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.

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Darwin Initiative Project Information

Scheme (Main or Extra)	Main
Project reference	29-006
Project title	People, Primates, Plants: Co-managing Biodiversity and Improving Livelihoods in Vietnam
Country(ies)	Viet Nam
Lead Organisation	Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)
Project partner(s)	International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), World Agroforestry – Viet Nam Center for Highland Natural Resource Governance Research (CEGORN) – Viet Nam Langur Voluntary Conservation Group (VCG), Tuyen Hoa district – Viet Nam
Darwin Initiative grant value	£571,068.00
Start/end dates of project	Start date: 01 June 2022 / End date: 31 March 2025
Project Leader name	Joachim Gratzfeld
Project website/blog/social media	BGCI: https://www.bgci.org/our-work/projects-and-case-studies/people-primates-plants/ ICRAF: https://worldagroforestry.org/project/people-primates-plants-co-managing-biodiversity-and-improving-livelihoods-vietnam
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1 Project Summary

Tuyen Hoa district in Viet Nam's Quang Binh province, located in the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot, boasts exceptional natural and cultural wealth. The region's evergreen tropical forests

are home to unique fauna and flora. This includes the Endangered (IUCN) and CITES Appendix II-listed Hatinh langur (also known locally as the white-necked langur, *Trachypithecus hatinhensis*) and threatened tree species such as the legumes *Dalbergia tonkinensis* (Vulnerable) and *Erythrophleum fordii* (Endangered). Illegal cutting of valuable timbers, wildlife hunting, agricultural expansion, and indiscriminate collection of non-timber forest products, are key drivers of biodiversity loss. Quang Binh province therefore has approved the establishment of over 500 ha of Special-use forest (SUF) in Tuyen Hoa (**Figure 1**). The SUF presents important biodiversity conservation opportunities but also challenges for livelihood security of some 2,770 households, half of whom are poor and dependent on wild forest resources, farming, and raising livestock in the SUF area. The establishment of the SUF directly impacts their livelihoods, as legal restrictions apply to agricultural activities and collection of forest products.

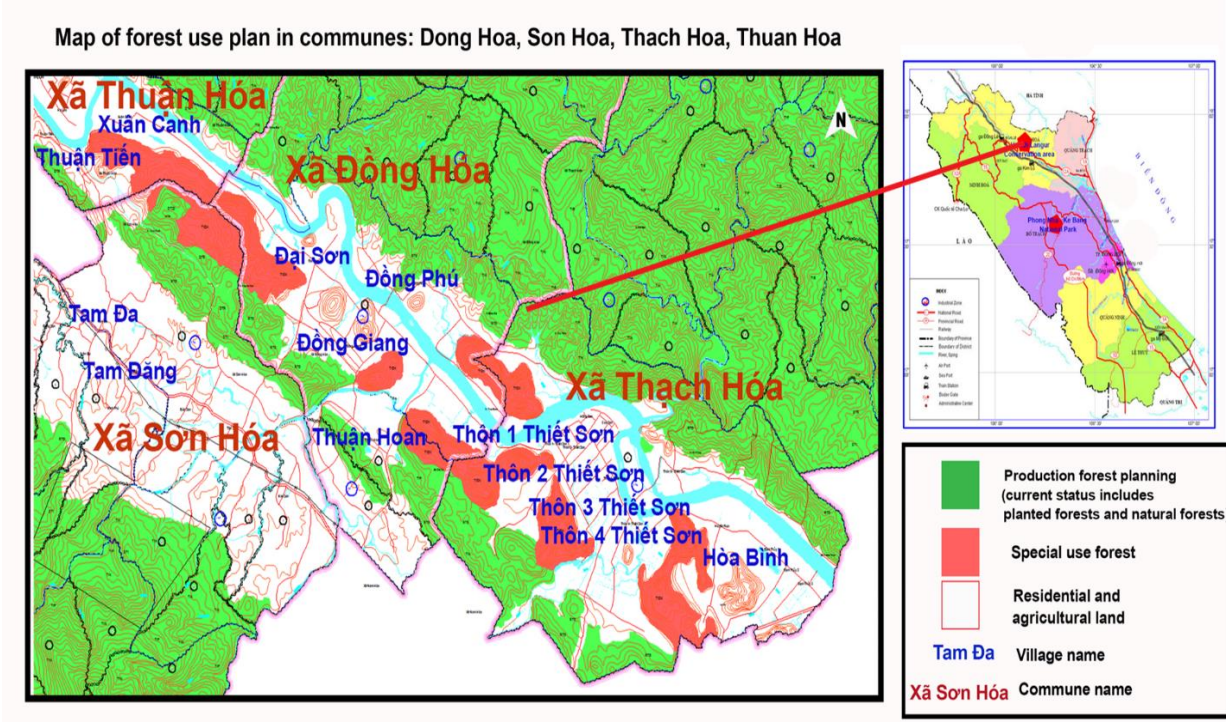


Figure 1. Project area

Based on consultations with the affected local communities during the Project proposal development phase as evidenced by the letters of support provided by the Tuyen Hoa District People's Committee and Langur Voluntary Conservation Group (VCG), and building on initial data about the conservation status of the white-necked langur as carried out in 2020 under the umbrella of the Mekong Region Land Governance (MRLG) initiative, the Project addresses these issues by:

- Strengthening livelihood security of the Kinh and other local ethnic groups through sustainable agroforestry models. This will enhance household engagement in developing new value chains and markets for local products, thereby mitigating livelihood losses, and providing alternative opportunities to those directly affected by SUF establishment.
- Developing practical SUF co-management models that involve and recognise the voluntary community groups as a key mechanism to protect native forest resources. For instance, this will include the creation of ecological connectivity for langurs through planting of native timber and fruit tree species, connecting currently fragmented patches of SUF. In turn, these actions will generate recommendations for community-based conservation at the national level as there is still no overall legal framework in place regulating such initiatives.
- Enhancing technical capacity on ecological restoration and sustainable agroforestry to reduce the lack of knowledge and practical knowhow among local communities about the links between langur conservation and the restoration needs of the wider habitat. Moreover, there is also a dearth of awareness of potential zoonotic infections of humans from regular interactions with wild animals such as with the native langur. The Project will deliver a series of training courses focussing on these technical areas and initiate practical forest restoration and agroforestry models.

- Promoting policy recommendations on best-practice models for SUF community co-management, sustainable agroforestry and forest ecological restoration with local, provincial and national authorities for policy dialogue and integration in ongoing and future policy frameworks and strategies for sustainable forest co-management. These will highlight and strengthen the role of local people as the primary custodians of their forest biodiversity.

2 Project Partnerships

Founded on robust, demand-driven partnerships with national, provincial and local institutions, the Project was developed through extensive stakeholder consultations prior to its initiation. From the outset, collaboration with Tuyen Hoa district authorities and local communities underscored the need for a project that could integrate biodiversity conservation, particularly for the Endangered, iconic white-necked langur (*Trachypithecus hatinhensis*) with sustainable livelihood improvement. This alignment with local priorities ensured community ownership and buy-in, which was critical to the Project's success.

All core partners, BGCI, ICRAF, and CEGORN, were actively involved in planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. These organisations brought complementary strengths: ICRAF led the technical design and implementation of agroforestry interventions, leveraging its prior work on ecological restoration and sustainable land use in Ha Tinh and Quang Binh provinces. CEGORN played a central role in coordinating forest co-management efforts, community mobilization, and policy engagement. BGCI, besides overseeing the overall management of the Project, provided global conservation expertise, facilitated dissemination through networks such as the Southeast Asia Botanic Gardens Network (SEABG Network), and supported awareness-raising activities. All partners contributed to reporting processes, including the preparation of this final report.

The partnership model enabled the Project to deliver several major achievements. In the first year, a baseline survey and a comprehensive agroforestry and market assessment were jointly conducted by ICRAF and the Centre of Agricultural Services of Tuyen Hoa district, formalized through a sub-contract (**Annex 5.01**). CEGORN, meanwhile, built strong linkages with institutions such as the People's Committee of Tuyen Hoa district, the Quang Binh Provincial Forest Protection Sub-Department, the Information Center of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Viet Nam Forest Planting and Restoration Society (VARS). These relationships supported the establishment of forest restoration agreements (**Annex 5.02**) and provided technical inputs (**Annex 5.03**) to assess progress made related to Decision 999/QD-UBND (**Annex 5.04a**, **Annex 5.04b**). Issued on 16 June 2022, this decision relates to promulgating the Regulation on coordination of management, conservation and development of biodiversity in the areas designated as SUF in Tuyen Hoa.

At the national level, the Project gained recognition and support from the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Agency (NBCA) under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. High-level meetings between NBCA, BGCI and ICRAF were held in March 2023 and 2024, with the Deputy Director General of NBCA, who endorsed the Project's co-management approach as a potential case study for national replication. NBCA committed to promoting the Project's achievements and lessons learnt as part of the national biodiversity strategy development and expressed a strong desire to work with partners to address policy gaps, especially in plant conservation (**Annex 5.05**).

The Project team engaged with the British Embassy in Hanoi on multiple occasions, in March 2023, March 2024, and again in March 2025, to share progress and explore future collaboration. Embassy representatives, including the Energy and Climate Attaché, commended the Project's relevance to Viet Nam's biodiversity agenda and praised its integration of livelihood enhancement approaches. The British Embassy recommended exploring Project follow-on funding opportunities and sharing of the results through their communication channels and international platforms (**Annex 5.06**). Additionally, ICRAF was invited by the Embassy to participate in the UK Climate, Nature & Energy Delivery Partners Workshop (**Figure 2**), on 25 March 2025, where the

team contributed to discussions by sharing Project experiences highlighting how the support provided by UK Government has advanced biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

Figure 2. British Embassy workshop to connect UK-funded projects and partners, and share the impact of UK development support in Viet Nam

To inform the implementation of biodiversity policy, the Project team also contributed to national policy dialogues. For instance, the white-necked langur conservation case was presented during a consultation with the Ethnic Minority Council on Viet Nam's Land Law in May 2023 (**Annex 5.07**). The team also participated in the National Dialogue on Implementation of Ecosystem Restoration, Target 2 under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in June 2025 (**Annex 5.08**). These engagements positioned the Project not only as a field-based intervention but also as a model for informing and influencing national conservation policy.

Regular interaction with local stakeholders was essential throughout the Project. Annual consultative workshops, such as the one held on 19 May 2023, brought together commune representatives, VCG members, and technical experts to co-design training content (**Annex 5.09**) and select pilot households for agroforestry interventions (**Annex 5.10**). Local leaders from the People's Committee of Tuyen Hoa District and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) of Quang Binh Province participated in planning meetings in March 2024, confirming institutional support and ensuring alignment with district-level development plans (**Annex 5.11**, **Annex 5.12**). These meetings reinforced long-term commitments for implementation of the Project.

The Project also maintained active collaboration with other NGOs including Fauna & Flora and GreenViet as well as local, technical institutions. A visit to the Center for Rescue, Conservation and Creature Development in Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park in 2023 offered an opportunity to discuss seed sourcing and nursery development for native and threatened plant species. Further, connections were also consolidated with other protected areas across Viet Nam through national policy dialogues, workshops and conferences.

Community partnerships were strengthened through participatory approaches, closely engaging with the VCG, communes and households (**Annex 5.13**, **Annex 5.14**). Workshops in March 2024 focused on progress made in agroforestry development and knowledge exchange (**Annex 5.15**),

while sessions in March 2025 promoted sustainable business models (Annex 5.16) reinforcing a bottom-up approach to land use and livelihood improvement (**Figure 3**).

Figure 3. Business groups sharing successes, challenges, and future plans at the workshop on scaling up sustainable business models

As the Project concluded in March 2025, a closing workshop brought partners together (**Figure 4**) to reflect on achievements, and discuss post-Project sustainability (Annex 5.17), including video link). All stakeholders expressed interest in continuing the collaboration. Details of the workshop were recorded in English (Annex 5.18a) and in Vietnamese (Annex 5.18b).

Figure 4. Project closing workshop

In summary, the Project fostered dynamic, multi-level partnerships, from grassroots organisations and district agencies to national institutions and international organisations including donor agencies. These relationships were built on shared goals, mutual respect, and active engagement throughout all stages of the Project. Through joint implementation, regular communication and shared learning, the Project not only delivered on its core objectives but also

laid the groundwork for long-term collaboration in biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods in Viet Nam.

3 Project Achievements

3.1 Outputs

Output 1. The socio-economic status, income sources and market situation of households in Tuyen Hoa district are assessed and market-based agroforestry practices are established.

Indicator 1.1. *The socio economic, agroforestry and forest products surveys in the Project communes at baseline (2022) and end of project (2025), are used to guide forest restoration and protection, agroforestry and agribusiness planning and implementation.*

In December 2022, a baseline survey was conducted with 351 randomly selected households across 14 villages in the Project's four communes of Dong Hoa, Son Hoa, Thuan Hoa, and Thach Hoa, representing 12.5% of the local population (**Annex 5.19**). The survey gathered data on socio-economic conditions, farming practices, forest and wild plant use, and community perceptions of langur conservation, resulting in a comprehensive baseline database. Results highlighted a strong dependence on monoculture farming and local market sales, pointing to the need for diversified, market-oriented agroforestry systems.

