Darwin Initiative Main & Extra: Final Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note": (https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources/information-notes/).

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

Submission Deadline: no later than 3 months after agreed end date.

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

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Scheme (Main or Extra)	Main
Project reference	29-004
Project title	Kaya Connect: Restoring the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest Biodiversity Hotspot
Country(ies)	Kenya
Lead Organisation	Botanic Gardens Conservation International
Project partner(s)	1. Kenya Forest Service (KFS) 2. National Museums of Kenya (NMK) 3. Little Environmental Action Foundation (The LEAF Charity) 4. Mandhari Plants & Designs (MPD) 5. International Tree Foundation (ITF) 6. County Government of Kilifi 7. Kivukoni Indigenous Tree Nursery 8. Green Heart Kilifi (GHK) 9. Friends of Arabuko Sokoke Forest
Darwin Initiative grant value	£ 524,286.00
Start/end dates of project	June 2022 to June 2025
Project Leader name	Kirsty Shaw
Project website/blog/social media	Website: www.bgci.org Facebook 1: Botanic Gardens Conservation International Facebook 2: African Botanic Garden Network Twitter: Botanic Gardens Conservation International Twitter: African Botanic Garden Network
Report author(s) and date	Roniance Adhiambo and Kirsty Shaw – 31st July 2025

1 Project Summary

30% of the world's tree species are threatened (BGCI, State of the World's Trees report, 2021). Huge tree planting and restoration pledges are being made worldwide. The focus is on planting trees in high numbers for carbon capture, rather than species diversity and livelihoods. The Ten Golden Rules for Reforestation (DiSacco, et al. 2021) and Kew Declaration (The Declaration Drafting Committee, 2021) highlighted the need for a better approach, but action on the ground is needed too. Kenya has 1,131 native tree species, 150 of which are threatened (these figures are slightly increased from the time of proposal writing due to Global Tree Assessment updates). The biggest threats to coastal trees in Kenya

are habitat loss for agriculture, residential and tourism development (BGCI, 2020). Forest patches in Kilifi County contain more than 50 threatened tree species and represent some of the last remaining fragments of the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest (EACF) biodiversity hotspot. EACF has the lowest percentage of remaining intact vegetation of African hotspots and the third lowest globally (Habel, et al., 2019), making it a restoration priority.

Kenya has made a 5.1-million-hectare pledge to the Bonn Challenge. The national-level restoration map produced in 2016 highlights some potential for restoration of natural forests in Kilifi County (the focus area for this application) but a much larger area is designated for plantations, agroforestry (both of which largely use non-native species) and bamboo planting (again relying on exotic species). (Kenya has a single native bamboo species but found in upland areas not at the coast). These proposed interventions are putting economic benefit before biodiversity and could potentially cause significant harm to an already heavily degraded and fragile biodiversity hotspot. A review of tree-planting organisations operating in Kenya undertaken by BGCI found that only 8% of named tree species being planted are threatened[1].

This project will re-connect forest fragments in coastal Kenya, benefitting people and threatened trees, by mapping forest fragments, improving seed supply, protecting, and restoring sites for connectivity, providing training and jobs and securing long-term political and public support. The project is being implemented in Kilifi County, Kenya.

2 Project Partnerships

The Kaya Connect project established a strong, collaborative network of diverse partners, each contributing their expertise to ensure the project's success. Partners included national government agencies (Kenya Forest Service and National Museums of Kenya), county government (Kilifi County), academia (Pwani University), NGOs (LEAF, ITF, Friends of Arabuko Sokoke Forest), private nurseries (Kivukoni Indigenous Tree Nursery, Mandhari Plants & Designs), religious groups, local schools, and cultural leaders. This diversity fostered knowledge exchange, resource sharing, and capacity building. The Project Steering Committee, comprising 13 representatives from these partners, ensured successful project delivery. The partners' involvement, including significant matched funding and in-kind contributions, was key to achieving project outcomes. Government partners facilitated permits, while the County Government of Kilifi supported policy amendments for long-term sustainability. Commercial nurseries produced quality native tree species and mentored newer nurseries. NGO partners expanded community networks, raising awareness about the importance of native trees. Community Forest Associations, Kaya Forest elders, and local communities played vital roles in seed collection, farmer selection, and advocacy for indigenous species. Additional partners, including members of the Ecological Restoration Alliance of Botanic Gardens and Plan Vivo, enhanced the project's carbon component and ecological monitoring. The collaborative approach established enduring partnerships, ensuring the sustainability of the project's objectives. The roles of each partner are detailed in the table provided in Annex 48.

3 Project Achievements

3.1 Outputs

Output 1: Remaining Forest fragments mapped and their potential as seed sources or tree islands better understood.

This output was successfully delivered via the production of three key resources, a report on forest fragments, a map of seed sources and a shared map identifying current and future restoration areas.

[1] Harvey-Brown, Y. (2021). Are the right trees being planted in the right place? A global review of the tree planting sector. Unpublished.

At the beginning of the project, there was scattered knowledge among the project partners on the remaining forest fragments in Kilifi, with no single document that collated this information. The forest fragments of Kilifi County collectively represent invaluable ecological assets with high plant diversity and significant potential for forest landscape restoration. These forest fragments serve as crucial seed sources for native tree species that can be used to support regional restoration and conservation efforts, however, at the beginning of the project, there was no updated information on the location of the target native tree species within the forest fragments. Another key challenge facing effective and efficient restoration efforts in Kilifi County at the beginning of the project was non coordination among the partners and stakeholders working on restoration in the county.

Under Output 1, the project delivered three key resources:

Via desktop literature review and consulting with the project partners, a report on the ecological, socioeconomic and degradation levels of remaining forest fragments was produced. The report (Annex 6) also highlighted the potential of forest fragments as seed sources and for sustainable forest management, landscape restoration and ecological connectivity.

Species surveys were conducted and mother trees located and mapped for Kayas Chonyi (194ha), Kauma (75ha), Chivara (87ha), Mudzimuvya (147ha), Mudzimwiru (171ha), Bomu and Fimboni 409ha, Fungo (204ha), Kambe (75ha) and Ribe(36ha); Jibana (140ha) Pangani rocks (30ha) and Arabuko Sokoke Forest (41,600ha). A map showing the mother trees can be found in Annex 7. Species surveys continued to be conducted throughout the project to inform phenology monitoring and seed collection efforts. The constant patrols in the forests also enhanced *in situ* protection of the trees.

To address the coordination issue, the project developed a shared map to be used by all stakeholders and partners showing existing forest fragments, potential areas for restoration, restoration interventions that are already being implemented, and the organizations that are working on them. The open access map helps to guide future restoration interventions by highlighting restoration opportunities and potential for organizations to work together. The county restoration map can be found here.

Output 2: 136 people from marginalised groups in Kilifi County have improved capacity to engage in forest restoration and protection activities and are employed in new or expanded restoration enterprises and 1,000 additional households are benefitting from trees on farms.

This output was successfully achieved, with 174 people benefiting from capacity building, 141 people benefiting from employment, and >1,300 households benefiting from trees on farms.

At the beginning of the project, selection criteria for the different categories of project beneficiaries were developed. The project partners, local communities and elders were taken through the criteria and gender and social inclusion (GESI) training which was followed by the selection of the people who would be engaged in and benefit from the project. In total 174 people (40% women and 55% youth) were engaged during the project for capacity building and employment. A capacity needs assessment of the selected people was carried out to assess their baseline skills, knowledge and resources related to forest restoration and protection activities. These assessments revealed that there were varying degrees of knowledge and skills. On average, 3.5% of the people had proper skills in seed sowing, processing, pre-treatment and nursery management while working with native and threatened trees. By the end of the project there was a skills improvement of 86% which led to high quality and quantity seedling production as is evidenced in the later sections. Refer to annex 8 for the full skills assessment report. The details of the training content that contributed to this skills and knowledge enhancement are given below:

132 people (53 women 72 men) obtained seed collection, nursery management and business development skills (see Annex 9 for training materials and Annex 10 for training participant lists). This covered topics such as planning for seed collection, prioritization, seed collection techniques, seed processing, watering, pest and disease control, plant propagation and proper nursery management, record keeping, and recording of germination and propagation protocols.

A total of 89 people were trained on business development in the context of seed collection and seedling production in nursery businesses to monetize the skills and resources they had received from the training. This covered 11 topics, such as public and customer relations skills, and costing and pricing products and

services. See Annex 11 for the business training modules, Annex 12 for the business training report and Annex 13 for sample certificates issued for all trainings conducted.

Ten people (2 women and 8 men) were trained on restoration actions with the restoration workers receiving more in-depth training on site management, tree growing and aftercare. Two people (2 male) received seed technician training to enable them to process and store high quality native tree seeds. Initially, the project planned to hire three seed technicians, but given the resources that were available, and the capacity of the seed bank we established in partnership with Mandhari Plants & Designs in Gede, it made more sense to have one seed technician working on a full-time basis. The seed technician was trained by experts from the Centre for Ecosystem Restoration – Kenya. Three people have been trained as education officers (2 women and 1 man). Eleven (6 men and 5 women) community environmental champions (enumerators) also received training on restoration, farmer engagement, carbon credits and tree growing and aftercare techniques.

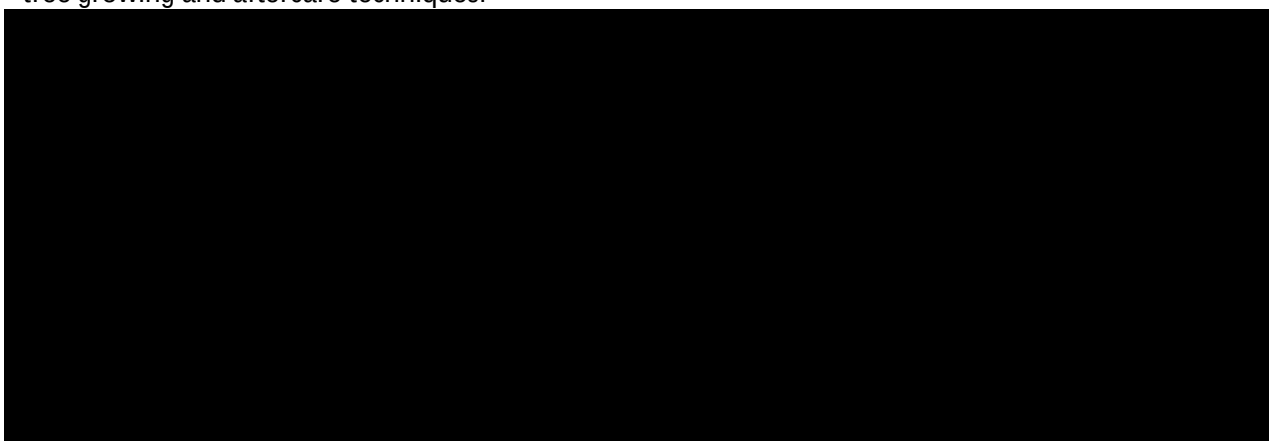

Figure 1: Training on seed handling and nursery management

To enhance soil quality in the nurseries a 5-day training course on soil conservation was conducted at Pwani University, facilitated by an external expert sourced by the LEAF Charity. The training included lessons in understanding soil composition and structure; assessing soil health; soil biology; soil stewardship and community engagement; and sustainable soil management practices. A total of 16 people participated in the training (5 women and 11 men), and this included representatives of the partner nurseries and project partners. As a result of the training, partners have been able to improve their soil management practices in the nurseries and restoration sites. Through combined efforts, the LEAF team set up a composting site at LEAF's nursery. In addition, they have also locally sourced manure and sustainable forest soil (based on guidance shared in the training). Green Heart Nursery have also been able to apply the lessons learned to improve their soil conservation and composting work. These initiatives have improved the conditions and sustainable practices of the nurseries. Refer to Annex 14 for the soil stewardship training workbook and Annex 15 for the soil stewardship training report. The LEAF Charity has also successfully started composting programmes in all the 11 schools to improve the health of their soils and it has also changed the way the students use natural materials like dry and green matter, which were previously considered waste, especially dry grass.

