2023; minutes of FFS follow-up meetings; narrative report for year 3.	economic benefits).
	5.3 By 2024, 800 farmers have restored 4 open-pollinated traditional crop varieties, domesticated 4 indigenous vegetables and restored agroecological practices, enhancing resilience and nutrition; and 10 landraces/ indigenous varieties have been added to Rabai's community seed bank and TK register.	5.3. Household surveys of traditional crop varieties grown and consumed in 2021 and 2024. Rabai community seed bank register in 2021 and 2024.	Restoration of native trees and open- pollinated crops restores butterflies
Activities	5.4. By 2024, endemic butterfly numbers and species diversity have increased on 400 farms compared to a baseline established in 2022.	5.4 Butterfly population and diversity survey reports at the start and end of the project.	

Activities

1.1 Project launch/inception workshop to discuss and plan the project with local stakeholders and establish the Project Advisory Group (involving NMK and local environment/forest, culture, agriculture and development officials).

1.2 Training and co-design workshop involving IIED, KEFRI, RCV, Kaya elders and community researchers on Participatory Action Research methods and tools for establishing collectively managed culturally-rooted BCHTs.

1.3 FPIC meetings are held in 10 villages in Rabai. Gender analysis conducted (and baseline surveys).

1.4 Village and inter-village meetings are held to discuss and agree BCHT objectives and rules; and the results are documented and presented to local government agencies through project advisory group.

1.5 Options for legal registration of BCHT (eg. as a community association or group ranch) are explored, and information and documents for registration are prepared and submitted.

1.6 IIED prepares blog, briefing paper, case study, news-story and journal article with input from KEFRI and RCV (co-authorship); case study is translated to Swahili; all outputs are published online, and 100 copies of briefing and case study are printed (50 in each language) and distributed locally and at international events.

1.7 Side events are organised at CBD COP and FAO Commission on Genetic Resources meetings to present the results; and journal article is submitted.

2.1 Meetings are held with at least 400 households around each Kaya to identify and design new Cultural Village enterprise groups (including identifying existing capacity and training needs, management and ways of working), elect CV coordinators, and agree on the location and design of the Cultural Village traditional houses.2.2 Youth are employed to construct 3-4 traditional houses in each Kaya with guidance from elders.

2.3 Meetings are held with Kaya elders and adjacent households to identify the best location for each beehive and beehive custodians; training on beekeeping, managing the apiary, processing, packaging and marketing of honey products given by KEFRI, Tekida Nyuki Group and Kipepeo project personnel.

2.3 Honey bulk buyers/traders are identified and introduced to honey producer groups. KEFRI submits application to obtain Kenya Bureau of Standards quality mark for honey.

2.4 Training provided by RCV, KEFRI, Jua Kali artisans, Ministry of Agriculture and Imarisha Vijana Association to new Cultural Village enterprises to sustainably produce brooms, baskets, and natural coconut oil, add value through packaging and labelling, and develop business skills.

2.5 BCHT institution and Cultural Villages meeting to design Rabai BCHT logo and identify a local artist. Bulk buyers in Rabai and Mombasa are introduced to CV enterprise groups.

3.1 Meetings are held with c.200 forest dependent households around each Kaya to explain the importance of fuel-efficient stoves. Training is provided by KEFRI and Natural Char Energy to each Cultural Village to produce fuel-efficient stoves; and materials for building stoves are sustainably sourced.

3.2 Household visits are arranged to install fuel-efficient stoves and demonstrate their use and maintenance (including guidance health and safety, sustainable fuel sources and energy efficient use).

3.3 Four briquette presses are purchased and installed in each Cultural Village, and training workshops are held in each Cultural Village to demonstrate their use and maintenance, health and safety, and sustainable fuel sources, and agree rules for their collective use and maintenance.

4.1 Seedlings of endangered and threatened trees and associated species (seeds from Kaya forests) are raised in tree nurseries in Rabai (or KEFRI field stations in Malindi or Taita Hills).