Based on the literature and findings from the baseline survey, the team developed a survey on agroforestry practices, delivered focus group discussions (FGDs) with key stakeholders, and conducted interviews with 46 households in the four communes (**Annex 5.53**).

Specifically, 10 agroforestry products were selected for further assessment based on the agroforestry practices survey. Likewise, 10 FGDs as well as interviews with households, traders, enterprises and customers were held, followed by a comprehensive market opportunity and value chain report relating to commodity development options for the citrus fruit pomelo, honey, chicken and fish (see Indicators 1.2 and 1.3). Implementation of the agroforestry pilots commenced in Year 2.

The endline survey conducted in February 2025 assessed results in biodiversity conservation, livelihoods enhancement and community empowerment across 210 households (145 Project participants, 65 non-participants (i.e. households located in the area but not directly involved in the Project). Over 80% of supported households increased income and have 2 additional income sources, with 92% of them surpassing the 7% growth target (74% of participants) and over 27% of participants reporting income gains above 50%. Whilst agroforestry, poultry and apiculture trials as well as nurseries were consolidated, value chains for pomelo, honey and fish also steadily evolved. Capacity building reached 93% participants, with 97% applying and 88% sharing knowledge; highlighting increased inclusion and confidence, representation of women made up of 74% of producers, 61% of trainees and 55% of financial leads. Conservation saw improved co-management, a stronger role of the VCG, more langur sightings, with 75% perceiving that populations are growing, alongside a drop in forest resources extraction and increased conservation support. The findings confirmed the Project's long-term effectiveness in increasing household income through market-based agroforestry, strengthening local entrepreneurship, and improving attitudes toward forest protection (**Annex 5.20**).

Indicator 1.2*. Market opportunities and value chain report for key agroforestry products from the region in Year 1 (2022).*

The Project completed a detailed market opportunities and value chain report for pomelo, honey, chicken, and fish in the four Project communes. Using interviews with 70 farmers, 23 traders and 67 consumers, FGDs identified fragmented supply chains, weak producer coordination, and poor technical and business capacity. Households operated independently, selling small volumes of unprocessed products at lower prices than neighbouring provinces, with limited access to market information, branding or distribution networks. Despite high consumer ratings for quality, the products, especially related to fish, struggled to penetrate wider markets. Economic performance varied, with a strong Internal Rate of Return (IRR) for pomelo (up to 45%) and honey (net profit

of 124,000 VND/litre) while fish farming showed net losses. These insights shaped targeted interventions (e.g. e-commerce pilots, trade fair participation and branding promotion via national certificates and traceability labels such as VietGAP [Vietnamese Good Agricultural Practices]), paving the way for enhanced household income and biodiversity-aligned agroforestry. The value chain surveys report is presented in **Annex 5.21**.

Indicator 1.3 *Market opportunities tested for at least 4 crop species by the end of Year 3 (2025), and at least 100 agroforestry trial plots, including apiculture and fishing raising, established by the end of Year 2 (2024)*

The Project established 110 trial plots in collaboration with selected households including 105 agroforestry models integrating fruit trees (e.g. pomelo, orange, guava), annual crops (potato, taro, turmeric, spring onion), chicken rearing and apiculture, along with 5 additional households supported solely with fingerlings for breeding in fish cages (due to the households' limited land for cultivation). 5,125 free-range chickens, 174 beehives, over 3,500 fruit tree seedlings and 2,450 fingerlings were distributed. Market opportunities were tested for chicken, fish, honey and pomelo through the formation of 4 business groups, and technical support and training was provided for VietGAP certification (pomelo), implementation of traceability and labelling systems (pomelo and honey; **Figure 5**) and value-added, salted chicken processing. Market development was further promoted by Facebook livestreams, participation in the Tuyen Hoa 100th anniversary fair (**Figure 6**) and establishment of a product showroom in Dong Le Town, facilitating direct sales locally and through promotion in Ha Noi.

Figure 5: Pomelo product receiving VietGAP certificate and traceability stamps

Figure 6. Project products displayed at the Tuyen Hoa 100th Anniversary Fair (from left to right: fish, salted chicken and Project's showroom in Dong Le Town)

As a result, 80% of participant households reported that the Project's interventions contributed immediately to income increase. 92% of the households had an increase of over 7% compared to before the Project. The most significant impact was observed in the chicken business group, where related products have been driving substantial new income (**Annex 5.20**). The percentage of household income increase is expected to rise significantly in the coming years, as revenue from fruit trees, typically requiring 5 to 6 years to mature, has not yet been recorded. Projected earnings for future harvests have been documented and are detailed in a Fruit tree monitoring file, enabling long-term impact monitoring (**Annex 5.22**). Also, among households participating in agroforestry models, 80% achieved 2 additional incomes (**Annex 5.20**). By the end of March 2025, over 90% of planted agroforestry trees continued to grow (**Annex 5.22**). Furthermore, the Project has laid a strong foundation for long-term, sustainable change by empowering business groups to actively expand market reach, connect directly with consumers, and adopt technology to ensure consistent product quality (**Figure 7**; **Annex 5.20**). By providing targeted support, including essential equipment such as a honey dehumidifier, refrigerated cabinets for chicken storage and vacuum sealers for fish products, the Project has strengthened the groups' capacity to manage quality control, reduce post-harvest losses and meet market standards. These interventions not only enhance current income opportunities but also equip the groups with the tools and knowledge needed to maintain and scale up models independently, ensuring continued impact well beyond the duration of the Project **(Annex 5.23**).

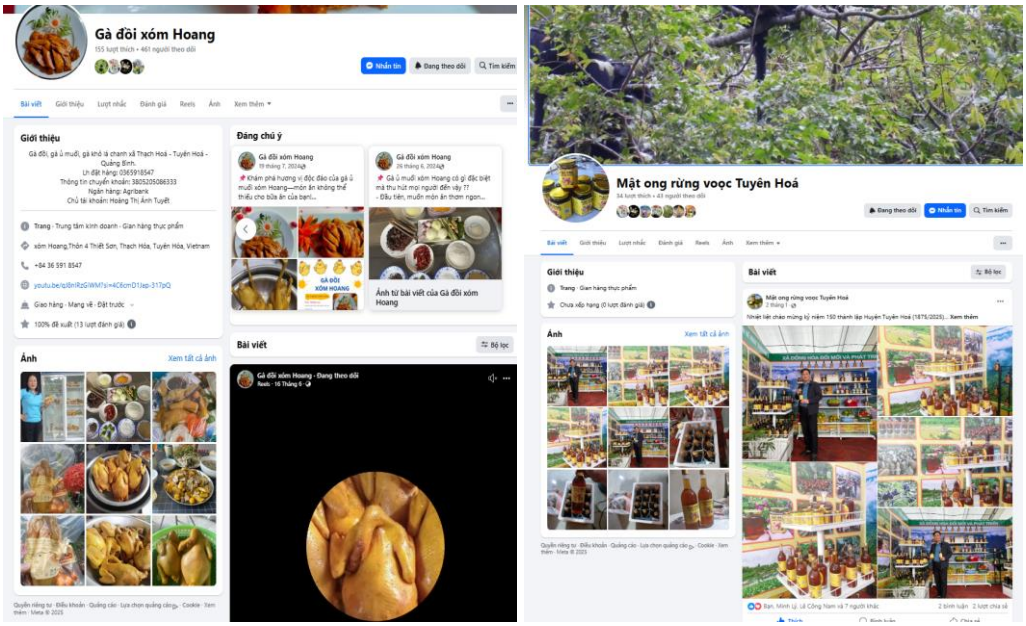


Figure 7. Business groups successfully developed Facebook fan-pages, enhancing marketing capacity and boosting product visibility

In addition, annual crops such as turmeric, taro and potato **(Figure 8)** received strong support from communes for market development and wider dissemination. In Thach Hoa commune, turmeric has been submitted for certification under the OCOP (One Commune, One Product) programme, helping to secure market access for households interested in this crop. Following success made with turmeric, taro and potato, the Tuyen Hoa District DARD, in collaboration with the Tuyen Hoa Center for Agricultural Services and local communes, plan to expand cultivation of the three crops to other areas in Tuyen Hoa (**Annex 5.18a**).

Figure 8. Agroforestry model integrating annual crops (turmeric and taro) with fruit trees

Output 2. The SUF community co-management plan is jointly developed and implemented with community members and local authorities.

Indicator 2.1. *The number of days annually spent collecting forest (timber or non-timber) products for subsistence or income generation reported by community members decreased by 20% between the start of the Project (2022) and the end (2025).*

According to the endline survey, households have significantly reduced their reliance on forest resources. All surveyed participants who used to exploit forest resources reported that they had completely stopped wildlife hunting, collecting non-timber forest products such as firewood and medicinal plants, and quarrying. Additionally, activities like cultivation, harvesting forage grass, and planting acacia within the SUF have decreased by approximately 80%. These changes reflect a broader shift toward sustainable land use practices, influenced by the Project's efforts to strengthen community-based forest management, raise environmental awareness, and enhance livelihood options. Around 80% of respondents cited improved community monitoring and awareness programmes as the main drivers of this shift, while 60% noted that alternative livelihood opportunities motivated them to adopt more sustainable practices (Section 3.6.1 of the endline survey, **Annex 5.20**).

Indicator 2.2 *SUF community co-management plan developed and approved by community members and local authorities, including natural and assisted regeneration by the end of the Project (2025) and reflected in the site's SUF designation*

In June 2022 (Year 2 of the Project), Decision 999/QD-UBND on co-management and biodiversity conservation within the SUF planning area in Tuyen Hoa was issued. The decision specifies the rights and responsibilities of stakeholders, particularly the VCG and the community living adjacent to the SUF in forest protection (**Annex 5.04a**, **Annex 5.04b**). In Year 2, the Project continued to support affected households with livelihood improvement and biodiversity conservation activities. At a review workshop with the district authorities in March 2024, progress made and plans for the remainder year in the Project were discussed (**Annex 5.03**).

In February 2024, CEGORN collaborated with the Tuyen Hoa Forest Protection Department to organize a conference evaluating the implementation of the coordination regulations for managing, conserving and developing biodiversity in the SUF planning area. The conference was attended by 28 participants (including 5 women), representing members and leaders of the four communes, local forest rangers, the VCG, the Forest Protection Department, DARD, the District Culture and Information Division, the Natural Resources and Environment Division and CEGORN. Communal People's Committees and relevant stakeholders reported on the implementation of the regulations. Proposed improvements included better coordination and resource allocation for forest patrols, additional support for conservation and livelihood

development projects and encouraging businesses to invest in developing ecotourism in the SUF (**Annex 5.03**).

At the end of 2024, CEGORN was invited by the People's Committee of Tuyen Hoa to a conference to support the district establishment of the Khe Net Nature Reserve. The proposed reserve would cover over 39,000 ha, including the SUF areas in the Project's communes of Thach Hoa, Dong Hoa, Thuan Hoa and Son Hoa.

Indicator 2.3. *At least 70,000 forest trees planted of at least 5 native tree species by the end of the Project (2025).*

By the end of the Project, CEGORN had successfully facilitated planting more than 81,000 saplings of native forest and fruit crop tree species in the SUF planning area of the four communes, covering approximately 73.7 ha. Sourced from the 2 new nurseries of the Project as well as from nursery stocks of a previous phase of a project led by VARS, native forest species (with local names) include: *Magnolia balansae* (recorded as *Michelia tonkinensis* or Dỗi): 7,033 trees (8.6%); *Erythrophleum fordii* (Lim xanh): 30,836 trees (37.6%); *Dalbergia tonkinensis* (Sưa đỏ): 7,060 trees (8.6%); *Chukrasia tabularis* (Lát hoa): 21,044 trees (25.6%); *Prunus arborea* (Xoan đào): 5,810 trees (7.1%); *Magnolia conifera* (recorded as *Manglietia conifera* or Vàng tim): 8,616 trees (10.5%); and *Heritiera javanica* (recorded as *Tarrietia javanica* or Huỷnh): 1,555 trees (1.9%) (**Annex 5.24).**

Output 3: Knowledge of and capacities and capabilities of local communities in Tuyen Hoa district in forest restoration, sustainable and income generating agroforestry, small-scale farm businesses, and prevention of zoonotic diseases from close animal-human interaction, are increased.

Indicator 3.1. *At least 25 people consisting of village leaders, commune leaders and district authority staff (50% female) are engaged in a train-the-trainer mentorship group in years 1 and 2 (2022-23, 2023-24) and are facilitating further training sessions in years 2 and 3 (2023-24, 2024-25) for at least 200 community members.*

CEGORN and ICRAF collaborated to organize a training programme aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of the core trainers for the Project (Training-of-Trainers or TOT). The TOT was attended by 25 participants, including 13 women (52%), 1 district official, 18 commune officials and 6 village officials (**Annex 5.25**, **Annex 5.26**). Topics included: agroforestry model design; techniques for planting and caring for fruit trees; apiculture with native bees; vermiculture; and poultry farming, including disease prevention.

Following completion, 12 (8 men and 4 women) out of 25 participants (48%) directly conducted training sessions on these topics for 224 local residents, representing participant households of the Project (Training-of-Farmers or TOF). In addition to the knowledge gained during the initial training, the trainers also shared practical insights based on local situations, ensuring that trainees effectively apply the models in their own communities. This hands-on approach enhances knowledge transfer and helps local farmers and residents implement sustainable agricultural and forestry practices more effectively.