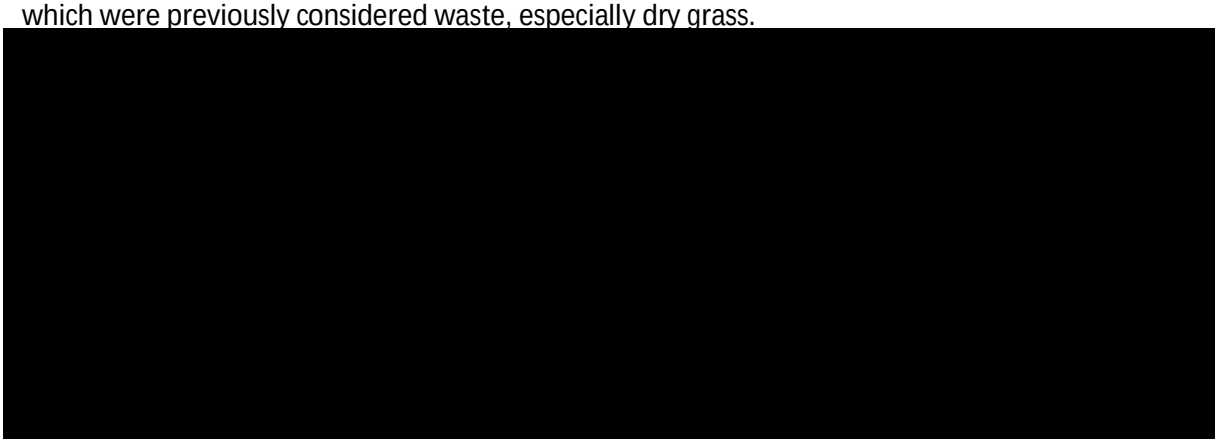

Figure 2: Soil conservation training practical sessions.

Of the project beneficiaries who were trained 141 were employed to work in the project, earning a daily rate of KES750, which is slightly above minimum wage which is KES731. 57 people (40 men, 17 women and 25 youth) were employed as seed collectors; 50 people (23 men, 27 women and 24 youth) as nursery workers; 8 people (6 men, 2 women and 6 youth) as restoration workers. See Annex 16 for records of people employed and their roles, and Annex 17 for sample contracts and salary payment records.

Achieving the desired ecological connectivity meant that the project had to recruit farmers to plant trees in their farmlands which were in between and around the forest fragments. This was also meant to enable reduced pressure in the forest in the long term through local communities having trees for their ecological and livelihood use in their farms. At the beginning of the project, most of the local community members preferred planting exotic trees on their farms citing reasons that they were faster growing, and good for timber and fruits. The socio-economic survey done at the beginning and end of the project indicate that there is a positive shift in attitude, knowledge and practices of tree conservation among the local communities as there was an increase of 124% of more native tree species known and being planted. Through intensive community sensitization and trainings, we were able to recruit 1,393 smallholder farmers to plant native trees in their farms and 1,372 farmers planted 56,554 native trees of 75 species. This surpasses the target of this output which was to plant on 1,000 households. See Annex 18 for the baseline socioeconomic report and Annex 19 for the end of project socioeconomic evaluation report.

Output 3: Supply of appropriate seed and seedlings of native and threatened species increased sufficiently in Kilifi County to support restoration of project demonstration sites (Output 1) and planting in additional sites.

This output was successfully delivered by establishing an effective community seed collecting network, improving 11 nursery infrastructures, planting seeds of 203 native species and growing 435,734 seedlings.

Poor infrastructure was one of the challenges that nurseries in Kilifi were experiencing prior to this project leading to reduced seedling production, specifically, most common was lacking facilities for steady water supply. The project decided to work with existing nurseries and the capacity needs assessment done at the beginning of the project included assessment of the resources (infrastructure and consumables) needed in the selected nurseries. In the duration of the project, infrastructural support was given to 11 nurseries and these included government nurseries (County Government of Kilifi, NMK – CFCU nursery, and Kenya Forest Service nursery, commercial/private nurseries (Gede Tropical Nursery, Green Heart Kilifi, and Kivukoni Indigenous Tree Nursery), Academia/civil society nursery (The LEAF Charity nursery hosted at Pwani University), and community nurseries (Kaya Chonyi, Kaya Kauma, Kaya Rabai and Chasimba nurseries). The nurseries were supported with water tanks, gardening tools, tuktuk, shade nets, among other items. Throughout the project, support for nursery consumables such as potting bags, manure, and forest soil were also provided. Refer to Annex 20 for photos of nursery infrastructure.

One of the main challenges to biodiversity conservation in restoration programmes that was being experienced in Kilifi County prior to this project was the poor supply of native tree seeds and seedlings. The project made significant efforts to ensure a steady supply of native tree seeds. Through the robust network of 57 seed collectors that was set up and trained in output 2 above, in total, 203 species (47 threatened or Near Threatened) were being monitored *in situ*, and seeds were collected from all these species. Arabuko Sokoke forest provided the highest diversity of indigenous trees with seed collected from 109 species. Please refer to Annex 44 for the list of species.

Seeds of the 203 species were propagated across the 11 nurseries with 435,734 seedlings grown in the project period. At the beginning of the project, a nursery like Gede Tropical Nursery did not have any native tree species and by the end of the project, they had grown 87,974 seedlings of 49 native tree species. At the start of the project, the community nurseries had between 3 – 5 species of native trees and by the end of the project, they were at 17 - 66 native species. The table below gives a breakdown of the species and number of seedlings propagated across the 11 nurseries by the end of the project.

S/No	Nursery	Total Number of seedlings	No of Species
1	Kaya Kauma	36665	66
2	Chasimba	9537	17

3	Kaya Chonyi	33572	34
4	Mudzimuvya Rabai	57874	25
5	CFCU Nursery	23034	66
6	The LEAF Nursery	52745	99
7	County Government Nursery	5,003	21
8	KFS Nursery	9,725	35
9	Kivukoni Indigenous Tree Nursery	20,181	170
10	Gede Tropical Nursery	87,974	49
11	Green Heart of Kenya Tree Nursery	99,424	180
	TOTAL	435,734	203

To ensure that nurseries were able to successfully produce high quality and quantity of native tree seedlings, aside from training, we documented propagation guidelines for each of the species that we were working on. Given that we were working with a diverse team of nursery partners from community nurseries with limited scientific knowledge, to nurseries with extensive scientific propagation knowledge and capabilities, we had to ensure that the protocols were developed and shared in the simplest ways possible. Using BGCI's propagation protocol template, we were able to develop more scientific propagation protocols for 31 species. Please refer to Annex 21 for the propagation protocols. For the other species we developed propagation guidelines which have been included in the species information guide, including propagation information for 121 species, which can be found here. These propagation guidelines will act as a helpful resource for all restoration practitioners working in the EACF going forward.

Seed supply to nurseries was best during periods of good rains, however, in the drier seasons, less seed was available. This necessitated the establishment of a seed bank at Gede Tropical Nursery that the project could utilize to maintain year-round supply of seeds to the nurseries. The seed bank stored seed at –4 degrees C temperatures, carried out germination tests during storage, and seed entries were recorded. The technician also investigated and documented different seed preparation methods. Seed storage guidelines were noted and are indicated in the species propagation guide.

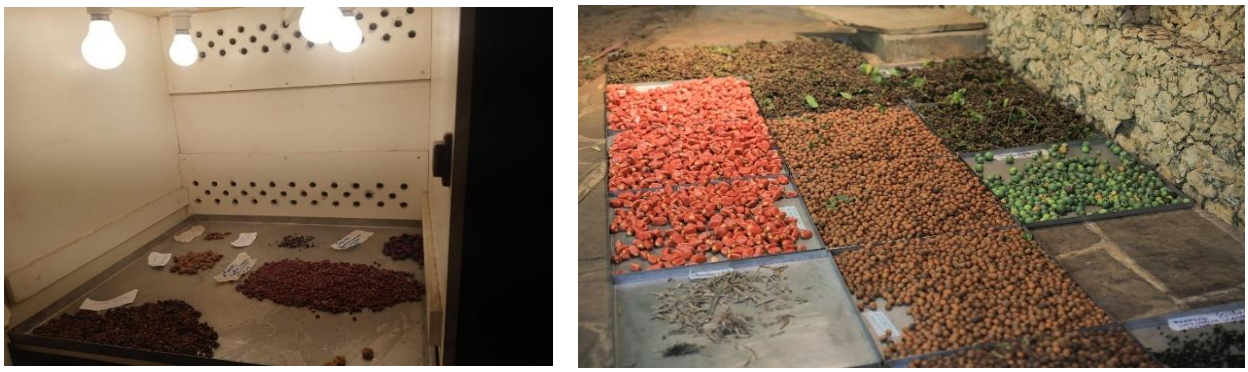

Figure 3: Seed bank at Gede Tropical Nursery

Another restoration challenge that the county was experiencing was a strong focus on non-native species in natural areas, sometimes including exotic species, i.e. planting the wrong tree species in the wrong places. One of the main activities that was conducted in the planning phases of the project was species selection to ensure that the project nurseries were growing the right species. Using survey work, indigenous knowledge and literature to document the uses of the target species, enabled us to assign appropriate species to the right planting areas, taking both ecological and social considerations into account. For instance, species which are economically useful were planted in farmlands to enable farmers to earn from them in the long term. The project kept records of the species that were available in each of the nurseries through this online database. The database was updated by the nurseries monthly by filling in forms and submitting them for automatic updates to the database. Proper species matching was done for restoration, and agroforestry purposes, and in the duration of the project 187,808 seedlings of 197 species were supplied to restoration sites, schools and farmers lands for planting. Refer to Annex 22 for the records of seedlings and species provided to planting sites. By looking at the existing trees in the restoration sites, and trees present in reference forests (closest remaining forests to the areas to be

restored, taking into account what may have been selectively logged), documenting both the climax and pioneer species, and considering the provenance of the propagation material, we were able to come up with a recommended list of species to be planted in each of the restoration sites. Refer to Annex 23 for the recommended list of species per restoration site.

Aside from creating a supply of native tree species, it was also critical for the project to ensure that there was demand for the species. Before the project, the nurseries could not sustain the operations of the existing nurseries and were not keen to stock a large supply of native tree species, because of the inability to sell them. During the project, the nurseries received visits from potential purchasers from different areas within Kilifi County. The nursery workers were capacitated with information on the uses of the trees they have in the nurseries and in which kind of areas they grow best in. Nursery workers were trained to obtain a detailed description of the land for planting from the purchasers, the current land use, and the needs for the trees in terms of numbers and purpose. For instance, if a purchaser wanted trees for their homestead and they needed trees that provide good shade, then *Terminalia sembesiaca* and *Terminalia prunioides* are examples of species that the nurseries would suggest. If the purpose of the trees was for agroforestry, then they would suggest species such as *Rhodognaphalon schumannianum* and *Milicia excelsa.* The species guide produced as part of this output also contains information on the uses of the target species for the project. Through providing this service and advice, marketing support and connecting the nurseries to restoration organizations, they were able to make significant sales that supported their livelihoods and the continued operations of the nurseries. 65,217 seedlings were sold from the nurseries, making £37,881. The buyers included WESLUX, smallholder farmers, private buyers, Equity Bank, Kenya Horticultural Society, and Plan International. Extensive marketing was done in the second year of the project, and most of the seedling sales happened towards the end of the project when the nurseries had managed to secure partnerships and acceptance of the smallholder farmers to plant native trees in their farms and homesteads. Extensive business development trainings were conducted and marketing materials produced for the nurseries which will enable them to continue with seedling sales after the project. Refer to Annex 45 for marketing materials.

Output 4: Restoration demonstration sites established that follow best practice, trial and monitor different restoration approaches, promote the use of native and threatened species and act as demonstration sites.

This output was successfully delivered by bringing >200ha of degraded land under ecological restoration using a variety of approaches, planting native trees with 1,372 farmers on an additional 2,865 ha of farmland, and ensuring that project sites were publicly accessible to promote native species planting.

The project established a Restoration Advisory Group (RAG) in its first year to guide effective implementation of the restoration components. Comprising experts from BGCI's Ecological Restoration Alliance of Botanic Gardens, the RAG included members from the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Tooro Botanical Garden, and Centre for Ecosystem Restoration Kenya (CERK). The RAG assessed the project's progress, reviewed restoration plans, and provided guidelines on restoration actions and monitoring. The RAG's collective expertise shaped the project's restoration strategies, supporting successful implementation and monitoring of the Kaya Connect restoration efforts. Refer to Annex 24 for the terms of reference and meeting notes.

Through a meticulous and participatory site selection process 6 restoration sites were selected. The restoration sites were; Kaya Chonyi 20ha; Kaya Mudzimuvya 30ha, Gede Tropical Nursery 10ha, Gede Museum Forest 17ha, Pwani University 10ha, Green Heart Kilifi 42ha, Jilore 74.2ha, and Catholic Diocese of Malindi church forest 1ha for a woodlot, all totalling 204.2ha. Please see Annex 46 for approval to restore some sites, and for other sites, the approval was indicated in the grant agreements. The level of degradation varied across the restoration sites, with some of them being largely bare, some having shrubs remaining but no big trees, and other sites needed enrichment planting only. The rate of natural regeneration and presence of invasive species also varied across the sites. The rapid site assessments and ecological surveys (Annex 25 and 26) assessed these factors and were used to determine appropriate restoration interventions for each site (Annex 27). Monitoring indicators and plans were developed (Annex 28) and implemented in the project second and third years.