4.2 Seedlings are planted in Kayas by community researchers and youth (paid by the project), with guidance from Kaya elders, KEFRI technical experts and RCV coordinators; and on farmland by farmers with guidance from KEFRI and Farmer Field Schools (will include agroforestry component to integrate trees on-farm).
4.3 Meetings are held with Kaya elders, forest dependent households (including women and youth) and farmers to develop conservation and management plans for trees planted in Kaya forests and on farmland.

4.4 Surveys of planted seedlings conducted by KEFRI and community researchers to monitor establishment in years 2 and 3.

4.5 Kenya Wildlife Service establishes baseline and conducts annual monitoring of elephant-shrew (using camera traps) in 4 Kayas.

5.1 Large village meetings are organised in 10 Rabai villages to raise awareness of the importance traditional crops and indigenous vegetables for nutrition and health (in a context of rising obesity/diabetes/cancer), and for resilience and stable productivity (given increased drought), and importance of Kaya forests and Kaya elders. 5.2 8 Farmer Field Schools are held (2 per Kaya, each with c.50 participants) involving farm visits and

demonstrations on agroforestry; domesticating indigenous crops; restoring traditional crops; inter-cropping and soil fertility; natural pest management (led by traditional farmers, KEFRI and KARLO - Kenya Agricultural Livestock Research Organisation).

5.3 FFS participants are encouraged to share knowledge and seeds with at least 2 neighbouring farmers, and to participate in monthly farmer-scientist meetings to provide follow-up support.

5.4 Annual biocultural festivals are organised by RCV to raise awareness of the importance of traditional Mijikenda crops, foods, culture, Kaya forests and Kaya elders; and promote intergenerational transmission of culture and TK and sharing/exchange of traditional seeds.

5.5 Farmers are encouraged to share and exchange traditional seeds with RCV community seed bank, and 10-12 traditional varieties are botanically identified and added to Rabai community seed bank and TK register.

5.6 Youth from each project village are trained to conduct a simple survey of butterfly populations and diversity on 400 project farms and Kayas at the start and end of the project (by Kipepeo Project).

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

The Biodiversity Challenge Funds (BCFs) use high quality and accessible Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) to enable scaling, replication and increase the impact of the funds and the projects we support.

By asking project teams to align indicators with the Darwin Initiative Standard Indicators, we aim to increase our contribution to the global evidence base for activities that support biodiversity conservation, poverty reduction and capability & capacity.

The tables below are provided to assist project teams in reporting against Standard Indicators. Please report against the Standard Indicators that you have selected specifically for your project in Table 1 below. Refer to the Standard Indicator Guidance & Menu available on the <u>Darwin Initiative</u> website for guidance on how to select indicators, as well as how to disaggregate reporting within your chosen indicators.

New projects should complete the Y1 column and also indicate the number planned during the project lifetime. Continuing projects should copy and paste the information from previous years and add in data for the most recent reporting period.

We recognise that our menu cannot cover all the potential monitoring needs for all projects – where necessary you can select indicators from other sources or develop your own. See our BCF MEL guidance on best practices for selecting and developing indicators.

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
E.g. DI-A01	E.g. People who attended training on CBD Reporting Standards	E.g. Number of officials from national Department of Environment who attended training on CBD Reporting Standards	People	Men	20			20	60
E.g. DI-C17	E.g. Articles published by members of the project team	E.g. Number of unique papers published in peer reviewed journals	Number	None	1			1	4

In addition to reporting any information on publications under relevant standard indicators, in Table 2, provide full details of all publications and material produced over the last year that can be publicly accessed, e.g. title, name of publisher, contact details, cost. Mark with an asterisk (*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report.

Table 2Publications

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

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	yes
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to <u>BCF-Reports@niras.com</u> putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with <u>BCF-</u> <u>Reports@niras.com</u> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	yes
Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	no
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 16)?	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	