Indicator 3.2. *At least 40% of the 200 community members are women and trained in sustainable agricultural practices for high-value crops, small-scale business development, and prevention of zoonotic diseases by the end of Year 3 (2025).*

During Years 2 and 3, CEGORN, in collaboration with ICRAF and technical partners, conducted 13 training sessions on sustainable agriculture and zoonotic disease prevention, reaching 382 participants, 48.4% of whom were women (185). These included farmers, local officials, teachers, VCG members and district staff. Additional sessions focused on poultry farming (4 sessions, 88 women of 115 participants, **Annex 5.27**), beekeeping (2 sessions, 27 women of 61, **Annex 5.28**), agroforestry model design (1 session, 22 women of 48, **Annex 5.29**), product processing (3

sessions, 16 women of 36, **Annex 5.30**), online business skills (1 session, 16 women of 33, **Annex 5.31**), and zoonotic disease prevention and biodiversity conservation (2 sessions, 16 women of 89, **Annex 5.32**, **Annex 5.33**). These training efforts transferred practical skills, improved market access and elevated women's involvement in local production systems.

The training sessions organized by the Project have provided valuable practical knowledge, enabling local residents to effectively implement agricultural models. The programme has also strengthened the capacity of core trainers, ensuring knowledge dissemination within the community; enhanced the role of women in agriculture, with active participation rates; introduced modern business methods, helping locals access online markets; and raised awareness on disease prevention, langur protection and biodiversity conservation. The programme has had a wide-reaching impact, fostering sustainable development and ecological conservation. Its success is evident through trainers conducting follow-up sessions for local residents, ensuring long-term knowledge transfer. In addition, the endline survey (**Annex 5.20**) demonstrates that women actively participated in all Project components: 78% of Project households included women in production, 67% in financial management, 56% in market activities and 21% in training sessions, higher than in non-participant households. Women reported significant empowerment outcomes, including financial independence (121 women), skill development (104), and greater social inclusion (88), with many also stepping into leadership roles such as leading Volunteer Conservation Group patrols, serving as local facilitators for training sessions, and representing their communities in SUF co-management meetings. As regards personal transformation, 137 women reported increased confidence, 116 felt more respected, and 112 experienced improved decision-making power at home and in the community.

These results highlight the Project's success in strengthening women's roles in agriculture and community life, while laying the groundwork for sustained empowerment, knowledge-sharing, and inclusive rural development.

Indicator 3.3. *At least 30 community members (at least 50% women) are employed in nursery management, tree planting and restoration activities by the end of the Project (2025) and beyond as the nurseries continue to generate incomes through production of seedlings for restoration and agroforestry.*

In Years 2 and 3, the 2 new nurseries generated income for 32 workers, including 25 women (78.1%). Most workers were seasonal employees, earning 200,000 VND (approx. 7.6 USD) per day, working an average of 28 - 30 days per year per person. Primary tasks included preparing seedling bags, taking care of the plants, arranging seedlings for distribution, rotating seedling bags and breaking soil crusts (**Annex 5.34**). The nurseries continue to operate based on local demand, and as long as this demand persists, they will maintain employment for local workers.

Indicator 3.4. *Two new nurseries of forest and fruit producing tree species are built with a total holding capacity of 30,000 seedlings by the end of Year 2 (2023-24).*

Expanding over an area of 2,000 m² and 500 m² respectively, 2 new nurseries were established at the beginning of 2023. They are now sourcing native tree, fruit-bearing and medicinal plant species for forest restoration including food plants for the white-necked langur, and agroforestry. Both nurseries are located in Thuan Tien village, Thuan Hoa commune.

Nursery experts conducted training sessions on seedling cultivation techniques for nursery workers to ensure that workers were well-prepared to initiate seedling production, equipping them with the skills needed to handle, nurture, and manage plants efficiently in both nurseries. The nurseries have been providing income for 32 workers as explained in Indicator 3.3 above.

To date, the nurseries have been generating 67,500 seedlings (32,000 and 35,500 in Years 2 and 3 respectively). 61,000 seedlings were sold for forest restoration and agroforestry to households in Tuyen Hoa and the Northern Quang Binh Agricultural Cooperative, generating a total revenue of 384,546,000 VND (approx. 14,700 USD).

The nurseries have contributed not only to biodiversity conservation but also served as a catalyst for local economic development. Expanding production capacity, integrating advanced irrigation technology, and securing purchase agreements will be crucial steps in the coming years to ensure their long-term sustainability (**Annex 5.34**).

Output 4: Best-practice of development and implementation of community-based management of SUF, including forest ecological restoration and sustainable agroforestry models, is promoted for integration in national and sub-national policies by the end of the Project (2025).

Indicator 4.1. *Land-suitability analysis conducted for selected tree species and participatory mapping used to identify suitable sites for new agroforestry development in Year 2 (2023-24)*

Through consultation with selected agroforestry households and local stakeholders, 6 fruit tree groups including pomelo, jackfruit, orange, guava, sapote and custard apple, were identified for trialling in agroforestry pilots. The selected fruit trees were considered to have reasonable market potential, suitable for growing in Tuyen Hoa and allowing integration with annual crop species.

Subsequently, a land suitability assessment was undertaken to evaluate the potential expansion of the agroforestry pilots. In Year 2, spatial data was collected and analysed to support the promotion of the selected agroforestry models. Spatial data include:

Input maps	Source	Year	Resolution
Land uses	Tuyen Hoa district Division of Natural Resource and Environment	2020	1:50 000
Climate	Spatial interpolated raster form WorldClim model version 2.1	2021	30 m
Weather records	Observed data from Tuyen Hoa Weather Station, collected via Viet Nam Meteorological and Hydrological Administration	1982 - 2022	daily
Soil	Soil and Fertilizer Research institute (SFRI)	2015	1: 50 000
DEM	NASA Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) version 4.1	2018	90 m

Moreover, horticultural best-practices of the 6 fruit tree groups were obtained from experts at the Fruits and Vegetables Research Institute (FAVRI).

In March 2024, a participatory mapping session with communal and district authorities of Tuyen Hoa was conducted to consult on land tenure, local agroforestry practices, market promotion, market demand and enabling policy for agroforestry up-scaling. The discussion points from the mapping session were used to enrich and refine the land suitability assessment (**Annex 5.35**).

Indicator 4.2. *Policy recommendations on forest restoration, agroforestry practices and small-scale business development for livelihood improvement and community-based biodiversity conservation produced and promoted beyond Quang Binh province with other national and sub-national policy-makers by the end of the Project (2025)*

Provisional policy recommendations have been developed to promote agroforestry, forest restoration and community-based biodiversity conservation.

Based on the agroforestry pilots and results of the value chain development, a draft policy brief has been prepared (**Annex 5.36a**), linking income opportunities and sustainable management of the forest by local communities. This provides recommendations for promoting agroforestry and value chain development to secure the livelihoods of people who are dependent on local resources. Agroforestry is recommended for many rural communities as it does not only diversify and improve short-term and long-term income for the farmers but also produce important ecological benefits. To promote agroforestry and value chain development, the policy framework requires specific provisions and guidelines not only on technical but also financial support mechanisms for smallholder farmers to set up agroforestry, including farmer-to-farmer exchange for sharing of information on best-practices.

Provisional policy recommendations also have been developed to promote forest restoration and community-based biodiversity conservation (**Annex 5.36b**). These include recommendations for key reforms, such as the need to recognise the legal status of communities in the Civil Code, acknowledging also the Community Conservation areas in line with international guidance such as provided by IUCN and the Convention on Biological Diversity. The recommendations also advocate for land and forest allocation to communities. Additional proposals include the development of ecosystem service-based livelihoods (e.g. ecotourism and medicinal plants cultivation) and the formalisation of community rights to cooperate and invest in forest-based enterprises.

Drawing on the Project achievements, policy recommendations also advocate for the formal establishment of SUF areas managed in coordination with local communities. These models propose creating forest management councils in locations where communities have long-standing traditional ties, ensuring their involvement in key conservation activities such as patrolling, environmental education and habitat restoration.

The provisional policy recommendations will be shared with national and sub-national policymakers, through joint review meetings and direct outreach to relevant ministries for further fine-tuning.

3.2. Outcome

Outcome: Forest biodiversity degradation including threats to the Hatinh langur in Vietnam's Tuyen Hoa district is decreased through active community participation in Special-use forest (SUF) management and livelihoods' improving agroforestry models.

0.1 At least 80% of households in Tuyen Hoa district supported by the Project have at least 2 additional sources of farm income and an increase of at least 7% between the start of project (2022) and the end (2025).

Base- and endline surveys were carried out in December 2022 and March 2025 including 351 and 210 households respectively, of which 145 were Project participants and 65 were non-participants (**Annex 5.19**, **Annex 5.20**). The results demonstrate significant progress towards Project objectives. Over 80% of supported households reported an increased revenue including 2 additional income sources. Among the households that reported increased income, 92% exceeded the 7% income growth target, representing 74% of all Project participants. Notably, over 45% of those households (around 27% of all participant households) experienced income growth of more than 50%, highlighting the Project's significant impact on livelihoods. Diversified agroforestry, poultry and nursery models contributed strongly to household resilience, while other value chains such as related to pomelo, honey and fish, showed early potential for growth. Food security improved, with 76% of households reporting enhanced access to food, whilst targeted irrigation support helped 25 water-scarce households address climate-related challenges.

Income Diversification: Among the 100 households engaged in agroforestry pilots, 80% reported having at least 2 new income sources by 2025. These relate to small-scale poultry, apiculture and agroforestry-based intercropping systems. Diversification was achieved through the co-design and implementation of locally-adapted agroforestry models, capacity building and support for market access (**Annex 5.20**, **Annex 5.20b**).

Income Increase: Across all supported households, 81% experienced income growth, and 74% saw increases above the 7% threshold, with some groups reporting remarkable gains. Approximately 22% of households reported income growth exceeding 80%, highlighting the economic impact of Project interventions. Although the proportion of households exceeding 7% fell slightly short of the 80% target, this is attributed to delayed revenue from newly planted fruit trees and early-stage development in some business groups (e.g. pomelo, honey and fish).

- Chicken and nursery business groups reported the strongest growth, with average income increases exceeding 100% and 71% respectively, equivalent to an additional 17.7 and 7.5 million VND per household.

- Agroforestry pilot households recorded an average income increase of 42%, equivalent to an additional 7.6 million VND per household.
- Other groups (pomelo, fish and honey) faced early-stage or extreme climate-related challenges but still achieved average income gains above 10%.

Comparative analysis between treatment (Project-supported) and control (non-participant) households shows a stronger rightward income shift among supported households. Initially lagging behind, participant incomes have now surpassed those of non-participants, reinforcing the Project's role in enhancing rural livelihoods.

The Project has successfully contributed to diversified livelihoods and increased income across multiple communes. While some sectors are still maturing, the upward trajectory is clear. The agroforestry pilots and integrated business models have laid a solid foundation for long-term income sustainability and provide a strong case for future up-scaling.

0.2. At least 90% of the seedlings planted in the Project site, including at least 5 native forest tree species, survive at the end of project (2025).

A botanical survey was completed in May 2023 and reported in HYR2 (**Annex 5.37**). 577 plant species were recorded in the SUF, with 33 species classified as rare and precious species, of which 5 are listed in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (2021), 11 in the Vietnam Red Book (2007), 21 in the Government Decree 84/2021/ND-CP and 20 in the CITES annexes (2023). Report data was used to prepare a Project target list of native tree species, including those on which the white-necked langur relies. This list was recommended to local, provincial and national authorities for use in Viet Nam's forest restoration schemes. The survey also resulted in a newly described species, published in Taiwania (**Annex 5.38**).

To date, CEGORN has assisted 109 households in planting over 81,910 seedlings of native forest and fruit crop tree species (see Output 2, Indicator 2.3) within the SUF planning area of the four communes, covering approximately 73.7 ha (**Annex 5.24**). The current average survival rate of the seedlings is at 90.9%. Moreover, the VCG planted 6,500 trees in the SUF buffer zones representing food sources for the langurs, in particular *Artocarpus heterophyllus* (jackfruit) and *Baccaurea sapida* (Dâu Da, a local fruit tree).

0.3 Reduction of langur poaching in the conservation area by at least 20% between 2022 and 2025.

The VCG monitored and reported poaching incidents to assess progress toward reducing langur poaching by the end of the Project period. As part of this effort, the number of patrols increased significantly – from 105 in Year 1 to 137 in Year 3 – demonstrating strengthened community engagement and surveillance efforts. Correspondingly, the number of recorded poaching violations decreased from 25 in Year 1, to 20 in Year 2, and 9 in Year 3, indicating a positive trend (**Annex 5.39**, **Annex 5.40**).