203.2 ha of land was brought under ecological restoration, implementing the interventions highlighted in each site's restoration plans. At each site, restoration workers were employed who worked year-round to ensure that the trees grew well, weeds were removed, and invasive species were managed. The different restoration interventions trialled in the project aside from management of weeds and invasive species, included protection and enrichment planting, and Miyawaki plotsi. Some sites exhibited great performance, for instance the Catholic Diocese Mida Creek and Green Heart Kilifi sites had survival rates of 97.7% and 86% respectively. However, some other sites had declining survival rates over the years. This is mainly attributed to the lack of rains in the first 2 years of the project. The poor rainfall also impacted crops, and led to higher levels of income-generating forest encroachment activities, including grazing, charcoal burning and firewood extraction by the local communities (particularly at Kaya Mudzimuvya and Kaya Chonyi, where large trees were cut. This was addressed in the project through community engagement for enhanced social protection, patrols carried out by seed collectors and restoration workers, strict leadership from Kaya elders,and with support from NMK some people were arrested and made to pay fines. Annex 29 contains the monitoring report indicating the performance of the restoration sites.

A project extension was granted to take advantage of the rainy season that would have fallen just after the project end (May – June 2025). In this third year rainy season Kilifi County experienced significant rains and the project was able to plant- 52,324 trees of 187 species in this season. It is important to note that the end of project monitoring was done before the final planting was carried out, and therefore, many of the seedlings that did not survive from year 1 and 2 planting events were replaced, and the partner organizations managing the site have committed to continued protection. For instance, during the 2025 International Day of Forests, CFCU called for a community meeting at Kaya Chonyi that was attended by 400 community members and all issues regarding protection of the forest and the restoration sites were addressed. Sub-county officers in charge of environment, Kenya Forest Service, the chief and Kaya elders were present, and they committed to taking action against people found cutting down trees and disturbing the restoration sites and establishing a Community Forest Association for the site. Plan International, an NGO already active in the area, has also committed to continuing to manage the site at Kaya Chonyi brought under restoration by the Kaya Connect project.

Nonetheless, we recognize that there is a great need to continue and improve protection of some sites and strengthen enforcement efforts and capacity of forest management structures. In our subsequent fundraising for Kilifi restoration efforts, we have made this a priority.

A total of 187,808 seedlings of 197 species were planted during the project. The table below gives a breakdown of the seedlings planted per restoration site and the number of species planted.

Planting Site	No. seedlings planted	Species planted
Kaya Chonyi (restoration site and surrounding community)	19,855	17
Kaya Mudzimuvya (restoration site)	9,200	12
Jilore (restoration site)	4,225	5
Green Heart of Kenya (restoration site)	40,268	165
Pwani University (botanic garden and restoration site)	22,662	166
Kaya Kauma (restoration site)	3,260	8
CDA Mida (model farm)	2,050	27
Farmers (farmlands and households)	56,664	131
Schools	4,656	10
Kivukoni (restoration site and community areas)	2,870	110
Gede Tropical Nursery (restoration site and community areas)	1,850	15
Others (donation to other planting sites and sales)	20,248	160
Total	187,808	197

1,393 farmers were recruited to plant trees in their farms, and 1,372 farmers planted 56,664 trees of 131 native species covering an area of 2,865 ha under restoration. Through the socioeconomic survey and engagement with the farmers, we were able to determine the best suited species for the farmers to plant. Annex 30 contains the database of farmers and species planted. According to the final monitoring, the average survival rate is 49.8% which is mainly attributed to the lack of rainfall experienced in the first 2 years. Survival rates ranged from 10% to 86% across sites with higher survival rates witnessed in areas which were well fenced and with access to water. The seedlings distributed in the May – June 2025 rainy season were not included in the monitoring, and with the measures to reinforce care for the planted trees and the good rains received, we expect the survival rate to improve as monitoring continues. Annex 31 contains the smallholder farmers monitoring report.

The project sensitized farmers on tree planting, maintenance and aftercare techniques via a training of trainers' approach, whereby the project recruited 10 community environmental champions and 5 model farmers across Kilifi (Annex 32 contains example model farmer agreements). The model farmers and champions then hosted visits and held meetings with over 2,000 farmers discussing the benefits of indigenous trees, and the economically viable native tree species that they could plant on their farms. A significant proportion of the farmers were recruited and trained. To reinforce this, during monitoring visits, project partners have also conducted field trainings with the farmers on how to maintain the seedlings they have planted in their farms

The project's model schools and education program worked with 11 schools. At the beginning of the project, the schools did have environmental clubs, but they did not actively engage in proper environmental activities or learning. Working with the LEAF Charity and an environmental education expert, we developed an environmental education toolbox which was used by education officers employed via the project to facilitate weekly engagements with students. The total number of students that were directly impacted is 1,100 each year and indirectly over 11,000 students across the schools. Some of the topics that they have benefitted from include soil, composting, waste management, indigenous trees, regenerative agriculture, water cycle, biodiversity, parts and functions of a tree. The schools have also planted 4,656 seedlings.

350 people from over 15 organizations have visited and been sensitized about the restoration sites over the course of the project, surpassing our target of 300 people. Some of the organizations that have visited the restoration sites include higher level officials from Kenya Forest Service, the County Government of Kilifi, Mount Kenya University, Vwevwesisi School, Kenya Forest Research Institute, ICRAF, World vision, Karomani Farm Limited, and students from Germany and Belgium

Output 5: Mechanisms in place to ensure long-term sustainability of project outputs, scalability of best practice restoration within Kilifi County and replicability across the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest hotspot.

The project had a strong focus on ensuring long-term sustainability and scalability via a diverse range of approaches, including carbon registration, policy updates, media coverage, partnerships and fundraising.

The project successfully made connections with organizations working on restoration in the county, and some have purchased seedlings from the project nurseries. These include Plan International, World Vision, KEFRI Darwin bicultural heritage project, National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) – Kilifi; Community Based Environmental Conservation – Kilifi (COBEC – Kilifi); Scope Kenya; Shamba Project Kilifi, Earthlungs Reforestation; Arocha Kenya, Nature Kenya, Eden Reforestation Projects; the Restore Africa Project; Nature Kenya; Dabaso Creek Conservation Group; Mombasa Cement, Kenya Commercial Bank, Equity Bank, and Absa Bank. Gede Tropical Nursery co-hosted an event on indigenous trees and *Tectona grandis* planting with KEFRI for farmers. Through various forms of marketing including social media, distribution of flyers, and engagement with local communities, private landowners also made seedling purchases and planted native tree seedlings in their farms. The National Museums of Kenya and Kenya Forest Service were project partners but the project reached higher level influential staff working on forest initiatives.

The project has been working on carbon registration from year 1. A Project Idea Note (PIN) was successfully submitted to Plan Vivo and we have been part of their pilot carbon accelerator program, helping us to prepare the Project Design Document (next official step for carbon project registration) and providing us with a feasibility assessment from Earthshot and Xilva. At the end of the accelerator programme, we pitched the project to real carbon investors, and secured interest from Earthly, Xilva and Zero Mission, who we are currently continuing to engage (see investor pitch feedback report in Annex 34). We have also signed a representation agreement with AirImpact to support the project in securing carbon financing. We have also done carbon calculations (Annex 35) and developed a financial model for the project (Annex 36) which will help in securing carbon financing. Of the 1,393 farmers recruited in the project, 597 of them are signed on to the carbon project and have been part of required Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) processes, land management planning and tree planting. Annex 47 contains the carbon farmers database.

The project has had successful national mainstream media coverages in one of Kenya's largest media houses, KTN, with a special feature streamed on national TV during KTN's primetime "Culture Quest" (now available at this link with 1,400 views since posted online). Some additional footage highlighting the education programme can be seen here (with 394 views) and here (231 views), both of which were also streamed on TV with higher coverage. The project produced an impact video (available here) that covers stories of project beneficiaries and how the project has improved their lives. The nurseries have been able to reach approximately 6,000 people in their communities, via tours, exchange visits, outreach events and walk in visits. BGCI Africa's analytics indicate a reach of 15,357 across X, Facebook and LinkedIn (the project social media handles are indicated on the first page). Across the project, with all the project partners we reached approximately 30,000 people through social media posts.

The project partners have also received significant media coverage for the components of the restoration work that they carried out. For instance, BBC Africa and Akili Kids TV featured LEAF's nursery work in episodes, recognizing the project's contribution.

The project also successfully led the amendment of the Country Forest Management Policy to include more focus on native tree planting and biodiversity conservation. At the beginning of the project, the Kilifi County Forest Management Policy was in place, however after discussions with the county government, and carrying out gap analysis and workshop with stakeholders, it was evident that there were significant gaps with regards to native tree species and biodiversity conservation. An amendment process was initiated, numerous workshops and a write-shop were held and by the end of the project, working with the county government, we were able to have a final draft of the policy in place which was presented to the Members of the County Assembly, and it was approved. See Annex 39 for the working draft of the amended policy. The policy is now in the process of being tabled to the County Cabinet for final approval. Alongside this, the project partners also drafted some critical regulations to support policy implementation such as wood fuel use, and forest gazettement regulations.

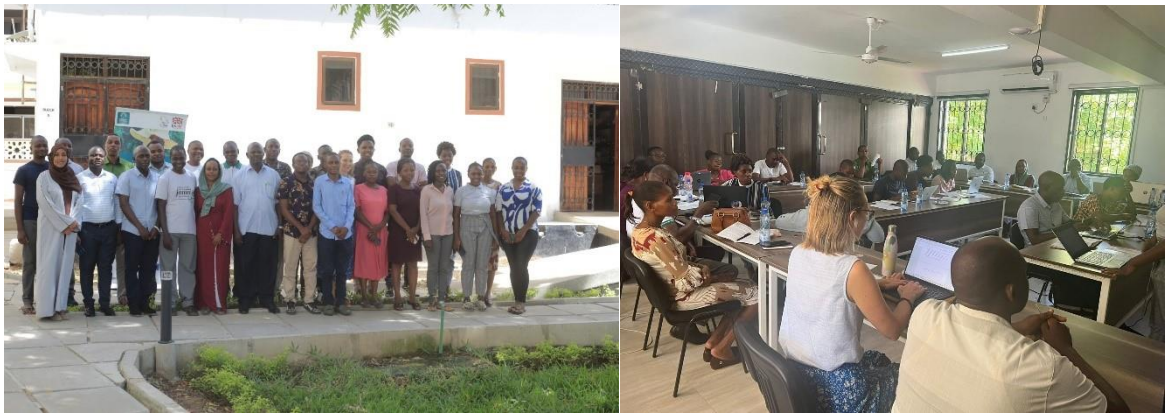

Figure 4: Policy workshop in Kilifi County

To ensure that the project approach can be replicated and scaled, we have documented the restoration project model in a best practice manual that can be found here. The model has been shared with all partners, stakeholders and connections made during implementation of the project. At the beginning of

the project, we carried out a restoration training for 30 partners, stakeholders and restoration workers on the Ten Golden Rules of Reforestation Refer to Annex 37 for the list of participants and Annex 38 for the training modules.

A webinar was delivered to share the restoration model and outcomes of the project with organizations. A total of 85 people from 44 organizations from 7 countries (Kenya, Belgium, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda) registered for the webinar which was attended live by 33 people live and the rest received the recording (Annex 41) and presentations on the restoration model. Poll results from the webinar (Annex 40) indicated that 86% of the participants are very likely and 14% are likely to use the tools and model presented in the webinar and the lessons learned in their own restoration activities.

The project has also had a chance to share the Kaya Connect restoration model in other forums across Africa including the AFR100 Restoration Academy that was held in Tanzania. BGCI hosted a table exhibition at the Global Landscapes Forum to showcase the project and shared the project at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 6) and the African Climate Summit 2023, all in Nairobi. We also attended the Scaling Nature-based Solutions Conference in Zambia, where we had a dedicated session for sharing BGCI's tree conservation and restoration work, highlighting the Kaya Connect Project as the case study.

3.2 Outcome

The intended outcome of the project was that Kilifi County provides a scalable model of best practice restoration for the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest hotspot providing employment to 136 local people and conservation of 40 threatened species. We are confident that the project outcome has been fully achieved, and the restoration model has become a flagship example for other restoration initiatives within the hotspot. The key attributes that have made this project replicable and scalable are:

- Influenced policy and government institutes with a mandate to look after EACF hotspot areas in Kilifi County (and further across Kenyan parts of EACF via Kenya Forest Service)
- Produced maps that show target areas for future restoration
- Created sustainable income sources, for example from sales of seedlings and securing matched funds
- Demonstrated good restoration practices that incorporate native and threatened trees to benefit biodiversity and livelihoods.

To ensure county level sustainability of the restoration model, the project worked closely with the County Government of Kilifi, National Museums of Kenya and Kenya Forest Service who are the custodians of forest in the county This will help to ensure that the restoration lessons and practices from the project are a flagship point of reference for other restoration programmes in the county. Key successes have included working with the County Government of Kilifi to amend existing policy, improve native tree species propagation in county nurseries, build the capacity of county staff, and working with the sub county representative in outreach and tree growing initiatives. These efforts have ensured that the restoration model is trickled down from the policy level to practices at the government county and subcounty levels. (Please refer to section 3.1 of the best practice manual, and the draft policy).