This reduction in poaching activity is likely linked to the Project's multifaceted approach, which includes the introduction of alternative livelihood opportunities and extensive awareness-raising initiatives. These efforts have contributed to increased community understanding of the ecological importance of the langur and its habitat. We based this positive change on the results of the endline survey (**Annex 5.20**), which revealed that nearly all Project participants (97.5%) and the majority of non-participants (92.16%) reported improved access to conservation information. Over 80% of respondents found this information very useful, and more than 80% reported significantly improved attitudes toward forest conservation. Project households demonstrated a notable shift from non-involvement in forest protection to active participation, with activities such as awareness campaigns, tree planting, and violation reporting becoming more widespread. Furthermore, 100% of respondents recognized forest protection as crucial for community well-being, and nearly all acknowledged its importance for livelihoods and future generations. Importantly, all surveyed households reported ceasing unsustainable practices such as wildlife hunting and firewood collection, with 80% attributing these changes to stronger

community monitoring and awareness efforts, and around 60% citing alternative livelihood support as the key motivator. These findings underscore the Project's impact in fostering behaviour change and strengthening conservation engagement across the community.

The VCG played a key role in awareness-raising, working in close collaboration with a zoonotic disease expert and the BGCI team to implement educational activities, such as school workshops and field trips. These initiatives not only engaged youth and educators but also helped maintain a conservation ethic within local communities, contributing to the observed reduction in poaching incidents.

Through participation in capacity building and communication training sessions organized by the Project, the team has proactively conducted awareness-raising activities in the local community:

- Direct awareness outreach to residents living and working near the SUF planning area during patrols and forest protection activities. This method has been recognized as highly effective, leading to rapid changes in community perception.
- Integrating conservation education into village meetings, informing local communities about legal regulations on langur conservation and forest protection policies.
- Supporting CEGORN in implementing environmental awareness campaigns for nearly 1,000 secondary school students across the Project's communes, including: conservation education, photo exhibitions, drawing competitions, specialized extracurricular activities including observing langurs in the wild as well as promotional videos and social media messages (**Annex 5.43**).

These initiatives have contributed to increasing public awareness, promoting forest protection, and fostering local responsibility in conservation efforts (**Annex 5.41**, **Annex 5.42**).

0.4 The local communities in Tuyen Hoa district are formally included in Special-use forest (SUF) management at the Project end (2025).

In June 2022, Decision 999/QD-UBND on co-management and biodiversity conservation within the SUF planning area in Tuyen Hoa was issued (see Section 2). The decision specifies the rights and responsibilities of stakeholders, particularly the VCG and the community living adjacent to the SUF in forest protection (**Annex 5.04a**). In Year 2, the Project continued to support affected households with livelihood improvement and biodiversity conservation activities in the SUF. A review workshop was conducted in March 2024 with the district authorities (**Annex 5.03**) after which CEGORN was invited by the People's Committee of Tuyen Hoa district to participate in a conference aimed at consulting and supporting the district's proposal to establish the Khe Net Nature Reserve. The reserve is proposed to cover over 39,000 ha, including the SUF planning areas in Thach Hoa, Dong Hoa, Thuan Hoa, and Son Hoa communes (**Annex 5.44**).

3.3 Monitoring of assumptions

Outcome level:

Assumption 1: *Participatory development/implementation and awareness raising on forest restoration/sustainable agroforestry can be implemented under the absence of severe impact from the COVID-19 pandemic.*

Key activities of the Project include the successful completion of 2 TOT and 13 TOF sessions, benefiting a total of 382 participants. To date, the Project has established agroforestry pilots for 109 households and planted 81,914 native tree seedlings. Fortunately, there were not any major disruptions in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the Project team remained vigilant and prepared throughout the Project, recognizing the need for ongoing mitigation measures to ensure the effective and safe continuation of the activities. This was supported by regular online and in-person meetings and frequent catch-up sessions with commune staff to monitor Project progress.

Assumption 2. *Extreme weather events such as drought, floods, etc. will not occur or greatly impact forest restoration and agroforestry trials.*

In Year 1, Viet Nam experienced prolonged and intense heat waves in March 2023, with Tuyen Hoa being particularly affected. Although most species and varieties targeted for the agroforestry pilots are generally well adapted to periods of dry spell, annual crops could not be planted during this time. Annual crops were planted in Year 3 due to the unfavourable climate conditions, even though all preparations for cultivation had been made in the previous year. Nevertheless, annual crops planted in Year 3 including turmeric, taro and potato produced yields, enabling sale in February and March 2025. Farmers expressed satisfaction with the results, reporting good yields and average incomes ranging from 2.5 to 5 million VND per 500 m², significantly higher than income from rice or other conventional annual crops.

Subsequently, drought in April - May 2024 also affected the quality and yield of several commercial crops, notably pomelo, which experienced lower fruit volume and increased dryness compared to previous years. Additionally, erratic weather patterns in early 2025, marked by cold temperatures and excessive rainfall, posed further challenges for apiculture. A few households documented loss in their bee populations.

Reforestation activities were not impacted by extreme weather events that occurred in Years 2 and 3.

Assumption 3. *Mother trees and viable propagules of project target species are available and identified for home gardens, agroforestry and forest restoration activities (some species don't produce seed every year).*

Tuyen Hoa, encompassing the second largest tropical forest area in Quang Binh province (constituting 77% of the total area), harbours numerous native and threatened tree species. A botanical survey conducted in May 2023 mapped the distribution and phenology of Project target species, to estimate seed setting and determine optimal collection times (**Annex 5.37**). Furthermore, the Project established 2 new nurseries with a combined capacity of over 30,000 seedlings annually, ensuring a reliable supply of native trees, fruit trees, non-woody crops, ornamental species for agroforestry, home gardening and restoration (**Annex 5.34**). Additionally, the Project has been benefiting from its proximity to the Centre for Rescue, Conservation and Creature Development in Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park, enhancing access to a further array of seeds and seedlings of native and threatened species.

Output level:

Output 1:

Assumption 1: *Community members can see the benefits of agroforestry as a more sustainable agricultural model and participate in agroforestry pilot trials.*

The results of the baseline survey conducted in Year 1 revealed a significant preference among local community members for agroforestry over monoculture. Specifically, 85 households expressed a preference for agroforestry, while 64 households favoured monoculture. This inclination towards agroforestry can be attributed to its benefits, such as providing a more stable and diverse income and its potential to mitigate soil erosion and withstand extreme weather conditions. Moreover, the Project has received substantial support from district, commune, and village leaders, who have actively advocated for community involvement in the agroforestry pilot trials. This endorsement is evidenced in meeting minutes with the People's Committee of Tuyen Hoa district and the four communes (**Annex 5.45**).

Additionally, there is a palpable enthusiasm among households to participate in the agroforestry pilots, with many expressing a keen desire to join. As a result, the recruitment of 110 households

for participation in the pilot trials encountered no difficulties, highlighting the strong interest and willingness of the community to engage in agroforestry initiatives.

Building on the success of the agroforestry pilots, which led to a 42% increase in household income compared to pre-Project levels, 96% of participants reported continuing engagement in Project-related livelihood activities, particularly through market-based agroforestry. This demonstrates strong community ownership and underscores the lasting relevance and sustainability of the agroforestry models introduced by the Project (**Annex 5.20**).

Assumption 2: *Extreme weather events will not occur or greatly impact agroforestry and restoration activities.*

See Outcome level: Assumption 2.

Output 2:

Assumption 1: *Community members and local authorities have collective views on the development and implementation of forest restoration and co-management plan of the Hatinh langur's habitat*

Endline survey results strongly support Assumption 1, showing a high level of shared commitment among community members and local authorities toward forest restoration and co-management of the langur's habitat. All respondents (100%) agreed that forest protection is crucial for community well-being, with 99% affirming its importance for livelihoods and future generations. Over 80% of Project participants reported improved attitudes toward forest conservation and actively engaged in protection activities such as awareness campaigns, tree planting and reporting violations. This marks a significant increase compared to both pre-Project levels in 2022 and the engagement of non-participant households, highlighting the Project's positive influence on community-driven conservation efforts (**Annex 5.20**).

The communities' enthusiastic interest in the Project is also demonstrated by the 109 participant households that supported the planting of over 81,910 seedlings of native forest and fruit crop tree species (**Annex 5.46**) in the SUF planning area (**Annex 5.24**).

Output 3:

Assumption 1: *Women are able to participate, and the outreach and capacity development activities can be implemented should social distancing measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic be reintroduced.*

Women were not only able to participate fully in Project activities but also experienced meaningful changes in empowerment and leadership. Women engaged in all key Project components, with the highest participation in production activities (74%), financial management (67%) and market development (56%). Their involvement was significantly higher than in non-participant households, reflecting the Project's inclusive design. Notably, women-led groups such as the chicken business model played a central role in peer learning and income generation. Through business groups and other Project activities, women participated and shared their successful model in various meetings and workshops at local and provincial levels. Hence, women empowerment outcomes were also reported in the endline survey, 121 women reported greater financial independence, 104 cited skill development, and 88 highlighted improved social inclusion. Personal transformation was evident through increased confidence (137 women), stronger decision-making abilities (112), and a heightened sense of respect (116). These findings show that the Project effectively supported women's participation, even in challenging conditions, and fostered both practical and transformative change (**Annex 5.20**).

Output 4:

Assumption 1: *Spatial and other data are available and accurate to support the promotion of sustainable agroforestry models at larger (e.g. district) scale*

Spatial data are readily available to support the promotion of piloted agroforestry models with 6 fruit tree groups: jackfruit, pomelo, orange, guava, custard apple and sapote (see Section 3.1: Output 4). Data on ecological and horticultural requirements were provided by experts from the Fruits and Vegetables Research Institute (FAVRI). A land suitability analysis swas conducted and expansion of agroforestry pilots across Tuyen Hoa was promoted through a participatory mapping session with the district and commune authorities in March 2024.

Assumption 2: *Consultation meetings with national and sub-national policy makers as part of policy advocacy can be organised according to the time plan without much delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic*

Throughout the Project, schedules were not impacted by the occurrence of any new pandemic, enabling the Project team to meet with national and sub-national policy-makers according to the workplan.

3.4 Impact

Project impact: Vietnam's evergreen tropical forests, home to unique species such as the Hatinh langur, enjoy community-managed protection incentivised by enhanced knowledge and novel agroforestry practices that support improved health and livelihoods.

Through Project-supported actions, communities in Tuyen Hoa have emerged as conservation stewards of biodiversity, with over 39,000 ha now proposed for protection under the expanded Khe Net Nature Reserve. This includes an initial 500 ha designated as SUF, forming the foundation for broader conservation efforts and formal recognition of community-led forest protection initiatives. The white-necked langur's habitat, once vulnerable to encroachment, is now being actively restored through community-led reforestation efforts and conservation patrols. More than 81,000 saplings of native forest and fruit crop tree species were planted for habitat restoration and agroforestry, with an overall survival rate of 90% at the end of the Project. These activities are not only revitalizing ecosystem services but also instilling a lasting conservation ethic, as reflected in endline survey, revealing 100% agreement on the importance of forest protection for current and future generations. More than 80% of households participated in forest protection activities such as awareness campaigns, tree planting and reporting violations (**Annex 5.20).**

Public awareness and outreach have amplified this impact (**Annex 5.47**). Educational materials (**Annex 5.48**), leaflets (**Annex 5.49a**, **Annex 5.49b**), field posters (**Annex 5.50**) and face-to-face events at schools (**Annex 5.51**) reached local communities and external stakeholders alike, including international visitors who expressed interest in contributing to forest conservation efforts through donations and volunteering in tree planting (**Annex 5.52**). Local households now associate forest protection with tangible improvements to their lives and livelihoods.

The Project catalysed livelihood diversification and poverty reduction through the introduction of context-specific agroforestry models and women-led business groups. 81% of households experienced revenue increases, with 27% having an income increase of over 50% compared to pre-Project levels (**Annex 5.20**). High-value commodities such as products generated from pomelo, honey, fish, chicken and other agroforestry interventions, not only reduced economic vulnerability but also enhanced dietary diversity and long-term health prospects.

Crucially, the Project helped bridge the gap between community action and policy, with field-based learnings translated into recommendations for co-management (**Annex 5.36a**, **Annex 5.36b**). These inputs informed consultations on forest and biodiversity law reforms, reinforcing the institutional foundation for local participation under Article 186 of the revised Land Law.

In summary, the Project delivered transformative, multi-dimensional impact, protecting a critical habitat for the white-necked langur, empowering rural communities through sustainable land-use

practices, and embedding co-management as a viable conservation model for Viet Nam's tropical forests.

4 Contribution to Darwin Initiative Programme Objectives

4.1 Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The Project has contributed to the implementation of a number of national policies by providing lessons learnt and best-practices on sustainable management of biodiversity and livelihood improvement of local communities through forest co-management, including planting of native tree species and the implementation of sustainable agroforestry:

NBSAP: Project activities contributed to **Task 2** (conservation of wildlife and endangered, rare and precious species), **Task 3** (sustainable use, fair and equitable access, and sharing of benefits derived from ecosystems and biodiversity), and **Task 5** (biodiversity conservation in the context of climate change). Project activities under Output 2 contributed to **Task 4** (control activities that have negative impacts on biodiversity).

National climate strategy: Project activities under Output 1 contributed to **Task 2** (ensure security of food and water supply); Project activities under Outputs 1 and 2 contributed to **Task 4** (protect and sustainably develop forests, increase greenhouse gas sequestration and conserve biodiversity); and Project activities under Outputs 1 and 3 contributed to **Task 7** (build climate resilient communities).

National Forest Development Strategy 2021-2030, vision to 2050: Project activities under Output 1 contributed to **Objective B** (improve livelihoods and reduce poverty rate of local people); Project activities under Output 2 contributed to **Objective C** (improve forest cover and conserve the forest biodiversity).

National One billion tree planting programme 2021-2025: Project activities under Output 1 contributed to **Task 1** (plant 690 million scattered trees); Project activities under Output 2 contributed to **Task 2** (plant 180,000 ha of forest or 310 million trees).

The **Vietnam National Action Plan to implement the 2030 Agenda for SDGs** (see relevant goals below).

Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Capacity building for local community members in science-based agroforestry and ecological restoration have been contributing to knowledge sharing and cooperation (**GBF Target 20; SDG 17.6**) and restoration of degraded land to reconnect native forest fragments (**GBF Targets 2; 4 and 11**), in turn supporting the protection of watersheds and improved soil health. Promoting gender equality (**SDG 5**) presented an integral part of the Project from the outset. Enhancing knowledge and prevention of the risk of zoonotic diseases supported healthy lives and well-being (**SDG 3**). Through an increase in diversified agroforestry for subsistence and income, the Project has been enhancing resilient farming systems for local community members (**GBF Target 10; SGDs 1.5; 5**) and sustainable food production (**SDG 2.4**). The Project also contributed to the improved connectivity of native, evergreen tropical forest and addressed issues of past degradation in the Project area (**Target 2; SDGs 15.1; 15.2; 15.5**) through the promotion of participatory, community-based management approaches (**GBF Target 1**).

In the long-run, forest restoration activities under this Project also support the **UNFCCC** and contribute to **Art. 2** (stabilising and reducing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere). This also supports Viet Nam's commitment to the **Paris Agreement**, especially as regards **Art. 7** (enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change).

Throughout the Project, connections with policy-making agencies and other pertinent organisations were initiated and consolidated (see Section 2), including the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Agency, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, and the

British Embassy. This involved sharing Project achievements and demonstrating how these align with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

4.2 Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

Addressing poverty among local communities who rely on wild forest resources, farming, and livestock-raising within the SUF area has been an integral part of the Project from the start. Targeted beneficiaries included households whose livelihoods are directly affected by legal restrictions on agricultural activities and forest product collection resulting from the establishment of the SUF. By transitioning from traditional monoculture practices to agroforestry and implementing various strategies to diversify income sources, enhance food security, and conserve soil, the Project has been improving the economic well-being of the communities engaged in these activities.

Spanning a total area of 2,500 m^2, 2 new nurseries were established and are being maintained with the support of agro-business production cooperatives focusing on forestry and voluntary conservation (Indicator 3.4). These nurseries generated 10,000 seedlings of trees for langur food while also successfully selling various fruit trees such as pomelo and various medicinal plants. To date, over 81,910 native trees have been planted in the SUF planning area to enhance tree species diversity and ecosystem services (Indicator 2.3). Promoting gender equity to address poverty has been a guiding principle of the Project from the start (see Section 4.3 GESI), for instance with 53.6% of women participating in TOT and TOF training sessions (Indicators 3.1 and 3.2) and a significant proportion (78%) of total nursery employees being women (Indicator 3.3).

Household incomes incurred notable improvements over the course of the Project. On average, households engaged in agroforestry pilots experienced a 42% increase in annual income - approximately 7.6 million VND (291 USD) per household - through diversified crop cultivation, poultry farming, and beekeeping. Fruit trees established under the Project have a survival rate above 90% to date, offering a source of additional income in the near future. Business groups formed around chicken, pomelo, fish, and honey production also saw revenue gains. The chicken group reported the highest average increase over 80%, equal to about 17.7 million VND (678 USD) per household. The other groups each achieved income growth above 10%. The 2 nurseries established during the Project provided new revenue opportunities for 32 local residents, including 25 women. Their average annual income increased by 71%, or roughly 7.5 million VND (287 USD), compared to pre-Project levels.

Direct poverty reduction impacts resulting from increased household and community income through new agroforestry initiatives, improved security for community members through the prevention of wildlife poaching, and enhanced job opportunities through the establishment of nurseries and agro-business production cooperatives, are complemented by secondary effects in the long-term. These include improved ecosystem services resulting from forest restoration efforts, increased awareness of the conservation value of wildlife and biodiversity at large, leading to sustainable resource management practices, and enhanced community governance supported by the VCG and formation of new business cooperatives. These initiatives not only empower local communities economically but also foster resilience to manage future challenges.

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	

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
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	

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Approach

Gender equality and social inclusion have been foundational to the Project's design and implementation, starting with the selection of the Project area. Tuyen Hoa district is a remote and mountainous rural area, prone to natural disasters that bring economic challenges. Depending largely on agriculture, the communities living here are relatively poorer and more marginalised economically and geographically group compared to other communities in Viet Nam. The Project focused on increasing opportunities for women, the largest underrepresented group within these communities. Our strategy was to proactively encourage the participation of women in all activities, from co-designing Project activities, needs assessments (**Annex 5.09**), and surveys (**Annex 5.19**, **Annex 5.21**, **Annex 5.53**), to capacity-building and income-generating initiatives to be as inclusive as possible (**Annex 5.20**). We assessed and addressed skill gaps to support women's equal engagement, ensuring that no participant was left behind due to social or gender barriers.

Women were prominent participants of the TOT initiatives (52% of trainees), TOF sessions (61% of all trainees), and nurseries (78% of employees) (see Indicators 3.1 and 3.3 for Output 3 in Section 3). Only the training in zoonotic disease and biodiversity control had a lower women participation (18 out of 89 participants), most likely because the topic was highly specialised and participating groups like government agencies, commune officials, and the VCG employ mainly males.

Improving Equity for Women and Marginalised Groups

One of the most notable achievements in promoting equity was the successful engagement of women in apiculture, a field previously perceived as male-oriented. Many trained women now actively manage beehives, either independently or by teaching and assisting spouses. Similarly, the all-female chicken business group established under the Project has recorded strong performance with income increases averaging 85% and members reporting enhanced self-confidence and decision-making power in household finance (**Figure 9**; **Annex 5.20**).

Women were also represented in formal Project governance processes. For instance, during the March 2024 workshop co-organized by CEGORN and the Tuyen Hoa District Forest Rangers to assess community co-management plans, 5 of the 28 participants were women. While this was a positive step, we recognize the need for further improvement in female participation in such decision-making fora. Similarly, female representatives of the chicken business group participated and shared their successful model in local and provincial workshops of women.

Recently, Ms. Thanh, the Chicken Business Group leader, participated in the workshop of Women's Entrepreneurship and Green Transition hosted by Quang Binh province (**Annex 5.54**) and workshop of Women's Entrepreneurship in Tuyen Hoa district (**Annex 5.55**, **Annex 5.56**).

Figure 9. (Left) Ms. Thanh, head of the Chicken Business Group (far right), participating in the Women's Entrepreneurship and Green Transition Workshop / (Right) Women leading the chicken business group, introduced during the launch of the salted chicken business model

Results from the endline survey show that participant households have a much higher percentage of women joining activities like production, market development, and finance compared to non-participant households than before the Project. Female participants indicated at the endline survey they feel more empowered in financial independence, followed by skill development and social inclusion. This has led to an increase in confidence and a greater sense of being respected, as well as improved decision-making abilities (**Annex 5.20**). Women benefitted not only at the economic level but also increased their self-perception and their ability to influence household and community decisions, thus leading to greater gender equality in daily life.

The VCG played an important role in this Project. Currently, the group consists of 15 members of which 3 are women (20%). Some members of the VCG represent a vulnerable group: women and former hunters. The VCG is seen as a role model with local members as heroes of langur protection. Appreciation for the VCG is high among local communities and this Project enabled them to amplify their voice in langur protection, especially the head of the group and former hunter Mr. Tu Vooc. Patrolling is generally seen as a male occupation as physically demanding and strenuous terrain has to be coped with, however, female members show that this is not a male role only.

By organising several activities for students, we addressed an additional vulnerable group: youth. As most of them were unaware of the risks of encroaching agriculture on the habitat of the langur, they are now better informed and more interested in the problem and part of them have become active messengers of biodiversity conservation within their communities.

Lessons learnt within the context of GESI are explained in detail in Section 6.

Against the backdrop of inequality in roles and power dynamics, the scope for institutional and societal change is huge but is not always particularly pronounced. However, the Project has made substantial contributions toward greater equity for women and marginalized groups through intentional design, targeted training, and inclusive livelihood interventions which have resulted in the mentioned, empowering achievements.

4.4 Transfer of knowledge

The Project strategically prioritized the transfer of both scientific knowledge and practical skills to local communities, practitioners, and policy-makers. Building on research supported by the

Darwin Initiative, we developed tailored training materials and communication tools to translate conservation science into actionable, community-level practices.

At the grassroots level, a cascade training model was implemented through TOT and TOF sessions (see Indicator 3.1 for Output 3 in Section 3: Achievements). According to the endline survey, 97% of trained participants applied the knowledge, and 88% shared it, primarily with relatives and neighbours. Notably, 24% of non-participant households attended sessions, all of whom applied and 93% shared what they learned. Additionally, 62% of non-participants who did not attend training still reported gaining knowledge informally from others (**Annex 5.20**). This organic dissemination highlights how this approach, grounded in culturally appropriate methods and delivered in local languages, supported understanding and community-driven replication of sustainable practices.

Knowledge transfer extended to schools. Leaflets and an education toolkit on langur conservation and zoonotic disease prevention were distributed, enabling schools like Thach Hoa to independently organize student-led activities. Other schools followed suit using the toolkit. Posters were developed and displayed in schools and community houses, 13 educational signs were installed near the SUF, and videos further amplified the outreach efforts (**Annex 5.47**).

To engage policy stakeholders, the Project co-hosted a workshop in March 2024 with the Tuyen Hoa District Forest Rangers to assess the implementation of the community co-management plan. Local authorities and community leaders reviewed biodiversity monitoring data and discussed the proposed 39,000 ha expansion of the SUF. At the national level, findings were shared with MONRE through annual meetings (2023, 2024) and stakeholder dialogues led by ICRAF, including national consultations on implementing Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Project recommendations were also presented during a National Assembly session, emphasizing forest land allocation, OECM (Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures) recognition, and agroforestry, key issues expected to influence upcoming policy revisions.

Internationally, the Project was showcased at the International Conference on Advancing Solutions for Climate Change Challenges in rural Viet Nam in November 2024. Attended by over 100 researchers, it was recognized by the conference participants as a model for integrating biodiversity conservation, local livelihoods, and One Health approaches (**Annex 5.57**).

To ensure ongoing access to Project knowledge, a dedicated Project website was created to share updates, resources, and results with a broad audience (**Annex 5.58**). The Project also generated and published new knowledge such as the peer-reviewed paper describing a species new to science discovered in the Project site (**Annex 5.38**), with another article currently in preparation focusing on enhancing OECM management through natural values.

Through these multi-tiered efforts, evidence-based insights were widely disseminated, practised, and embedded in policy discussions locally, nationally, and internationally.

4.5 Capacity building

Staff from in-country partners have experienced notable recognition and professional growth, reflecting the Project's capacity building and leadership development impact. A prominent example is Ms. Tuyet, the Project Manager from ICRAF Viet Nam, whose professional standing has significantly risen locally and internationally as a result of her involvement in the Project.

Tuyet was invited to participate in an international conference, where she showcased Project outcomes and innovations of the Project to a global audience of practitioners and policy-makers. She also played a key leadership role in co-organising and facilitating Vietnam's National Dialogue on Ecosystem Restoration, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This national platform brought together government agencies, researchers, NGOs, and development partners to align Viet Nam's restoration priorities with the goals of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

In addition, Tuyet has been actively involved in high-level workshops and technical fora hosted by the British Embassy, GIZ (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), The Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs of the National Assembly, where she contributed insights on biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods. Her engagement in these policy-shaping venues has not only elevated her professional profile but also positioned ICRAF as a trusted thought leader in restoration and conservation.

Two staff members of CEGORN (1 man, 1 woman) were invited to participate in scientific councils at Quang Binh University. Dr. Ngô Văn Hồng from CEGORN has joined the Council of the Institute of Agriculture and Environment at Quang Binh University as of June 14, 2025, and Mrs. Pham Thi Kim Dung was appointed Deputy Director of CEGORN as of May 6, 2025.

In 2024, Mr. Nguyen Thanh Tu (also known as Tu Vooc) of the VCG participated in the Community Action Award programme under the theme “Building a Sustainable Creative Community,” organised by The People's Paper. The award recognizes community-driven efforts, promotes dedicated, long-term social projects, and connects individuals and organisations with shared goals to build a compassionate society and a sustainable future. His submission was selected as one of the 38 most outstanding entries (out of a total of 128), in recognition of his 12 years of dedicated service to the community. His work has yielded tangible results in environmental protection and biodiversity conservation - most notably the conservation of the white-necked langur - and has profoundly raised public awareness. He was presented with a flying camera valued at 80 million VND.

These recognitions demonstrate the Project’s effectiveness in empowering local leadership and fostering knowledge exchange, while also amplifying Viet Nam’s voice in regional and global restoration networks.

5. Monitoring and evaluation

During the Project’s lifetime, there was only one minor addition, Activity 2.5, to the logframe in Year 2, as per the suggestion from AR1R on langur patrolling by VCG members (**Annex 5.65**). This was to justify the purchase of equipment for VCG members to facilitate efficient monitoring of the SUF area. Otherwise, the original Project design and logframe remained the same throughout the project cycle.