Aside from the restoration areas that the project directly worked in, we have mapped other forest fragments and degraded areas within the county that are potential areas for restoration. The interactive restoration map developed will enable collaboration among restoration practitioners within the county. The map allows other organizations working within the county to map the areas they are restoring and the interventions being carried out. (Please refer to the map here, and Annex 42 for the drone images of the project restoration sites).

Matched funding of £372,186.65 has been secured by BGCI and project partners (see breakdown in the finance section). This includes funding from the German Government's International Climate Initiative (IKI) to maintain seed collection from Arabuko Sokoke forest to nurseries. Through the sale of seeds and

seedlings, community nurseries have made sufficient funds (£37,881) that will enable them to keep the production ongoing. Partner organizations such as the LEAF Charity, Green Heart Kilifi, Kivukoni and Gede Tropical Nursery will be retaining their workforce that was being paid through the project. This will support the continuation of a strong native seedling supply for restoration in Kilifi County.

The project has demonstrated that restoration can be carried out focusing on native species, incorporating threatened species, providing benefits to people, and carbon sequestration. For example, the project has established restoration sites showcasing a variety of restoration approaches, that are used for restoration. The project surpassed its species target of 150 native tree species including 40 threatened and near threatened, by locating, monitoring, collecting seeds from and propagating 203 species of native trees, including 47 threatened or Near Threatened species, and planting 197 species in restoration sites, 47 of which are threatened or Near Threatened species. In addition, the project has achieved significant success in capacity building and livelihoods objectives, by training 174 community members and 141 of them receiving regular income from the project and sales of seeds and seedlings. All the supporting documents have been included in the annexes as highlighted under each output.

3.3 Monitoring of assumptions

The outcome and output assumptions were monitored throughout the project, by BGCI, project partners and the project Steering Committee. The expected pathways to change held true, with some presenting reduced risk at the end of the project. Below is a breakdown of the assumptions and their comments:

Assumption: Proposed activities including trainings are still possible under COVID-19 restrictions (helped by the fact that most project activities can be done outside). *Comment:* This assumption carries reduced risk now. COVID-19 disruption was not an issue during the project as all restrictions were lifted.

Assumption: Access will be given to additional sites for seed collection (permission of many sites already obtained) *Comment:* This assumption has reduced risk. Throughout the course of the project, we were able to obtain permits to collect seeds from all targeted forest fragments within Kilifi County.

Assumption: Water supply is available at nurseries (mitigated by working with existing nurseries but the risk could increase if rains are poor). *Comment:* This assumption held true. Kenya has been affected by drought and rains at the coast have been scarce. However, to mitigate the risk, water tanks and rain harvest systems were provided to nurseries.

Assumption: Costs of native seedlings are appealing to purchasers. *Comment:* This assumption partly held true. The project managed this assumption by a marketing assessment and strategy. Larger organizations buying in bulk for restoration required reduced prices, and government organizations needed no cost seedlings which impacted revenue streams. A global shift away from the 1 USD per tree model is needed, which BGCI is advocating for via this project and the development of The Global Biodiversity Standard (www.biodiversitystandard.org, project DAREX001). Successful sales were achieved by partner nurseries over the course of the project.

Assumption: Water is available at sites for planted seedlings (mitigated by careful site selection and planning but the risk could increase if the rains are poor). *Comment:* This assumption held true. Kenya was affected by drought in the course of the project and at the coast there were poor rains in the first and second years of the project. This impacted survival rates of seedlings planting in the first and second years. Planting of trees was postponed in some seasons and for some sites because rains received were not sufficient. The final rainy season supported achievement of planting targets.

Assumption: Permission will be given to restore additional sites. *Comment:* This assumption held true. Interest was shown by other stakeholders and additional sites for restoration identified.

Assumption: Carbon markets remain strong during and after the project period (predictions look good) and interested buyers of carbon credits will be identified in the voluntary market. *Comment:* This assumption held true as there is still interest in carbon markets. The Kaya Connect project is small scale with respect to carbon credits, focusing more on diversity rather than number of trees planted, but BGCI developed partnerships with Climate Impact Partners, Plan Vivo, Global Evergreening Alliance and

AirImpact, and is exploring partnerships with purchasers focused more on biodiversity and livelihoods rather than simply carbon sequestration.

3.4 Impact

This project aimed to have a positive impact on biodiversity by promoting the incorporation of native and threatened species into ecosystem restoration, agroforestry projects and tree planting programmes in Kilifi County. This was to be achieved via enhanced connectivity, increasing supply of native tree seed and seedlings, and developing a County Indigenous Tree Planting Policy aimed to improve protection of additional forest fragments, reducing the risk of further negative impact on biodiversity from large-scale exotic monoculture planting and invasive species planting.

Positive impacts on biodiversity have been realized by the project. The project has enhanced the protection of mature native and threatened trees via increased survey and monitoring efforts for seed collection. All project partners were trained to collect seeds rather than wildlings, which can damage forest health, resulting in a positive impact on forest health in areas where wildlings were previously collected. The project facilitated and promoted the incorporation of native and threatened species into restoration and tree-planting projects, demonstrated that results can be achieved quickly with native species and busting the common myth that all native species are too hard to grow or too slow for planting. Through the Kaya Connect project, >430,000 more seedlings of 203 species (47 threatened or Near Threatened species) were made available for restoration. The project created a viable model for a carbon credits project that focuses on a high diversity of native species, aligning with the numerous studies that are coming out that show that natural forests with high biodiversity and complex fauna and flora systems are better at storing carbon than plantations.

The project has demonstrated positive impacts on poverty alleviation by training 174 people and employing 141 people, many of whom have retained employment after the project has ended, and building business acumen of these project beneficiaries, enabling them to make significant seedling sales and ensuring they have infrastructural support and technical knowledge on building and running successful restoration enterprises. Trees have been planted on farms for multiple benefits.

4 Contribution to Darwin Initiative Programme Objectives

4.1 Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): Kenya's NBSAP (2019–2030) Goal 2, Strategic target 22 calls for ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks to be enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030. This project has significantly contributed by bringing 204.2ha of degraded forest sites and 2,865ha of farmers lands under restoration using a high diversity of native and threatened species, increasing supply of good quality seed and seedlings (>430,000 seedlings of 203 species), and establishing mechanisms to continue scaling up best practice restoration in Kilifi and the EACF.
The project is also contributing to the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework targets, particularly:
Target 2, by bringing degraded land under restoration and ensuring connectivity of EACF. Target 3, by conserving important biodiversity areas that incorporate threatened trees as well as other important species, ensuring their effective and equitable management, and integrating biodiversity into wider landscapes by planting native trees on farms. Target 4, by enabling the recovery and conservation of species and genetic diversity of 47 threatened and Near Threatened tree species, including ex situ seed banking. Target 8, by mitigating and adapting to climate change through ecosystem-based approaches and ensuring that all future tree-planting mitigation and adaptation efforts within Kilifi avoid negative impacts on biodiversity. Target 10, by ensuring areas under agriculture and forestry are managed sustainably and include native trees.

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change: Kenya's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) by planting 187,808 native trees and regenerating additional trees through Assisted Natural Regeneration. Good progress has also been made to engage a carbon financing partner to formalise the contribution

and ensure benefits go to communities. The project also contributes towards Kenya's 5.1 million ha Bonn Challenge pledge by bringing 3069.2ha under restoration, planting trees at 1372 homesteads and 11 schools, and supplying 106,240 seedlings for restoration. Kenya's national-level restoration potential map designates large areas of degraded EACF in Kilifi for plantations and bamboo, but this project has demonstrated that more appropriate restoration methods can be carried out in Kilifi, contributing to the 5.1m pledge and generating biodiversity and economic benefits.

Kenya's Vision 2030: By rehabilitating and protecting indigenous forest, mapping forest fragments for protection and ensuring they are formally recognised in the county-level tree planting policy, and as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) or Alliance for Zero Extinction sites (AZEs).

Kenya's national vision and goals for tree conservation, co-developed by the jointly led BGCI-KFS Kenya Threatened Trees Consortium, by providing *in situ* protection of 47 threatened or Near Threatened tree species, raising awareness of the need to conserve Kenya's threatened trees and including them in planting programmes.

The Sustainable Development Goals: Particularly Target 1, by providing employment opportunities to 141 people to reduce poverty; Target 13, by capturing carbon through restoration activities; Target 15.1 by ensuring the improved conservation of Kilifi's forests; 15.2 by restoring degraded forests and increasing reforestation in Kilifi County; and 15.5 by taking urgent action to halt biodiversity loss and prevent the extinction of threatened tree species.

4.2 Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The Kaya Connect project has actively contributed to multidimensional poverty reduction by ensuring that local community members, including those from Community Forest Associations, farmers, and other groups, directly benefit from its initiatives. Through comprehensive training programs, the project equipped 174 individuals with valuable technical skills such as phenology monitoring, seed collection, propagation, nursery management, business development, restoration techniques, species management, and recovery and reintroduction of native species. This capacity building has empowered local communities to participate in sustainable environmental practices while generating income.

The project has provided consistent employment opportunities to 141 individuals, offering a daily wage of KES 750, which exceeds Kenya's minimum wage. This stable source of income has been a significant financial boost to the local population. Moreover, the project has fostered the growth of local restoration enterprises by providing nursery infrastructure and the necessary knowledge to build successful businesses. As a result, all nurseries have made sales, and seed collectors have profited from sustainably sourcing seeds. These income-generating skills and business opportunities will continue to support the beneficiaries even after the project concludes, with many of the people employed maintaining their jobs after project-end, contributing to long-term poverty alleviation.

Impact stories told by the beneficiaries, which can be found here indicate the contribution that the project has made in their lives. Children have been taken to school, more food on the table, houses have also been improved, and trained young men have also started other nature-based businesses through the income and skills from this project, which will further help in improving their livelihoods in the long-term.

Additionally, the project has planted native trees on homesteads and farmlands, which will provide multiple benefits, such as medicine, fruits, timber, and ornamental trees. In the long term, these trees will offer ongoing income opportunities for farmers. Farmers have also been trained in seed collection and connected with nurseries within Kilifi, enabling them to become part of the local seed supply chain. As their trees mature, they gain further incentives to maintain and expand their tree cover, leading to sustainable agricultural practices and increased financial security. Through these combined efforts, the Kaya Connect project has helped to build the foundation for enduring poverty reduction in the region.

4.3 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
Not yet sensitive	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
Sensitive	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	
Empowering	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	X
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

Marginalization based on factors such as gender and age, were some of the social challenges that were being experienced in the project area. Internally, within BGCI, the project was led by all women from the project leader to the project manager. At the Project Steering Committee level, 50% of the members are women. 50% of the partner organizations are either led by or have women in a senior leadership position. At the beginning of the project, we held two gender mainstreaming trainings. The first one was delivered to the project partners to ensure that they are providing equal opportunities to women and are sensitive of gender issues. The second one was at the community and stakeholder level that enabled the selection of project beneficiaries to be gender sensitive. We have managed to achieve 40% direct women project beneficiaries and 55% youth in a community that is still largely patriarchal and where older generations, especially in the Kaya communities, tend to be more active in issues related to forest management and tree planting, than the young people.

4.4 Transfer of knowledge

The Kaya Connect project has made significant efforts to transfer knowledge, including new insights and practices generated through the project, to both practitioners and policymakers in the field of forest management, restoration and conservation. This knowledge transfer has taken several forms, ensuring that the project's innovations and best practices are widely shared and applied to practical challenges. One of the primary methods of knowledge transfer has been through webinars and workshops, which have provided a platform to share the project model. These have facilitated discussions with a wide audience of practitioners, stakeholders, and policymakers, including participants from Kenya, Tanzania, and Mozambique, thus broadening the project's impact across the EACF hotspot.

Within the project timeframe, 174 people received technical training in restoration-related topics. A capacity/skills assessment was done at the end of the project and this revealed that there was 86% improvement of knowledge in seed sowing, processing, pre-treatment and nursery management skills. The project developed a species information guide with photos of native species and information on their uses, propagation, and storage protocols. This guide is accessible and serves as a practical tool to transfer knowledge to conservationists, researchers, and local communities. The project also produced an open access best practice manual, providing a comprehensive overview of the approach, interventions, and lessons learnt from Kaya Connect. This manual ensures that project knowledge is accessible to a global audience of conservation practitioners and policymakers and reflects the project's commitment to fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange on a broader scale.