The Project’s internal monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system was crucial for tracking progress, identifying challenges, and in making informed decisions throughout the 3 years of its implementation. In Year 1, a Project Management Team (PMT) was set-up by the lead partner BGCI, composed of all Project partners, ICRAF, CEGORN and representatives from the VCG. The PMT met several times a year online, with 1 in-person meeting held near the Project site in Tuyen Hoa. During field visits, the PMT team had the opportunity to witness and understand the Project's progress firsthand.

PMT meetings progress was tracked towards achieving the Project outcome by assessing outputs and the corresponding activities (**Annex 5.59**).

In addition, various technical meetings were held in parallel, led by the Project’s technical experts, who work directly with the local communities (Project beneficiaries). Technical meetings focused on specific topics (i.e. market survey, agroforestry pilots, TOT training, zoonotic disease transmission risks and public awareness) to ensure activities were carried out effectively. To further facilitate discussion at commune-level, a Project implementing group was established to monitor agroforestry pilot activities (**Annex 5.60**, **Annex 5.61**). This group consisted of representatives from the DARD and commune staff members. DARD collaborated with commune authorities to conduct regular monitoring and report on the implementation of the agroforestry pilots in the households. Moreover, participating local community members were further engaged in the data collection and analysis of agroforestry models using logbooks provided by the Project to assist in capturing a comprehensive picture of the Project's impact on the community. Outcomes of these meetings and local communities’ feedback were reported back to PMT through emails and technical reports periodically.

At the end of Year 3, the achievement of indicators was measured through evaluating the Year 1 baseline (**Annex 5.19**) and Year 3 endline (**Annex 5.20**) surveys, and technical reports.

By implementing a robust M&E system, the Project was able to deliver each activity in timely manner as specified under Section 3 (refer to 3.1,3.2,3.3 and 3.4) of this report.

For internal reporting, the PMT shared a Google Drive folder where information on Project progress, survey data, technical reports, meeting minutes, images and relevant reading materials were kept and updated regularly.

For external data sharing, PMT actively shared information and updates, including updates on meetings and survey results, with community members, local authorities, and other stakeholders through meetings and relevant social media platforms (Project's Facebook page: **Annex 5.62**; BGCI's website (**Annex 5.66**); ICRAF's website (**Annex 5.67**); SEABG Network's Facebook page (**Annex 5.68**); LinkedIn).

The Project team is also producing a *Project-in-Review*, outreach brochure including aims, key activities and achievements of the Project. It will also be made available and disseminated as a print copy.

6. Lessons learnt

Some of the major successes of the Project include:

Engagement with Schools, Schoolchildren, and Teachers (**Annex 5.47**). Educational activities including workshops, field trips (**Annex 5.41**, **Annex 5.42**), and the development of a teacher's toolkit (**Annex 5.48**) were particularly well received. Teachers reported that the toolkit was a valuable resource for delivering conservation education, and the Year 3 drawing competition proved to be a creative and effective way to engage children.

The TOT Approach (**Annex 5.25**, **Annex 5.26**). These sessions were well-attended, including by women, and evaluations highlighted their value both in increasing individual knowledge and enhancing capacity to share this learning with the communities. This approach created a network of local champions, reinforcing conservation and public health messaging at the grassroots level.

Key learnings from these successes include:

Strengthen stakeholder collaboration: Cooperation between the Project team, community groups, and local authorities was instrumental at every stage – from early assessments and activity design to implementation and monitoring. Transparent, two-way communication (through regular updates, feedback loops, and inclusive information-sharing platforms) proved critical in building trust and aligning expectations. Shared decision-making enabled interventions that were synergistic, contextually relevant (responding to the real needs and priorities of target communities), effectively implemented, and stakeholder-owned (within and beyond the Project duration).

Balance economic benefits with conservation goals: Livelihood-based conservation models must effectively integrate economic incentives with biodiversity outcomes. The Project's agroforestry and value-chain interventions proved that sustainable incomes and forest protection can be mutually reinforcing.

Promote value-based change: Conservation success depends not only on technical interventions but on shifting local values and perceptions about nature. Promoting intrinsic and relational values such as intergenerational responsibility as well as pride in and respect for local wildlife helps foster long-term commitment to biodiversity protection. Value-based approaches underpin behavioural change and encourage stewardship.

Integrate climate adaptation into conservation planning: Climate variability increasingly threatens both livelihoods and ecosystems. The integration of drought-tolerant crops, soil

conservation, and water management measures demonstrated how climate-resilient practices can enhance household stability while protecting biodiversity. Conservation initiatives must proactively embed climate adaptation into land-use planning, species recovery, and livelihood strategies to build long-term resilience.

With regards to GESI, some specific insights include:

The Pivotal Role of Local Mass Organisations: The Women's Union and Farmer's **U**nion not only mobilised female participation but also institutionalised their presence in local economic development through establishment of women-led business groups, such as those raising chicken. Officially recognizing these groups and providing continuous coaching in production planning, marketing strategies, and value chain engagement, elevated women from passive beneficiaries to active economic agents. Moreover, the integration of these women-led groups into Union activities created powerful feedback loops—enabling women to access diverse capacity-building opportunities, such as local and provincial-level workshops, leadership fora, and entrepreneurship initiatives. These spaces strengthened women's confidence, negotiation skills, and visibility in traditionally male-dominated economic spheres. The inclusion of these groups as core actors in commune-level economic strategies has also made them more sustainable, with ongoing support mechanisms from the Unions.

Room for Improvement: While women demonstrated high participation in production, training, and financial activities, their roles in leadership and market-facing functions remain underdeveloped. Future efforts should include tailored training for women in business leadership, negotiation, and branding. Support mechanisms, such as access to finance, childcare during training, or mentorship programmes, can further reduce gender-based barriers and support transformative empowerment, leading women to feel they possess all the confidence, knowledge and skills they need to participate in all events.

In hindsight, a further granulated GESI lens could have been applied during the Project. Within women as a vulnerable group, there are subgroups which are extra vulnerable like widows, elderly females, and very low-income households. These groups have not been specifically addressed in this Project nor has there been a focus on other vulnerable groups like the LGBTQ+ community and disabled people, as the main focus was on including women and youth. The GESI criteria for selecting households for agroforestry pilots could have been further finetuned besides selecting young farmers, but criteria like close proximity to the boundaries of the langur area, ongoing SUF cultivation and land size were seen as most relevant measures for the Project to have the biggest impact and chance to succeed (**Annex 5.10**).

7. Actions taken in response to Annual Report reviews

All of the issues raised by BCF in the AR2R have been addressed during the course of Year 3.

1. Further evidence of progress against Output 4 producing policy recommendations and promoting integration of community-based SUF management and agroforestry into national and sub-national policies.

The Project made strong progress under Output 4 by producing evidence-based policy recommendations and actively promoting the integration of community-based SUF management and agroforestry into national and sub-national policy frameworks. At the sub-national level, a policy workshop was co-hosted with the Tuyen Hoa District Forest Rangers in March 2024, where local authorities and community leaders assessed co-management implementation and discussed the proposed 39,000 ha SUF expansion. At the national level, findings were shared with MONRE through annual meetings (2023, 2024) and national consultations led by ICRAF on implementing Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal GBF. Key recommendations on forest land allocation, OECM recognition, and agroforestry, were presented during a National Assembly session and have contributed to ongoing policy revision processes. The Project was also

recognized internationally as a model for integrated conservation at the 2024 climate change conference in Viet Nam, further reinforcing its policy relevance.

2. Clarify how upscaling of the agroforestry pilots will be funded after the Project closes.

Tuyen Hoa District DARD has recognized the Project's successful market-based agroforestry models and had committed to maintain and integrate Project results into government programmes, such as scaling up the potato model and registering the salted chicken product under the OCOP programme, that have been integrated into upcoming commune development plans. Other products supported by the Project were also endorsed for continued support by commune authorities during the March 2025 business model scaling-up workshop. Furthermore, through poverty reduction and rural development programmes, local authorities have also committed to expanding agroforestry to new households and continuing support for existing project participants (**Annex 5.16**).

3. Provide further evidence to substantiate sign of langur population growth in the Project area if possible.

Community observations in the endline survey (**Annex 5.20**) report more frequent langur sightings, often at closer distances, indicating reduced disturbance and increased population confidence. This is also supported by more and more photos and videos captured by VCG shared via Facebook page (**Annex 5.62**), highlighting signs of population recovery in the Project area. However, it is important to note that observable increases in population size are difficult to confirm within a short project timeframe due to the species' slow reproductive rate. White-necked langurs typically give birth to a single infant after a gestation period of about 6-7 months, and juveniles may take up to 4-5 years to reach sexual maturity. It is also possible langurs are getting more used to humans observing them and are less shy than before.

Therefore, while current evidence points to improved conditions for the species, long-term monitoring is essential to verify sustained population growth.

4. Provide further gender disaggregation for VCG group, as well as the GESI characteristics of the households selected for the agroforestry pilots and what GESI criteria were considered in selecting households and nursery employers.

The VCG currently consists of 15 members, of which 3 are women.

The Project nursery has employed 32 people, of which 25 are women. Nursery employees were not selected based on GESI criteria. The nursery employees are resident of the area, have working experience in agriculture and are committed to long-term work at the nursery. Household selection criteria have been addressed in lessons learned in 4.3 GESI.

The Project applied clear GESI criteria in selecting agroforestry pilot households, prioritizing female-headed, and low-income households with limited land access. Women were engaged across all stages of Agroforestry implementation: training, production, decision-making, marketing, and finance. Notably, women successfully entered male-dominated fields like apiculture (**Annex 5.69**) and formed high-performing business groups, such as the all-female chicken-business group, which saw an average income increase of 85% that improved household financial decision-making.

5. Not clear how the Project intentionally sought to facilitate women's empowerment and transformative change beyond setting targets for women's participation in livelihood interventions. Further clarification.

The Project actively facilitated women's empowerment beyond participation targets by promoting leadership and skill development across all livelihood activities. Women were trained in production, finance, communication, and digital marketing, including using AI tools and social media to promote products. They were encouraged to share experiences in entrepreneurship workshops and take visible roles in decision-making. Endline data shows women made up 78% of participants in production, 67% in financial management, and 56% in marketing, significantly higher than in non-Project households. Women reported increased confidence, skills, and influence in household and community decisions (**Annex 5.20**).

6. The Project reports that it will hold discussions with communities on complaint reporting procedures - evidence will be useful in AR3.

Reflections on complaint and feedback mechanisms were integrated into key Project engagements with farmers and local authorities. In Year 1 and Year 2, annual meetings with farmers, commune representatives, and district stakeholders created space for open dialogue on Project implementation challenges, with communities raising concerns on benefit-sharing and technical support timelines (**Annex 5.11**, **Annex 5.12**). Also, through the social group created via Zalo, communities can quickly report problems to the Project and local staff to receive timely support. These discussions helped shape adaptive responses. The Project also conducted workshops to listen to challenges and find solutions (**Annex 5.15**, **Annex 5.16**). Participants in community-facing activities were informed of the safeguarding policy and complaint procedures, including the option to report concerns directly to the designated safeguarding focal point.

7. The Project exit strategy needs further refinement, particularly around the marketability of agroforestry products to ensure that agroforestry can be a long-term economically viable livelihood activity.

To strengthen the Project's exit strategy, additional efforts are underway to enhance the long-term marketability of agroforestry products and ensure economic viability beyond the Project period. This includes supporting farmer groups in securing OCOP certification for key products like salted chicken, improving branding and packaging, and linking producers to district and provincial markets through local fairs and digital platforms. The Project has also facilitated connections with buyers, cooperatives, and agricultural extension services to ensure stable market access. These measures aim to position agroforestry as a competitive, income-generating livelihood practice, with continued technical and institutional support integrated into commune development plans.

8. Risk Management

Based on our records and assessments, no new risks had arisen in the last 12 months that were not previously accounted for. Additionally, the Project has not had to make any significant adaptations to the design to address changes to risk and our risk management plan remained effective to address any unforeseen risks.

Although the Project did not encounter any major risk during its three years of implementation, in the last quarter of 2024, Viet Nam's government officially announced the Plan to Arrange and Merge Administrative Units, as part of its 2024-2025 Institutional Reforms which includes dissolving and merging districts; this could impact on the continuation of activities following the official end of the Project. On June 12, 2025, Viet Nam's National Assembly officially adopted a new resolution to implement the new system of 34 provincial-level administrative units, comprising six centrally managed cities and 28 provinces. The restructuring plan is expected to clear bureaucratic hurdles, streamline administrative procedures, and provide a bedrock for sustainable growth targets.

This issue was highlighted on several occasions during official visits, stakeholder meetings and the Project's closing workshop at Tuyen Hoa in March 2025. District-level authorities and key stakeholders raised concerns on the governance of current and future projects and its activities in Tuyen Hoa. So far, we do not know the full impact of such a move in Viet Nam with, starting July 1, 2025, the operation of district-level administrative units being dissolved, including that of Tuyen Hoa.

9. Scalability and Durability

Throughout the Project's lifetime, we actively promoted its profile across local, national, and international platforms. Activities and outcomes were regularly shared with government agencies, community leaders, schools, and NGOs through workshops, printed materials, media campaigns, and the Project website. The Project was also presented at the International Conference on Advancing Solutions for Climate Change Challenges, enhancing its visibility and credibility on a global stage.