Furthermore, the project has shared its findings and approaches at international conferences and forums, contributing to global dialogues on restoration and conservation. These platforms have allowed Kaya Connect to present its innovative work, exchange ideas with experts from various fields, and encourage the adoption of similar restoration models across other regions, focusing on native species and livelihood benefits. In addition to international engagements, the project has also been actively involved in community meetings, where knowledge was transferred directly to local stakeholders, ensuring that conservation strategies within the project were adapted to local contexts and effectively implemented.

The Kaya Connect project has also embraced social media and mainstream media coverage to share its successes and lessons learned, reaching a wider audience beyond the immediate conservation community. This is complemented by the sharing of training modules and materials, which have been distributed widely to ensure that the knowledge and resources generated by the project continues to benefit future generations of conservationists and community leaders.

Through these varied channels, the project has successfully transferred knowledge across multiple platforms, ensuring that its sensitive and innovative approaches to forest restoration and conservation are applied practically by a diverse range of stakeholders, from local communities to policymakers.

4.5 Capacity building

The Kaya Connect project has built the capacity of both BGCI and partner staff significantly. Through the training provided to the seed technician, it enabled him to manage the entire seed bank well and gain valuable experience that he was able to leverage and move into other opportunities. Through the knowledge and experience of managing this project, the project officer and project manager at BGCI improved their capacity and began to handle projects at the regional level. BGCI staff have also increased their knowledge of designing carbon projects, that can be applied to other native species restoration projects. Two staff members of partner organizations were promoted from officer to manager level, and this can be attributed to the experience and knowledge gained in leading the Kaya Connect project in their organizations. BGCI staff have also been invited to speak in conferences like AFR100 Restoration Academy in Tanzania, and the Accelerating Nature Based Solutions conference in Zambia.

As part of the IKI funded Right Tree in the Right Place for the Right Purpose project implemented by a consortium of partners including CIFOR-ICRAF, BGCI and Unique land use in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Burkina Faso, representatives of the Kaya Connect project team have been invited to give expert case study presentations on the policy process of the project.

5 Monitoring and evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system of the Kaya Connect project has been practical and effective in providing valuable feedback to partners and stakeholders throughout the project's life. Led by the Project Leader and Project Manager, the M&E process has ensured that project activities are on track and aligned with the established objectives and logframe indicators. Quarterly progress and budget checks have been conducted to monitor financial and operational performance, while biannual Steering Committee (SC) meetings have provided a structured forum for evaluating overall project progress. SC meetings were held online to ensure high attendance while minimizing expenses, ensuring that key decisions and assessments were made collectively.

Regular meetings between the BGCI team and all project partners have further strengthened the M&E process, allowing for fast problem-solving when challenges arose. M&E responsibilities were also shared among partners, with each organization involved in the monitoring and reporting of specific indicators. Partners actively contributed to quarterly monitoring activities, ensuring that data was collected consistently throughout the project. Monthly reports on nursery production figures were provided to BGCI (verified by BGCI and enumerators) to monitor progress toward production targets.

The project benefitted from ecological and socioeconomic baseline surveys, conducted in the first year, which provided essential data to track progress and assess changes in restoration outcomes and

community benefits during years 2 and 3. These baseline surveys have played a crucial role in providing a clear benchmark for assessing project success. Surveys were repeated in year 3 to measure impact.

Throughout the life of the project, the internal evaluation process implemented through regular M&E activities and the structured internal evaluation system was useful in tracking the achievement of project indicators. The M&E findings helped to identify areas where the project has succeeded and where further attention was needed, allowing for timely adjustments and improvements in implementation processes, including via discussions with and providing support to project partners, as needed. These evaluations and the feedback from stakeholders have been critical in ensuring that the Kaya Connect project remained responsive and effective in achieving its outcomes.

6 Lessons learnt

The Kaya Connect project has provided valuable lessons which can inform future restoration initiatives. Reflecting on both successes and challenges encountered throughout the project, several key takeaways have emerged that can enhance the design and implementation of future Darwin Initiative projects.

Some of the most successful aspects of the Kaya Connect project have been its ability to build partnerships and engage with local communities; Collaboration with the Kenya Forest Service, National Museums of Kenya, and the Kilifi County Government has been crucial in ensuring the scalability and sustainability of the restoration model; The establishment of model farm foresters, provision of training, and the enhancement of nursery infrastructures have proven to be effective strategies for building local capacity and generating income through sustainable tree planting and seedling sales; Integrating outputs such as the restoration manual, propagation guidance document and policy update into the project were successful ways to ensure project impact after Darwin funding ends. Overall, the project has successfully demonstrated that biodiversity, livelihood and carbon outcomes can be achieved via well-planned, collaborative restoration efforts that focus on native species, which is a key lesson to be shared to help shift the global focus away from planting any species at minimal cost.

Another significant lesson learnt that can be applied to other projects is the diversity of native tree species that can be propagated in a relatively short timeframe, including many species that have not been grown before. This was achieved by the successful seed collection network which brought a high diversity of species to nurseries, and the commitment and collaboration of partners to share and document propagation techniques, what worked and what didn't, to facilitate success.

Although only initial restoration results could be obtained within the project timeframe, two key lessons learnt include firstly that even if propagation in nurseries is successful for a wide diversity of species, longer projects and more research is needed to establish successful planting protocols for such a diversity of species (though lack of rainfall was also a key factor). Secondly, initial indications show that the Miyawaki-style planting method (which was successfully adopted by Green Heart Kilifi in this project), a high-density planting method, which can create forest-like conditions faster, may be a more cost-effective approach to use in coastal areas as it has yielded impressive early growth results. Implementing this approach more widely could enhance the long-term success of restoration efforts, particularly in areas with challenging growing conditions, however, longer-term monitoring is needed to confirm this.

Some challenges arose in the project, for example during the distribution of seedlings to farmers, where initial resistance to planting indigenous trees was encountered. Despite earlier sensitization efforts, some smallholder farmers still expressed a preference for planting exotic trees. To address this, the project developed more in-depth education and outreach materials and engaged communities through further demonstrations and connecting them to model farm foresters. Looking back, a more comprehensive and targeted outreach strategy could have been implemented earlier in the project, including tailored educational campaigns with clear examples of the long-term benefits of indigenous trees.

Another area where improvements could have been made is in integrating carbon financing into the project. At the project design phase, guidance on costings to establish a carbon project were provided by

Terraformation, who later set a minimum ha requirement for projects they would support, which was larger than our project coverage. Interest from carbon financiers indicates the project has great potential and it is worth pursuing as a carbon project, but designing the project to achieve carbon financing was more resource and time-intensive than anticipated. Despite this, significant progress was made, with the PIN submitted and a financial model for the 40-year carbon project produced.

By embracing adaptive management, learning from both successes and setbacks, and sharing these lessons broadly, lessons learnt from Kaya Connect can help future Darwin Initiative projects further enhance their impact and sustainability.

7 Actions taken in response to Annual Report reviews

Comments from previous report	Action Taken
Future reports could be shortened, e.g by having a summary of progress with activities, focussing on any changes and main areas of progress and/or delays. The detailed description of activities, which takes up to 19 pages of the AR2, is very useful and well done but could be placed in an annex. The expected length of a main annual report is maximum 20 pages. This would help reviewers and other readers of the Darwin reports to focus on overall performance and progress against specific indicators.	This has been well noted and this report is more concise and has adhered to the 20 pages, not including the tables and photos.
Information on the number and type of community members (as opposed to project employees) who are engaged by the project is scarce and should be increased in future reports so that the impact on the Kaya communities in particular can be better assessed.	This has been addressed in section 3 of the report by describing who the community members are.
Feedback from participants/beneficiaries (for example those attending training or community meetings) is scarce and more of this in subsequent reports would add useful information on the quality of the work.	This has been addressed through the impact stories told from the perspective of the beneficiaries and in the annexed reports for trainings and workshops.

8 Risk Management

No additional risks were highlighted or added to the risk register. The current version of the register has been submitted along with this report.

9 Scalability and Durability

The Kaya Connect project has made significant strides in ensuring the scalability and durability of its achievements, creating a sustainable legacy for forest restoration and community engagement in Kilifi County. The project has engaged a diverse range of stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the private sector, through capacity-building workshops and training sessions. These stakeholders have become aware of the project's activities, benefits, and the steps involved through direct participation and access to shared capacity-building materials. The involvement of local government officials, including the Kilifi County Governor and Executive Committee members, has been instrumental in embedding the project's goals within local policy frameworks, such as the amendment of the Kilifi County Forest Management and Tree Growing Policy. This policy change represents a lasting legacy, ensuring a stronger focus on native tree species protection and restoration in all future landscape restoration efforts in the county.

The project has attracted significant interest from potential adopters, both within the public and private sectors. Evidence of this interest includes the active participation of government representatives and the engagement of private sector entities in the capacity-building initiatives. Moreover, the project has successfully connected local nurseries to markets for seeds and seedlings, allowing them to generate income and ensuring their financial sustainability beyond the project's funding. This income-generating

capacity provides a strong incentive for local communities to continue their involvement in the restoration efforts, demonstrating how the benefits of the project outweigh the costs. Additionally, the project is in the process of registering for carbon credits with Plan Vivo Foundation. While this will not provide immediate returns, the eventual financial support from carbon credits will create a sustainable funding stream for ongoing restoration efforts.

The Kaya Connect project has made substantial progress toward ensuring that its outputs, outcomes, and impacts will remain durable after the project concludes. All capacity-building materials have been made available to the beneficiaries for future reference, and ongoing training will ensure that communities are equipped with the necessary skills to continue implementing restoration practices. The project has focused heavily on behaviour change towards the planting of indigenous trees and sustainable forest management practices. This shift is crucial for the long-term success of the project, as it ensures that the restoration activities will continue at the grassroots level, even after the project's funding ends.

Furthermore, the project's model is well documented, making it replicable across the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest (EACF) region and other counties in Kenya. The methodology, best practices, and restoration strategies developed through the Kaya Connect project provide a robust framework that can be scaled up and adapted in different contexts, ensuring that the impact of the project will continue to grow.

In terms of legacy, the project has already secured a strong foundation for future scalability, which was the main aim of output 5. The carbon market partnerships, ongoing fundraising efforts, collaborations fostered through the county restoration map, and the growing sales from local nurseries represent pathways for continued funding, and the policy changes will ensure that restoration practices are embedded within county and national frameworks and continue to become more environmentally sensitive. The project's success in engaging local communities, building capacity, and connecting stakeholders with restoration markets provides a solid base for continued work long after the project's end. The Kaya Connect project has demonstrated that with the right partnerships, training, and policy support, the impact of restoration efforts can be sustained and scaled achieving positive impact on biodiversity, livelihoods and climate beyond the project's lifespan.

10 Darwin Initiative identity

The project has publicized the Darwin Initiative through the information and education materials that have been developed. This includes infographics and flyers; signages for the project, information boards that have been designed for the nurseries; a project banner that is used in all gatherings for the project, and T-shirts given to project partners and some project beneficiaries. All of these include the Darwin logo. In all project meetings and gatherings, we ensure that we credit the contribution of the UK government. There is a good understanding and recognition of the Darwin Initiative as the funding entity for this project. We also mention and tag the Darwin Initiative, and BCF in all social media posts across our platforms and those of the project partners.

11 Safeguarding

12 Finance and administration

12.1 Project expenditure

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2024/25 Grant (£)	2024/25 Total actual Darwin Initiative Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				

Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	152915			

12.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project	Total (£)
Green Heart Kilifi for tree planting and nursery operations with funding from GHK, Ecosia and salaries for nursery manager and admin staff.	
Mandhari Plants & Designs/Gede Tropical Nursery: Funding from GGI Gardens to expand the seed bank and contribute to seed technician salary.	
Seedling sales from all partner nurseries.	
The LEAF Charity for tree planting, Fondation Franklinia funds for restoration activities in Chasimba, Nursery and restoration workers support, and LEAF staff contribution paid by The LEAF Charity.	
Kaya nursery workers who were not being paid by the project but were working in the nurseries and earning from seedling sales.	
Friends of Arabuko Sokoke Forest for salary contribution for staff working on the project with funding from GAP, Minara and other internal funds.	
TOTAL	

Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project	Total (£)
International Climate Initiative (IKI): Activities strengthening the Native Tree Seed supply chain and to develop a Native Tree Seed National Strategy Policy (the Kaya experience will be used as a case study).	
Darwin Innovation: For propagation trials for threatened species on the Tanzanian coast and development of a native tree species online resource-hub (supporting coastal tree planting and elsewhere in Tanzania).	
Fondation Franklinia: BGCI project in Kenya to improve propagation and in situ conservation of threatened trees that were challenging in the Kaya Connect project	
TOTAL	

12.3 Value for Money

The Kaya Connect project has demonstrated strong value for money by achieving significant environmental and social outcomes while maintaining an efficient use of resources. Value for money, as outlined in the Finance Guidance, is not solely about minimizing costs but ensuring that the project has achieved its objectives with economy, efficiency, and effectiveness. Based on the outcomes, evidence of impact, and the strategic use of funding, the Kaya Connect project represents good value for money.