The VCG is well-prepared to sustain its role in conservation post-Project. Equipped with skills in biodiversity monitoring, forest patrols, and nursery management, they now act as local trainers, sharing knowledge with communities and schools. Their active involvement has earned recognition from local authorities and strengthened community trust. The VCG is also forming partnerships with organisations like Coteccons Construction (**Annex 5.63**) and HiVOOC (**Annex 5.52**) to promote native tree planting and ecotourism, creating pathways for continued conservation impact and local income generation.

Several Project achievements are positioned to endure beyond the funding period. Most notably, the Teacher Toolkit on biodiversity conservation, with special emphasis on the langur and its habitat protection, and zoonotic disease prevention have been institutionalized within local schools. Science teachers are now able to use the toolkit independently, and CEGORN has committed to supporting them as part of its ongoing environmental education programme.

In addition to the institutionalization of the Teacher Toolkit, the Project has implemented a range of awareness-raising activities designed to achieve long-term shifts in attitudes and values toward biodiversity conservation. These include thematic workshops conducted across 4 schools, a photography exhibition focused on the white-necked langur and its habitat, and a field visit for students led by experts from the VCG, offering direct exposure to conservation efforts in practice. Such experiential and community-based learning interventions are known to have a lasting influence on participants, gaining a deeper connection to local wildlife and ecosystems. By engaging young people, educators, and the wider community, the Project has laid a strong foundation for sustained conservation-minded behaviour and increased stewardship of the langur's habitat well beyond the Project's lifetime.

Additionally, the community nurseries, and business groups, are continuing operations with stable revenue, having built strong local ownership and practical capacity during the Project. The strong uptake of agroforestry practices, combined with evidence of knowledge spillover and peer-to-peer learning, reinforces the relevance of the original sustainability strategy.

As part of our Open Access Plan, Project reports, education materials, and scientific publications have been made publicly available through the Project website and institutional repositories. One peer-reviewed paper on a newly identified species has been published, and a second paper on OECM management is in progress.

At the policy level, the Project has had tangible impact. Project findings were mentioned in a National Assembly session, contributing to dialogue on forest land allocation, agroforestry promotion, and recognition of OECMs. At the local level, our work supported the proposed 39,000 ha expansion of the SUF to become Khe Net Nature Reserve. These contributions are expected to inform future conservation and land-use policies at both district and national levels.

Following the cessation of Darwin Initiative funding, Project staff have been integrated into ongoing programmes led by CEGORN and ICRAF, including those related to forest co-management, agroecology, and environmental health. Equipment and resources (e.g. nursery infrastructure, training materials, and monitoring tools) have been transferred to local partners, who will continue their use under district-level conservation planning efforts.

10. Darwin Initiative identity

The Project has been introduced during the Project inception workshop to Project staff and the community, as well as key stakeholders in biodiversity conservation and environmental management (MONRE, DARD). A brand identity has been developed at the start of the Project as several Darwin Initiative projects have been and are being implemented in Viet Nam. All stakeholders have been regularly updated on the Project progress.

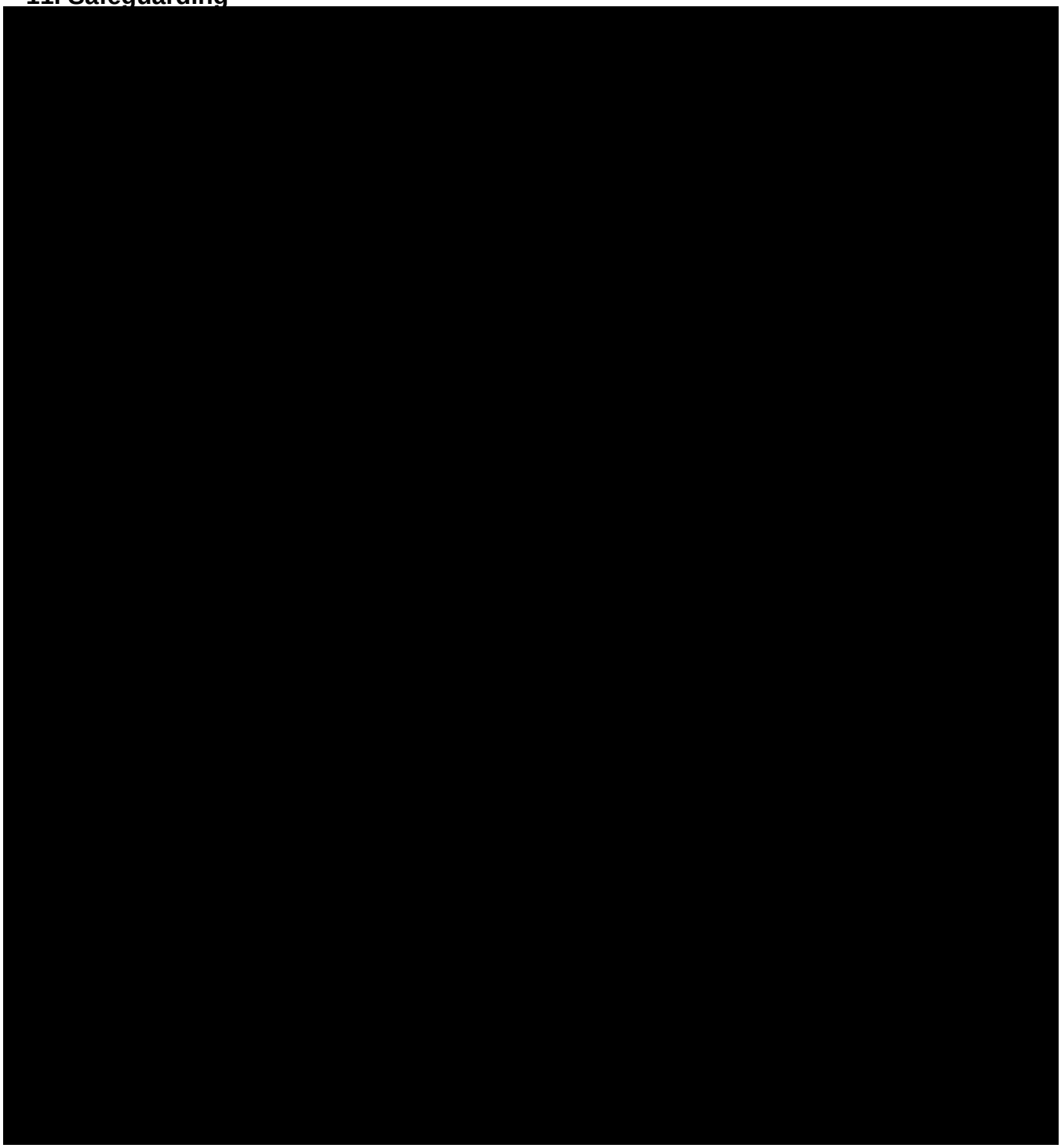
The logo of the Darwin Initiative and logos of the Project partners have consistently been used in all public awareness materials (e.g. leaflets, posters, videos, booklet), internal communication

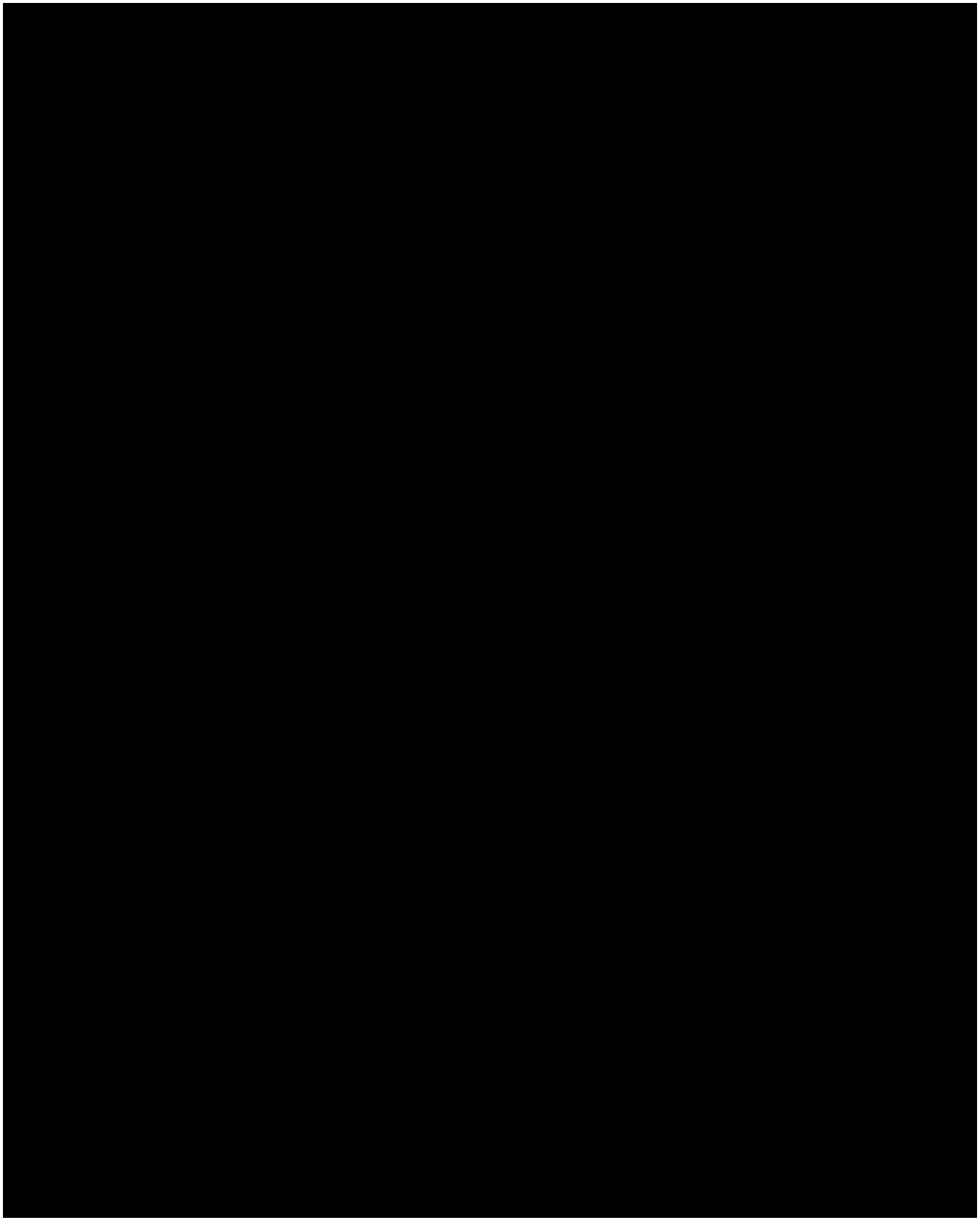
like meeting minutes and external communication like newsletters, presentations, reports and on our social media platforms (e.g. **Annex 5.64**).

Acknowledgment of the UK Government's contribution to the Project's work has been evident in official documentation and reports and was reiterated in meetings with key stakeholders underscoring the importance of this support.

Social media of all different Project partners have been consistently used to inform the public about the Project and included Darwin logo and tags to Darwin Initiative/ Biodiversity Challenge Funds. Platforms included LinkedIn and Twitter/X channels of the Senior Communications Officer of CIFOR-ICRAF Viet Nam, BGCI's Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and X pages, SEABG's official Facebook page, the VCG and Mr. Tu Vooc's Facebook page and other social media platforms, as well as on the official websites of BGCI, ICRAF, and CEGORN.

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)	[redacted]			
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	**£180,290.00**	**£180,368.99**		

Staff employed (Name and position)	Cost (£)
BGCI Joachim Gratzfeld - Director of Regional Programmes	[redacted]
BGCI Ane Zabaleta - Education and Training Manager	
BGCI Greetha Arumugam - SE Asia Programme Manager	
BGCI Annelies Andringa-Davis - Education and Training Officer	
BGCI Helen Miller - Head of Education	
BGCI David Ples- SE Asia officer	
BGCI Alex Pizzoni - Finance Officer	
ICRAF Tan Nguyen, Forestry policy specialist	
ICRAF Tuyet Truong, Project Coordinator	
ICRAF Mulia Rachmat, Agroforestry specialist	
ICRAF Hiep Tran, Market and value chain expert	
ICRAF Van Pham, Project Officer	
ICRAF Minh Nguyen, Communications officer	
ICRAF Hue Le, Finance officer	
ICRAF An Nguyen, Admin officer	
CEGORN, Ngô Văn Hồng, Project manager	
CEGORN, Dương Thị Dung, Project officer	
CEGORN, Phạm Thị Kim Dung, Finance and accountant	
CEGORN, Nguyễn Văn Sự, Communication and outreach	
TOTAL	

Capital items – description	Capital items – cost(£)
N/A	0
TOTAL	0

Other items – description	Other items – cost (£
BGCI ATM withdrawal fee ICRAF Consumables ICRAF Inputs for AF/Farm pilots ICRAF Publication costs	[redacted]

CEGORN Public translation costs CEGORN Personal income tax CEGORN Office cost CEGORN Printing and photocopying documents CEGORN Postage CEGORN Printing documents CEGORN Audit fees CEGORN Cost of monitoring/visiting AF models CEGORN Contract for design, appraisal and supply of forest seedlings CEGORN Planting and post-planting care CEGORN Cost of building and developing a nursery CEGORN Cost of maintenance in the forest for the 2nd and 3rd year in Son Hoa CEGORN Cost of buying fertilizer for Son Hoa Forest	[redacted]
TOTAL	

12.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the Project	**Total (£)**
VARS forest restoration and maintenance matched funding	[redacted]
Honey dehydrator co-funding from farmers	
BGCI	
ICRAF	
CEGORN	
TOTAL	

Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the Project, building on evidence, best practices and the Project	**Total (£)**
N/A	[redacted]
TOTAL	

12.3 Value for Money

The Project offered excellent value for money by providing long-term ecological and economic returns. To ensure this, efficient costing was considered at all Project stages to achieve long-term sustainability for both community development and forest ecosystem restoration within Tuyen Hoa as expounded on in this report.