The project created significant direct economic benefits to local communities by employing 141 individuals, who have reported significant improvements in their domestic lives. These individuals were employed in nursery management, seed collection, and restoration activities, providing them with a steady income above the minimum wage. This employment has had a tangible impact on their livelihoods, contributing to local poverty reduction. This employment generation represents an efficient use of resources, directly aligning with the project's objectives of improving local livelihoods.

The nurseries supported by the project have begun generating revenue, with a total of £37,881 already earned from seedling and seed sales. This income stream not only ensures the sustainability of the nurseries beyond the project's funding but also demonstrates the project's effectiveness in creating long-term economic benefits. The revenue generation, alongside the employment created, reflects the project's ability to leverage limited resources for maximum financial return, ensuring that the benefits extend beyond the project's duration. By equipping local partners with the skills and infrastructure

needed to operate nurseries and manage restoration sites, the project fostered self-reliance and the potential for ongoing income generation. The provision of infrastructure and training represents an efficient use of funds, enabling longer lasting results without relying on ongoing external support.

The project has exceeded its species targets, propagating over 430,000 seedlings of 203 species of native trees, including 47 threatened species, and planting 197 species in restoration sites. This was made possible through careful planning and the strategic use of resources to target the most relevant areas for restoration. By creating a scalable and replicable restoration model, the project has laid the groundwork for future restoration efforts in other parts of Kilifi County and beyond. The effectiveness of these efforts demonstrates the project's strong value for money in terms of environmental outcomes.

The project involved and impacted a large number of partners with the funds available. The project was also successful in leveraging additional funding through partnerships. These partnerships not only increase the financial sustainability of the project but also provide a return on investment by ensuring that the project's model can be expanded in the future. The strategic use of partnerships amplifies the value of the original investment, demonstrating the project's ability to attract further resources for scaling up its impact. The strategic focus on capacity building, revenue generation, and scaling restoration efforts ensures that the project's impact will continue well beyond its completion, making it a model for future conservation and development initiatives.

13 Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

The project team was delighted and honoured that Neil Wigan OBE, British High Commissioner to Kenya, and a team from the foreign office visited the Kaya Connect project in June 2025. We were able to share key project achievements and demonstrate how communities were involved in and benefited from the seed collection activities of the project, focusing on the Arabuko Sokoke Forest.

The Kaya Connect project was an ambitious and multifaceted initiative, involving numerous components and activities aimed at restoring the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest biodiversity hotspot. The project's success lies in its ability to achieve key outputs that not only demonstrate its impact but also pave the way for replication in other regions. One of the central outputs is the Native Species Restoration in the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest Biodiversity Hotspot Best Practice Manual, which captures lessons learned throughout the project and provides a comprehensive guide for future restoration initiatives. Additionally, the Kaya Connect Species Profile and Propagation Guide serves as a valuable resource for species management, providing crucial information on the propagation and conservation of native tree species. Another critical achievement is the Kilifi County Restoration Map, which outlines areas for potential restoration, serving as a tool for local practitioners and policymakers. The amended policy at the county level is a landmark output that ensures long-term support for native tree restoration and conservation efforts, institutionalizing these practices within local governance frameworks. These outputs collectively guarantee the technical and resource sustainability of the project's efforts, ensuring that the lessons, methodologies, and frameworks developed by Kaya Connect will continue to support future restoration activities in Kilifi County and beyond.

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

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

With >200 native species propagated, >140 people employed in restoration activities, >200ha of degraded forest land and >2,800ha of farmlands brought under native species restoration, the Kaya Connect project has demonstrated that even in the short-term, restoration projects can incorporate a high species diversity, providing huge benefits to biodiversity, alongside significant benefits to local people. This project provides an important model that can be scaled and replicated to improve the

biodiversity, and livelihood impacts of tree planting projects globally, shifting away from the 1USD per tree approach to an ecologically and people-centric approach, that focuses on long-term positive impact.

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against logframe for the life of the project

Project summary	Progress and achievements
Impact Patches of Eastern Africa Coastal Forest are re-connected providing conservation of threatened species and employment for local people who are working to protect, manage and restore this global biodiversity hotspot.	The Kaya Connect project has successfully initiated restoration efforts to reconnect patches of the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest by implementing large-scale restoration activities, including planting native trees and managing forest fragments. Through partnerships with local communities, the project has provided employment opportunities for local people who are actively involved in protecting, managing, and restoring these critical areas. By focusing on sustainable practices such as nursery management, seed collection, and species propagation, the project has conserved threatened species and enhanced local capacity for long-term conservation efforts. This has not only contributed to biodiversity preservation but also empowered communities with skills and livelihoods, ensuring the project's lasting impact. A strong collaborative relationship was established among the large number and diverse range of partners involved in the project, which will last beyond project end.
Outcome Kilifi County provides a scalable model of best practice restoration for the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest hotspot providing employment to 136 local people and conservation of 40 threatened species	The Kaya Connect project has become as a model for best practice restoration in the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest hotspot. By implementing scientifically grounded restoration strategies focused on native species, the project has successfully conserved 47 threatened/Near Threatened species. Through active community involvement, 141 local people have gained meaningful employment in restoration activities, generating sustainable livelihoods. Collaborations with key stakeholders, including county and national government, has ensured the scalability of the restoration model, providing a robust framework for future projects and setting a benchmark for biodiverse restoration projects across the region.
0.1 County-level restoration model is developed and published by end of year 3	The best practice manual documenting the Kaya Connect restoration model has been developed and is available here. A regional webinar was held to share the model across the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest Biodiversity Hotspot. Please refer to section 3.1 under output 5 and annexes 40 and 41.
0.2 By end of year 3, the model is scaling up in Kilifi County, with matched funding raised and additional sites under restoration	BGCI and project partners have raised matched funding of £372,186.65 for activities implemented during the project period, as well as ongoing activities past project funding. Please refer to section 12.2 for the breakdown. Degraded forest

	fragments and restoration sites have been mapped here, and this provides an opportunity for collaboration on expanding the restoration areas past the project restoration sites.
0.3 By end of year 3, the model has been shared with at least 40 organisations from across the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest hotspot	The restoration model has been shared with 44 organizations across the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest Biodiversity Hotspot. The project has also had the opportunity to present the Kaya Connect restoration model in continental and international conferences and forums. Please refer to section 3.1 under output 5 for the list of conference and forums.
0.4 136 people trained and employed in restoration enterprises from year 1 - year 3	174 people (40% women, 55% youth) have been trained (refer to annex 8 for the knowledge and skills assessment report). 141 people were employed in the project's restoration enterprises. Please refer to annexes 16 and 17 for record of people employed and their role, contracts and proof of payment of salaries.
0.5 40 threatened species more secure *in situ,* and incorporated into restoration by end of year 3	203 native tree species (including 47 threatened/Near Threatened species) have been identified, monitored in situ and seeds were collected for propagation and planting. Please refer to annex 7 for the map showing mother trees and annex 44 for the list of species.
Output 1 Remaining Forest fragments mapped and their potential as seed sources or tree islands better understood	
Output indicator 1.1 Existing information on coastal forest patches collated by end of Q2	Existing information on coastal forest patches was collated in year 1 and the status of the sites as seed sources, restoration and ecological connectivity potential better understood. Please refer to annex 6 for the report.
Output indicator 1.2 Satellite imagery, drone imagery and site visits used to identify and verify important sites and mother trees, select project sites by end of year 1, and extended across coastal Kilifi by end of year 2	Potential restoration sites were mapped and visited, assessments done and drone images (annex 42) taken enabling site selection by the end of year 2. Mother trees were mapped (annex 7).
Output indicator 1.3 County map of remnant forest patches, mother trees, priority sites for protection & restoration published, using IUCN ROAM map as base layer and indicating restoration approach, by end of year 2	The restoration map has been developed and is available here. (Produced by the end of year 3).
Output 2. 136 people from marginalised groups in Kilifi County have improved capacity to engage in forest restoration and protection activities and are employed in new or expanded restoration enterprises and 1,000 additional households are benefitting from trees on farms	
Output indicator 2.1. Based on restoration site selection (Output 1), and working with Kenya Forest Service (KFS), kaya elders, Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest	Based on the sites selected, the project partners worked with the Community Forest Associations, kaya community elders, and community group leaders to

and other partners, 136 people (target at least 50% women and 50% youth) identified to be trained and employed,	share the criteria of selection for project beneficiaries under the different categories. The beneficiaries were then selected and added as the project progressed.
Output indicator 2.2. At least 1,000 homesteads for planting identified by end of year 1	1,393 smallholder farmers were recruited to plant native trees in their farms. Please refer to annex 30 for the smallholder farmers database. (Note: slightly more farmers were recruited than those who planted trees within the project timeframe – 1,372 farmers).
Output indicator 2.3. Training delivered to 136 people delivered (target at least 50% women and 50% youth), by end of year 2	174 people were trained (40% women and 55% youth) on seed collection, phenology monitoring, propagation, soil conservation, restoration, and nursery management. Please refer to annex 10 for the training participant lists, annex 9, 14, and 15 for the training materials and annex 8 for the skills assessment report.
Output indicator 2.4. All 136 trainees employed by restoration enterprises and receiving higher than average daily income of 725 Kenyan Shillings by end of year 1, and in years 2 and 3	141 people (40% women and 55% youth) were employed in the project as seed collectors, nursery workers, enumerators, restoration workers, botanists, education officers and a seed technician. All the workers earned a daily wage of KES750. Please refer to annex 16 and 17 for proof of employment and wage payments.
Output indicator 2.5. 1,000 additional households benefiting from trees on farms (useful species and woodlots) and guidance on how to manage them, by end of year 3	1,372 farmers have planted 56,664 trees of 131 native species covering an area of 2,865 ha under restoration. Please refer to annex 30 for database of farmers and trees they have planted. Community champions and enumerators were trained on care and management of the planted trees, and they subsequently trained the farmers they were leading and subsequently followed up semi-annually.
Output 3. Supply of and demand for seed and seedlings of native and threatened species increased in Kilifi County	
Output indicator 3.1. Required infrastructure improvements for each nursery carried out by end of year 1	Resource needs assessment was done in year 1, and infrastructure support was given to 11 nurseries. Please refer to annex 20 for photos of nursery infrastructure and receipts.
Output indicator 3.2. Based on identification of priority sites for survey and collection (Output 1), 150 species, including 40 threatened species, monitored *in situ* and seed collected from year 1 to year 3	203 species including 47 threatened/Near Threatened species were monitored in situ and seeds collected from them. Please see annex 44 for the list of species and here.

Output indicator 3.3. Seed of 150 species stored & planted in nurseries, with storage and propagation protocols developed, and total 400,000 seedlings grown by end of year 3	203 species including 47 threatened/Near Threatened species were planted in project nurseries, with surplus seed stored in the project seed bank, and a total of 435,734 seedlings grown in the nurseries. See section 3.1 under output 3 for a breakdown of the seedlings grown per nursery and the seedlings production database for the project is available here.
Output indicator 3.4. 160,000 seedlings of 150 species supplied to project restoration sites (140,000), schools (10,000) and homesteads (10,000) (Output 1) by end of year 3	106,240 seedlings of 197 species supplied to restoration sites, 4,556 seedlings of 16 species supplied to schools, 56,664 seedlings of 131 species supplied to smallholder farmers and 20,248 seedlings of 160 species to other restoration areas and private lands within Kilifi. Therefore, a total of 187,808 seedlings of 197 species were supplied from the nurseries for planting. Refer to annex 22 for the species planted in each of the restoration sites.
Output indicator 3.5. 86,000 seedlings of 100 species sold from nurseries by end of year 2 and a further 154,000 seedlings of 150 species by end of year 3 (240,000 total seedlings sold during the project)	65,217 seedlings of 160 species have been sold from the nurseries, making £37,881. The buyers included WESLUX, smallholder farmers, The LEAF Charity, private buyers, Equity bank, Kenya Horticultural Society, and Plan International. Extensive marketing was done in the second year of the project, and most of the seedling sales happened towards the end of the project when the nurseries had managed to secure partnerships and acceptance of the smallholder farmers to plant native trees in their farms and homesteads. Extensive business development trainings were conducted and marketing materials produced for the nurseries. See annex 45 for the marketing materials. Although this Output indicator was not fully achieved, the ability of the nurseries to make seedling sales visibly increased towards the end of the project and it is anticipated that more seedling sales will continue after project end.
Output 4 Restoration demonstration sites established that follow best practice, trial and monitor different restoration approaches, promote the use of native and threatened species and act as demonstration sites	
Output indicator 4.1. Restoration advisory group formally established by end of Q2 year 1 and meeting at least twice per year	A Restoration Advisory Group (RAG) was established in year 1 to guide the effective implementation of the restoration components. Comprising experts from BGCI's Ecological Restoration Alliance of Botanic Gardens, the RAG included members from organizations such as Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Tooro Botanic Garden, and Centre for Ecosystem Restoration Kenya (CERK). Please refer to annex 24 for terms of reference and meeting notes.

Output indicator 4.2. Sites confirmed for restoration, permission to restore obtained, baseline surveys carried out, appropriate restoration approaches identified and monitoring plan defined for each site by end of year 1	Restoration sites identified and approvals obtained to restore the sites (annex 46). Baseline ecological surveys conducted for each of the sites (annexes 25 and 26), appropriate restoration interventions identified per site (annex 27) and a monitoring plan developed (annex 28). Most of this work was carried out in year 1, with additional work in year 2 as more sites were added.
Output indicator 4.3. 180 ha brought under ecological restoration, including planting at least 140,000 seedlings of 150 species from Q3 year 1 to project end	204.2ha of degraded forest land brought under ecological restoration with 106,240 of 197 species planted. Please refer to section 3.1 under output 4 for a breakdown of trees planted per site.
Output indicator 4.4. 1,000 homesteads trialling planting of native and threatened trees, with at least 10 trees each (10,000 total) to further enhance connectivity, including useful species, alongside woodlots for income, by end of year 3 and 10,000 trees planted in schools to further enhance connectivity, with 1,000 students involved in planting and education activities by end of year 3	1,372 farmers have planted 56,664 trees of 131 native species covering an area of 2,865 ha under restoration. Please refer to annex 30 for database of farmers and trees they have planted. The 11 schools involved in the project planted 4,656 trees of 16 species. School education activities directly benefited 1,100 students each year and indirectly over 11,000 students in the schools. They were engaged in activities such as soil composting, waste management, biodiversity and indigenous trees conservation, intensive and regenerative agriculture.
Output indicator 4.5. Approximately 60% - 70% of the trees planted surviving by the end of the project.	For trees planted by smallholder farmers and schools there was an average survival rate of 49.8% which is mainly attributed to the lack of rainfalls experienced in the first 2 years of the project (Annex 31). For the restoration sites, there was varying survival of trees for the different restoration sites. Kaya Chonyi 32.6%; Kaya Rabai 10%, Pwani University 55.6%, Green Heart Kilifi 86% and Mida 97%. For all the sites, rainfall was a major challenge that led to the poor survival. For some of the sites (Kaya Chonyi and Rabai), continued encroachment for grazing, charcoal and firewood led to the poor survival rates, but these issues were addressed as the project continued. Please refer to section 3.1 under output 4 for further understanding and monitoring report in annex 29. It is important to note that these results do not reflect the planting that was done in the May – July 2025 rainy season which had the best rains by far of all the years of the project. A lot of new plantings and replacements was done during this period and high survival rates are expected to be seen in future monitoring.

Output indicator 4.6. At least 300 people from at least 50 organisations visiting restoration sites by project end	Over 350 people from >15 organisations have visited and been informed/sensitized about the restoration sites over the course of the project. Please refer to section 3.1 under output 4 for the list of organizations. Although this number is lower than the indicator, additional organisations were engaged via webinars and meetings (see output indicator 5.6, for example).
Output 5: Mechanisms in place to ensure long-term sustainability of project outcomes, scalability within Kilifi County and replicability across the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest hotspot	
Output indicator 5.1. Connections made with tree planting organisations and private landowners from day 1 and throughout the project, and a county-level marketing campaign launched to promote planting native and threatened trees and availability of seed and seedlings from nurseries, from year 1 to year 3	The project led various forms of marketing in the county including social media, distribution of fliers, and engagement with local communities. Private landowners also made seedling purchases and planted native tree seedlings in their farms. Connections were made with organizations working on restoration in the county and seedlings purchased by government, civil society and private organizations. Refer to section 3.1 under output 5 for the list of organizations and annex 45 for the marketing materials.
Output indicator 5.2. Carbon financing partner secured by end of year 1 to ensure continued economic benefits for communities beyond the timeframe of the project.	The Project Idea Note for the carbon project was successfully submitted to Plan Vivo Foundation, and we have been part of their carbon accelerator program that has been helping us prepare the Project Design Document which is the next step to registrations. A financial model for the 40 year carbon project has also been produced (see annex 36). We have signed a representation agreement with Airimpact to help us in securing carbon financing and pitched the project to various potential financiers who have shown interest. Please refer to section 3.1 under output 5 for more details and annexes 25, 36 and 47. (At project design, Terraformation indicated they would help connect us with a carbon financing partner, but their decision to only work with larger projects than ours delayed this activity).
Output indicator 5.3. Public sensitized about the value of protecting native trees, via county media channels in years 1, 2 and 3.	The project achieved excellent mainstream media coverage with several national media stories, community engagements, and social media across all partner platforms, collectively reaching >50,000 people. Please refer to section 3.1 under output 5 for the links to videos and impact stories and the breakdown of the numbers.
Output indicator 5.4. Restoration approaches documented and made available in an open access manual, and training on Ten Golden Rules for Reforestation	To ensure that the project approach can be replicated and scaled, we have documented the restoration project model in a best practice manual that can be

delivered to KFS staff across Kilifi County and 20 additional tree planting organisations working in Kilifi by end of year 3.	found here. At the beginning of the project, we carried out a restoration training for 30 partners, stakeholders and restoration workers on the Ten Golden Rules of Reforestation. Refer to Annex 37 for the list of participants and Annex 38 for the training modules.
Output indicator 5.5. County-level tree planting policy developed with local and national government for large scale tree planting or rehabilitation projects, and zoning of areas for continued protection and future restoration by end of year 3.	The project has also successfully led the amendment of the Country Forest Management policy to include more focus on native tree planting and biodiversity conservation. Please refer to annex 39 for the working draft of the amended policy that has already been presented to the county assembly and environment committee and is awaiting tabling to the county cabinet for final approval.
Output indicator 5.6. Restoration model and project outcomes shared with at least 40 additional organisations from across the EACF hotspot by end of year 3	The restoration model was shared via a webinar with 33 attendees. 85 people from 44 organizations had initially registered for the webinar, and the recording, presentations and other project outputs including the manual and species propagation guide, were subsequently shared with everyone who had registered. Please refer to annex 41 for the recording. The Kaya Connect restoration model has also been shared in multiple conferences and forums across Africa, with global reach. Please refer to section 3.1 under output 5 for the list.

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

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Patches of Eastern Africa Coastal Forest are re-connected providing conservation of threatened species and employment for local people who are working to protect, manage and restore this global biodiversity hotspot.			
Outcome: Kilifi County provides a scalable model of best practice restoration for the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest hotspot providing employment to 136 local people and conservation of 40 threatened species	0.1 County-level restoration model is developed and published by end of year 3. 0.2 By end of year 3, the model is scaling up in Kilifi County, with matched funding raised and additional sites under restoration. 0.3 By end of year 3, the model has been shared with at least 40 organisations from across the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest hotspot. 0.4 136 people trained and employed in restoration enterprises from year 1 - year 3. 0.5 40 threatened species identified and monitored In situ and incorporated into restoration by end of year 3.	0.1 Best practice manual, county-level tree planting policy, restoration demonstration sites 0.2 Grant agreements, partnership agreements for carbon finance, map, and satellite/drone imagery of sites under restoration 0.3 Webinar recordings, minutes from meetings 0.4 Assessment of skills before and after training for all trainees; Records of payments made to 136 employed people. 0.5 Monitoring reports, photos, and survey points for trees / populations *in situ;* Records of seedlings of each species propagated and planted.	Proposed activities are still possible under COVID-19 restrictions (helped by the fact that the majority of project activities can be done outside)
Output 1 Remaining forest fragments mapped and their potential as seed sources or tree islands better understood	1.1 Existing information on coastal forest patches collated by end of Q2. 1.2 Satellite imagery, drone imagery and site visits used to identify and verify important sites and mother trees, select project sites by end of year 1, and	1.1 Report on status of remaining forest patches published in Q2. 1.2 Annotated satellite and drone imagery and reports from site visits	

	extended across coastal Kilifi by end of year 2. 1.3 County map of remnant forest patches, mother trees, priority sites for protection & restoration published, using IUCN ROAM map as base layer and indicating restoration approach, by end of year 2.	1.3 Map published and available online.	
Output 2 136 people from marginalised groups in Kilifi County have improved capacity to engage in forest restoration and protection activities and are employed in new or expanded restoration enterprises and 1,000 additional households are benefitting from trees on farms	2.1 Based on restoration site selection (Output 1), and working with Kenya Forest Service (KFS), kaya elders, Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and other partners, 136 people (target at least 50% women and 50% youth) identified to be trained and employed. 2.2 At least 1,000 homesteads for planting identified by end of year 1. 2.3 Training delivered to 136 people (target at least 50% women and 50% youth), by the end of year 2. 2.4 All 136 trainees employed by restoration enterprises and receiving higher than average daily income of 725 Kenyan Shillings by end of year 1, and in years 2 and 3. 2.5 1,000 additional households benefiting from trees on farms (useful species and woodlots) and guidance on how to manage them, by end of year 3.	2.1 Records of people engaged in project and project role. 2.2 Assessment of skills before and after training for all trainees; Training resources; Training course attendance records and certificates 2.3 Records of regular salary payments to all employed staff; Baseline and end of project socio-economic surveys carried out by an independent consultant. 2.4 Baseline and end of project socio-economic surveys, including questions on recognised benefits of native species.	Training is still possible under future COVID-19 restrictions (helped by the fact that the majority of training can be done outside) Peoples' willingness to attend trainings and take jobs in restoration enterprises (working with local partners and institutions closed to the communities, will help to engage people)

Output 3 Supply of and demand for seed and seedlings of native and threatened species increased in Kilifi County	3.1 Required infrastructure improvements for each nursery carried out by end of year 1. 3.2 Based on identification of priority sites for survey and collection (Output 1), 150 species, including 40 threatened species, monitored *in situ* and seed collected from year 1 to year 3. 3.3 Seed of 150 species stored & planted in nurseries, with storage and propagation protocols developed, and total 400,000 seedlings grown by end of year 3. 3.4 160,000 seedlings of 150 species supplied to project restoration sites (140,000), schools (10,000) and homesteads (10,000) (Output 1) by end of year 3. 3.5 86,000 seedlings of 100 species sold from nurseries by end of year 2 and a further 154,000 seedlings of 150 species by end of year 3 (240,000 total seedlings sold during the project)	3.1 Photos of nursery sites; Receipts to show material purchases. 3.2 Data capture forms from seed collecting trips; GPS points added to map. 3.3 Seedling production records; Seed bank records; Published propagation & storage protocols 3.4 Nursery records of number of seedlings of each species supplied to each site. 3.5 Nursery records of who is purchasing seed or seedlings, how much and for what purpose.	Access will be given to additional sites for seed collection (permission of many sites already obtained). Water supply is available at nurseries (mitigated by working with existing nurseries but the risk could increase if rains are poor). Costs of native seedlings are appealing to purchasers.
Output 4 Restoration demonstration sites established that follow best practice, trial and monitor different restoration approaches, promote the use of native and threatened species and act as demonstration sites	4.1 Restoration advisory group formally established by end of Q2 year 1 and meeting at least twice per year. 4.2 Sites confirmed for restoration, permission to restore obtained, baseline surveys carried out, appropriate restoration approaches identified, and	4.1 List of restoration advisory group members and minutes of advisory group meetings. 4.2 Delineated restoration sites; Written agreements demonstrating permission to restore; Baseline reports; Published restoration and monitoring plans.	Water is available at sites for planted seedlings (mitigated by careful site selection and planning but the risk could increase if the rains are poor). Permission will be given to restore additional sites.

	monitoring plan defined for each site by end of year 1. 4.3 180 ha brought under ecological restoration, including planting at least 140,000 seedlings of 150 species from Q3 year 1 to project end. 4.4 1,000 homesteads trialling planting of native and threatened trees, with at least 10 trees each (10,000 total) to further enhance connectivity, including useful species, alongside woodlots for income, by end of year 3 and 10,000 trees planted in schools to further enhance connectivity, with 1,000 students involved in planting and education activities by end of year 3. 4.5 Approximately 60% - 70% of the trees planted surviving by the end of the project. 4.6 At least 300 people from at least 50 organisations visiting restoration sites by project end.	4.3 – 4.4 - 4.5 Photos and satellite / drone imagery showing restoration sites and change over time; Monitoring data from each site (including number of seedlings planted and surviving, number of seedlings naturally regenerating, and all indicators defined in 1.2). 4.6 Records of number of people, organisation, role in organisation, from each site	
Output 5 Mechanisms in place to ensure long-term sustainability of project outcomes, scalability within Kilifi County and replicability across the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest hotspot	5.1 Connections made with tree planting organisations and private landowners from day 1 and throughout the project, and a county-level marketing campaign launched to promote planting native and threatened trees and availability of seed and seedlings from nurseries, from year 1 to year 3.	5.1 Records of nursery visits; Newspaper articles; Recorded radio shows; Leaflets; Records of organisations purchasing and planting native and threatened trees	Carbon markets remain strong during and after the project period (predictions look good) and interested buyers of carbon credits will be identified in the voluntary market

	5.2 Carbon financing partner secured by end of year 1 to ensure continued economic benefits for communities beyond the timeframe of the project. 5.3 Public sensitized about the value of protecting native trees, via county media channels in years 1, 2 and 3. 5.4 Restoration approaches documented and made available in an open access manual, and training on Ten Golden Rules for Reforestation delivered to KFS staff across Kilifi County and 20 additional tree planting organisations working in Kilifi by end of year 3. 5.5 County-level tree planting policy developed with local and national government for large scale tree planting or rehabilitation projects, and zoning of areas for continued protection and future restoration by end of year 3. 5.6 Restoration model and project outcomes shared with at least 40 additional organisations from across the EACF hotspot by end of year 3.	5.2 MOU/similar between partner organisations, communities, and carbon financing partner 5.3 Newspaper articles, recorded webinars, recorded radio shows, information leaflets, posters 5.4 Published and online tools and number of copies distributed / downloaded; Assessment of skills before and after training; Training course attendance records and certificates. 5.5 Minutes from meetings; Published policy and zoning plan 5.6 Attendance records for webinars; Recordings of webinars; Presentations given at Kenya National Landscape Scaling Conference and other similar forums; Poll results and Q&A from webinars measuring how many organisations intend to adopt the model; Follow-up surveys with attendees.	
Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for examples 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1) Output 1 Remaining Forest fragments mapped and their potential as seed sources or tree islands better understood. 1.1.1 Collate existing maps and species lists for forests of Kilifi County, including analysis of herbarium vouchers.			

1.1.2 Write a report on the status of remaining forest patches.
1.2.1 Obtain satellite imagery and drone images for remnant forest patches and potential restoration sites.
1.2.2 Visit sites for verification, identify and obtain GPS points for mother trees and populations.
1.2.3 Share data with project team and refine list of project sites before end of year 1
1.2.4 Scale up activities 1.2.1 – 1.2.3 across the whole of Kilifi County
1.3.1 Publish map for review.
1.3.2 Publish final version of map online and open access.

Output 2 136 people from marginalised groups in Kilifi County have improved capacity to engage in forest restoration and protection activities and are employed in new or expanded restoration enterprises and 1,000 additional households are benefitting from trees on farms.
2.1.1 Carry out gender mainstreaming training with KFS, kaya elders and other partners prior to selection of communities and homesteads to be involved in the project.
2.1.2 Hold meetings with KFS, kaya elders and other partners to identify 136 people to train and employ through the project and determine their roles based on proximity to sites and interests.
2.2.1 Provide theory and practical training on monitoring phenology and seed collection including Access and Benefit Sharing best practice to 60 people close to seed collection sites, on propagation, nursery management and business skills to an additional 40 people close to nursery sites, on restoration techniques, aftercare and monitoring to an additional 30 people close to restoration sites, on education and outreach to 3 additional people and on seed handling, germination testing and storage to an additional 3 people
2.2.2 Assess employees work and provide top-up training to all trainees as required at the start of each project year.
2.2.3 Provide certificates to each trainee for each completed course.
2.3.1 Appoint a consultant to carry out baseline socio-economic survey.
2.3.2 Provide each trainee with an employment contract specifying expected number of days work depending on the role.
2.3.3 Provide regular payments to each employee throughout the project.
2.3.4 Provide continued employment contracts to as many employees as possible before project end (depending on matched funding and success of seedling marketing) and provide reference letters to employees whose employment cannot be continued
2.3.5 Consultant repeats socio-economic survey.
2.4.1 Sensitisation with farmers about the benefit of planting economically viable native trees in their farm
2.4.2 Carry out and repeat surveys in years 1, 2 and 3 at 100 selected homesteads recording number of trees planted, recognised benefits, and change in demand for native species.

Output 3 Supply of appropriate seed and seedlings of native and threatened species increased sufficiently in Kilifi County to support restoration of project demonstration sites (Output 1) and planting in additional sites.
Note for activities under Output 3, recent survey work has already been carried out Kaya Kauma, Kaya Fungo-Giriama, Kaya Mtswakara, Kaya Rabai, Kaya Chonyi, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and permission to collect from all these sites has already been obtained. The following activities will expand the survey and seed collection area and species mix.
3.1.1 Procure and install equipment for nursery improvements, including installation of a seed bank.

3.2.1 Obtain permission from relevant authorities, traditional leaders and private landowners to carry out survey work and collect propagation material from additional sites.
3.2.2 Survey team from NMK carry out survey of additional reference forests, recording and mapping species present and recording phenological information, supplement survey data with herbarium record data, and produce target species list for each site.
3.2.3 Trained seed collectors assigned to continue survey, monitoring and recording phenology of each target species, collecting seed when available and taking it to nurseries.
3.3.1 Trained nursery workers plant seed, care for seedlings and document propagation protocols
3.3.2 Trained seed technicians carry out germination and storage testing on a portion of seed, and document germination and storage protocols.
3.4.1 Maintain records of seed and seedling availability and provenance, price (for 3.5) and utility of each species at each nursery.
3.4.2 Using target species lists and provenance of propagation material, supply the most appropriate seedlings for planting at each project restoration site.
3.5.1 Nursery workers meet with potential seedling purchasers at nurseries, and visit their planting sites, to provide guidance on appropriate species for planting.
3.5.2 Maintain records of seedlings sold, to who and for what purpose.

Output 4 Restoration demonstration sites established that follow best practice, trial, and monitor different restoration approaches, promote the use of native and threatened species and act as demonstration sites.
4.1.1 Formally invite identified representatives to sit on the restoration advisory group via phone calls, emails and requesting each member to sign a project agreement.
4.1.2 Hold meetings of the advisory group at least twice per year to review restoration progress.
4.2.1 Continue analysis and delineation of candidate sites for restoration using satellite / drone imagery and site visits.
4.2.2 Hold meetings with government, kaya elders, private landowners including farmers and schools, to obtain written permission to restore selected sites.
4.2.3 Survey team from the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) carry out baseline ecological surveys at each restoration site, documenting number of remaining natural regenerants, presence of invasive plants, current and past land-use, and level of degradation (following methodology from Restoring Tropical Forests: A Practical Guide")
4.2.4 Hold meetings with NMK survey team, landowners, kaya elders, local communities, other stakeholders, and restoration advisory group to determine appropriate restoration methodology at each site and develop monitoring plan for each site.
4.3.1 Procure equipment required to support restoration activities, including for water supply, planting, and monitoring.
4.3.2 Community members (trained in Output 2) carry out initial site preparation, including invasive plant removal, and hole digging for sites that require planting.
4.3.3 Plant seedlings out on sites (except those where Assisted Natural Regeneration is identified as the most appropriate restoration approach) aligning with rainy seasons (quarters shaded align with expected rainy seasons, but rain at the coast can be variable)
4.3.4 Carry out site maintenance, including watering, removal of invasive species.
4.3.5 Collect and analyse monitoring data from all restoration sites at least twice per year (following the plan and indicators defined in 1.3)
4.4.1 Work with kaya elders and government to identify 1,000 homesteads and schools within the restoration area to plant trees.
4.4.2 Carry out focus group discussions to identify which trees farmers and schools are interested in (specific tree species and what uses they are interested in, e.g. timber, fodder, etc.)
4.4.3 Establish five demonstration homesteads and 1 demonstration school.

4.4.4 Host meetings at demonstration homesteads and demonstration schools to engage additional farmers and schools and promote the benefits of planting native and threatened species.
4.4.5 Provide interested homestead owners within the project area and schools with trees, guidance, and planting support.
4.4.6 Collect and analyse monitoring data from homesteads and schools at least twice per year (following the plan and indicators defined in 1.3)
4.5.1 Identify target organisations, groups, and influential people to invite to visit sites.
4.5.2 Host visits to Kenya Forest Service staff, county government staff, tree planting organisations and corporates to demonstrate different restoration techniques and the benefits of planting native and threatened species.

Output 5 Mechanisms in place to ensure long-term sustainability of project outputs, scalability of best practice restoration within Kilifi County and replicability across the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest hotspot.
5.1.1 Work with marketing consultant to develop a marketing plan and carry out review of who to target to purchase seed or seedlings.
5.1.2 Aligning with marketing plan, develop marketing and outreach materials for all nurseries, promoting the native and threatened species available, including printed materials, online and via media channels.
5.1.3 Host talks and tours at nurseries to show availability and diversity of native and threatened species available.
5.1.4 Monitor success of marketing work, including number of people reached, number of new partners purchasing native or threatened trees who weren't before and seedling sales (3.4)
5.2.1 Connect restoration sites and partners to register the carbon project with Plan Vivo
5.2.2 Ensure a fair, equitable and fully understood mechanism for sharing income is in place.
5.2.2 Ensure monitoring approach provides all relevant data required for obtaining carbon credits, adapt where needed, and share monitoring data with carbon financing partner.
5.3.1 Work with project marketing consultant to identify target audiences and appropriate channels for raising awareness of the value of native and threatened trees and develop key messages.
5.3.2 Based on results of 5.3.1 run media campaign via various channels (newspapers, radio, etc.)
5.4.1 Work with KFS to identify key staff to train (target 50 KFS staff), identify and approach target tree planting organisation in Kilifi that require training (target 20 organisations) and carry out baseline knowledge assessment.
5.4.2 Deliver training course on Ten Golden Rules for Reforestation
5.4.3 Collate and review monitoring data from restoration sites (Output 1), document methodology and lessons learnt in an open access manual / similar (determined by 4.3.1)
5.4.4 Manual reviewed by restoration advisory group and trialled with focus group prior to publication.
5.5.1 Work with County Government and KFS to determine which stakeholders to be involved in county-level plan development and formally invite them to be part of the process.
5.5.2 Hold initial workshop to develop aims, timeframe, and content of the plan.
5.5.3 Hold additional workshops to develop plan, collaboratively draft and review plan in between workshops, including zoning of areas using map produced in 4.4.
5.5.4 Publish plan and hold workshop to share plan with stakeholders across Kilifi County
5.6.1 Identify tree planting and conservation organisations, corporates supporting tree planting, from across the EACF who would benefit from project model and resources.

5.6.2 Identify relevant forums for promoting the model, including the Kenya National Landscape Scaling Conference (assuming follow up sessions will occur) 5.6.2 Hold webinars and meetings to share model and project outcomes, assessing audience engagement via polls and follow-up surveys.

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

Please see the Standard Indicator Guidance for more information on how to report in this section, including appropriate disaggregation. N.B. The annual total is not cumulative. For each year, only include the results achieved in that year. The total achieved should be the sum of the annual totals.

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	If this links directly to project indicator(s), please note the indicator number here	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-A01	[DI-A01] Number of people from local communities completing structured and relevant training		People	Women Men Youth	53 64 64	70 104 90		70 104 90	68 68 68
DI-B02	[DI-B02] Number of new/improved species management plans available and endorsed*.		Number	Species identified Threatened species and monitored *in situ* Species with seed collection	141 28 56	180 45 180	209 47 203	209 47 203	150 40 150
DI-C01	[DI-C01] Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed		Number	Species with propagation protocols developed	10	20	22	52	50
DI-D01	[DI-D01] Hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices		Hectares	Hectares	0	176	203	203	180
DI-D03	[DI-D03] Number of policies with biodiversity provisions that have been enacted or amended		Number		0	1		1	1
DI-D12	[DI-D12] Area of degraded or converted ecosystems that are under active restoration		Area (Hectares) Number of homesteads		0	326 400	2539 972	2865 1372	580 1000

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Native Species Restoration in the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest Biodiversity Hotspot Best Practice Manual- Lessons Learnt from the Kaya Connect Project	Manual	BGCI, 2025	Female	Kenyan	BGCI (online)	Link
Kaya Connect Species Profiles and Propagation Guide	Manual	BGCI, 2025	Male	Kenyan	BGCI (online)	Link
Amended Kilifi County Forest Management and Tree Growing Policy	Policy	County Government of Kilifi, 2025	No lead author	Kenyan	County Government of Kilifi	*The amendment process has been finalised. Please refer to annex 39 for the working draft of the amended policy that has already been presented to the county assembly and environment committee and is awaiting tabling to the county cabinet for final approval.*

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, scheme, 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 BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	Yes
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please consider the best way to submit. One zipped file, or a download option, is recommended. We can work with most online options and will be in touch if we have a problem accessing material. If unsure, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	N/A
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, **do these meet the outlined requirements** (see section 14)?	N/A
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
Have you provided an updated risk register? If you have an existing risk register you should provide an updated version alongside your report. If your project was funded prior to this being a requirement, you are encouraged to develop a risk register.	Yes
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.	