In terms of conservation, the Project facilitated planting more than 80,000 native trees in the buffer zones of SUF and across the four communes. Seedlings of native trees planted include threatened *Erythrophleum fordii,* EN and *Dalbergia tonkinensis,* VU. Furthermore, the Project established 2 nurseries covering 2,500 m² in Thuan Tien village, Thuan Hoa commune, with a tree seedling generation capacity of over 30,000 annually. These efforts are projected to enhance habitat connectivity and forest biodiversity in the years to come crucial for protecting the habitat of the Endangered white-necked langur. With a 90% survival rate of the seedlings, restoring and protecting forest ecosystems like these in Tuyen Hoa can play a significant role in carbon sequestration and mitigating climate change in near future.

In terms of economic value, the Project has implemented evidence-based approaches to select 100 over households living in the SUF buffer zones and establish market-oriented agroforestry

pilots for the local community. To strengthen market access and promote sustainable land use, the Project implemented targeted interventions, including new value chains for chicken, fish, honey, and pomelo. Furthermore, to build capacity, the Project trained 382 local community members (185 women) through various TOT and TOF courses. Topics include, designing agroforestry pilots, planting trees, beekeeping, raising chickens, business development, food processing and preservation, etc. All capacity building activities were inclusive which shaped the development of the women headed Chicken business group. In year 3, the Chicken business generated high income more than 80% compared to before Project intervention. More information on strengthening market access and livelihood improvement is detailed in Section 3 of this report.

These coordinated efforts have improved livelihoods of local community through income diversification. Incidentally, this also improves health and food security through accessibility to diverse food choices.

The Project's robust Monitoring and Evaluation system supported and ensured optimal use of resources to achieve intended biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction outcomes within the timeline of the Project.

13 Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Adaptive Project Design and Strategic Enhancements: Throughout the Project's lifetime, the design was adaptively improved in response to both operational challenges and stakeholder input. In Year 2, following a needs assessment, training methods, particularly in agroforestry and zoonotic disease prevention, were refined to be more participatory and tailored to local contexts. Regular feedback was gathered through meetings with VCG members, local authorities, and participant households, creating a responsive feedback loop that strengthened implementation. The exit strategy was also enhanced by embedding ownership within local institutions, such as schools, nurseries, business groups, and VCG, to ensure sustained impact beyond the Project's duration.

Institutional Delays Due to Regulatory Barriers: One of the most significant difficulties encountered was the delay in initiating livelihood improvement and agroforestry pilot activities in Year 2, due to challenges in obtaining Project registration for the ICRAF-led component. Under Viet Nam's Decree 80/2020/ND-CP, foreign-funded non-ODA projects require formal registration at the provincial level. This process proved time-consuming and delayed field implementation. ICRAF maintained regular communication with the British Embassy in Hanoi, which has acknowledged the systemic nature of the issue and plans to raise it with the Government of Viet Nam to facilitate smoother registration processes in the future.

Extreme Climate Conditions: Another major challenge was the prolonged and intense heatwaves that struck Viet Nam from late March 2024 onward, severely affecting Tuyen Hoa district. While most perennial species used in agroforestry pilots showed good resilience, annual crops could not be planted on schedule due to extreme drought conditions. Consequently, planting was deferred to Year 3. Climate variability also affected the quality of pomelo and honey, slightly reducing the income gains expected from the corresponding business groups in Year 2. Fruit trees, although healthy and with over 90% survival rates, require additional years to mature and produce significant economic returns.

Mitigation Measures and Learning: In response to these setbacks, the Project team adjusted implementation timelines and provided ongoing technical support to farmers and business groups. Contingency planning and more climate-resilient agroforestry models were also discussed with local stakeholders. These experiences have emphasized the need to mainstream climate risk management into livelihood planning and conservation activities.

Team Continuity and Resource Sustainability: Following the cessation of Darwin Initiative funding, key Project staff have been retained under ongoing programmes led by CEGORN and ICRAF, ensuring continuity in forest co-management, agroecology, and environmental health work. Project resources, including nurseries, training materials, and biodiversity monitoring

equipment, have been handed over to local partners and will continue to support district-level conservation planning.

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

Project summary	Progress and achievements
Impact Vietnam's evergreen tropical forests, home to unique species such as the Hatinh langur, enjoy community-managed protection incentivised by enhanced knowledge and novel agroforestry practices that support improved health and livelihoods.	• Communities in Tuyen Hoa district became frontline stewards of biodiversity, with over 39,000 ha proposed for protection under the expanded Khe Net Nature Reserve. • An initial 500 ha designated as SUF, laying the groundwork for formal recognition of community-led forest protection. • Over 81,900 saplings of native forest and fruit crop tree species planted, with 90% survival rate at present, contributing to habitat and ecosystem services restoration. • More than 80% of households participated in forest protection activities, awareness campaigns, tree planting, and reporting violations. Educational materials, posters, and school events reached local students, significantly increasing their understanding of the importance of protecting the white-necked langur and its forest habitat. These activities also engaged international visitors, some of whom expressed interest in volunteering and donating to support conservation efforts. • 100% of surveyed households agreed on the importance of forest protection for current and future generations. • Introduction of context-specific agroforestry models and women-led business groups enhanced income and resilience. • 81% of households saw increased income, with 27% experiencing an increase over 50% since the Project began. • Agroforestry models contributed to greater dietary diversity and reduced economic vulnerability. • Field-based learnings informed co-management plans and contributed to national legal reforms, reinforcing community roles under Article 186 of the revised Land Law.
Outcome Forest biodiversity degradation including threats to the Hatinh langur in Vietnam's Tuyen Hoa district is decreased through active community participation in Special-use forest (SUF) management and livelihoods' improving agroforestry models.	Evidence provided in section 3.2 of the report and **Annex 5.20, Annex 5.20b, Annex 5.37, Annex 5.38, Annex 5.39, Annex 5.40, Annex 5.41, Annex 5.42.** • Over 80% of supported households developed at least 2 new sources of farm income, such as poultry, nursery, and agroforestry intercropping systems. • 81% of supported households experienced increased income. • 74% of households surpassed the target 7% income increase, with 27% reporting gains over 50%. • Chicken and Nursery business groups showed highest returns, with average income increases of 85% and 71%, respectively. • Agroforestry pilot households reported a 47% average income increase (~7.6 million VND per household).

	• Although slightly below the 80% threshold, delays in fruit tree maturity and early-stage business models (e.g., pomelo, honey, fish) explain the shortfall. • Food security: 76% of households reported improved food access; targeted irrigation support benefited 25 water-scarce households. • 81,914 native trees planted across 73.7 ha in four communes by 109 households/communities. Seven (7) native species planted, with a strong representation of threatened species like *Erythrophleum fordii* and *Dalbergia tonkinensis*. Survival rate: As of March 2025, 90.9% of trees survive, exceeding the 90% target.
Outcome indicator 0.1 At least 80% of households in Tuyen Hoa district supported by the Project have at least 2 additional sources of farm income and an increase of at least 7% between start of project (2022) and end (2025)	• The baseline survey provides data of 351 households and the endline survey of 210 households, of which 145 participated in the Project (**Annex 5.19 and Annex 5.20**) • 80 of the households have at least 2 additional sources of farm income. • 81% of the households supported an income increase, of which 74% saw an increase of at least 7%. • The 3 most successful sources of income stem from the Chicken business group, 2 nurseries and agroforestry.
Outcome indicator 0.2 At least 90% of the seedlings planted in the Project site including at least 5 native forest tree species, survive at end of project (2025)	• 81,914 native trees were planted by 109 households and communities. • Seven (7) native forest tree species were planted: *Michelia tonkinensis* (Dỗi); *Manglietia conifera* (Vàng tim); *Dalbergia tonkinensis* Prain (Sưa đỏ); *Erythrophleum fordii* (Lim xanh); *Chukrasia tabularis* (Lát hoa); *Prunus arborea* (Xoan đào) and *Tarrietia javanica Kost* (Huỷnh). (**Annex 5.24**) • The survival rate is 90.9%.
Outcome indicator 0.3 Reduction of langur poaching in the conservation area by at least by 20% between 2022 and 2025	• Number of patrols 105 in 2022, 136 in 2023 and 137 in 2023 (see section 3.2) • Violations of trapping and hunting animals: 25 in 2022, 20 in 2023 and 9 in 2024, which is a reduction of 64%. (**Annex 5.39, Annex 5.40**)
Outcome indicator 0.4 The local communities in Tuyen Hoa district are formally included in Special-use forest management at the Project end (2025)	• Policy advocacy on community co-management led to the Tuyen Hoa District People's Committee issuing Decision 999/QD-UBND on June 16, 2022. This decision promotes the regulation of coordination forest management and biodiversity conservation in the planning area of the SUF in Tuyen Hoa district. (**Annex 5.04a)** • The Khe Net Nature Reserve covering 39,000 ha including the SUF planning areas in Thach Hoa, Dong Hoa, Thuan Hoa, and Son Hoa communes was established in November 2024 **(Annex 5.44)**
Output 1 The socio-economic status, income sources and market situation of households in Tuyen Hoa district are assessed and market-based agroforestry practices are established (ICRAF, CEGORN)	
Output indicator 1.1 The socio economic, agroforestry and forest products surveys in the Project communes at baseline (2022) and end	• Baseline survey conducted in Dec 2022 with 351 households across 14 villages (12.5% of population). (**Annex 5.19**)

of project (2025), are used to guide forest restoration and protection, agroforestry and agribusiness planning and implementation	• Follow-up agroforestry survey and focus groups held with 46 households; 10 products selected for market assessment. (**Annex 5.53**) • Agroforestry, poultry, apiculture, and nursery pilots implemented in Year 2; value chains showed early signs of promise. • Endline survey in Feb 2025 with 210 households showed over 80% increased income and added 2 income sources. • 92% surpassed income growth targets; 27% reported income gains above 50%. • Capacity building reached 93% of participants; high knowledge application and sharing reported. (**Annex 5.20**)
Output indicator 1.2 Market opportunities and value chain report for key agroforestry products from the region in year 1 (2022)	• A market opportunities and value chain report has been created for pomelo, honey, chicken, and fish. (**Annex 5.21)** • Households operate independently and the products struggle to penetrate wider markets and IRR's vary from 45% on pomelo to net losses for fish.
Output indicator 1.3 Market opportunities tested for at least 4 crop species by the end of year 3 (2025), and at least 100 agroforestry trial plots, including apiculture and fishing raising, established by the end of year 2 (2024)	• 110 agroforestry trial plots were established. • 105 agroforestry models with fruit trees, annual crops, apiculture and chicken. (**Annex 5.20, Annex 5.22**) • Raising of fish in cages has been initiated. • 5,125 free-range chickens, 174 beehives, over 3,500 fruit tree seedlings and 2,450 fingerlings were distributed. • 80% of the households incurred a direct income increase.
Output 2. The SUF community co-management plan is jointly developed and implemented with community members and local authorities (BGCI, CEGORN, VCG, ICRAF)	
Output indicator 2.1. The number of days annually spent collecting forest (timber or non-timber) products for subsistence or income generation reported by community members decrease by 20% between start of the Project (2022) and the end (2025)	• Cultivation, harvesting forage grass and planting acacia in the SUF have decreased by 80%. • Quarrying, wildlife hunting and collecting non-timber forest products (e.g. firewood, medicinal plants) have reduced to 0%. (**Annex 5.20)**
Output indicator 2.2 SUF community co-management plan developed and approved by community members and local authorities, including natural and assisted regeneration by the end of the Project (2025) and reflected in the site's SUF designation	• Decision 999/QD-UBND on co-management and biodiversity conservation within the SUF planning area in Tuyen Hoa was issued in June 2022 (**Annex 5.04a, Annex 5.04b)** • A conference was organised in February 2024 to evaluate the implementation of the coordination regulations for managing, conserving, and developing biodiversity in the special-use forest planning area. 28 people attended the conference (5 women). • Establishment of the 39,000 ha Khe Net Nature Reserve.
Output indicator 2.3 At least 70,000 forest trees planted of at least 5 native tree species by the end of the Project (2025)	• 81,914 native trees relating to 7 native forest species have been planted. (**Annex 5.24**)

Output 3. Knowledge of and capacities and capabilities of local communities in Tuyen Hoa district in forest restoration, sustainable and income generating agroforestry, small-scale farm businesses, and prevention of zoonotic diseases from close animal-human interaction, are increased (CEGORN, VCG, BGCI, ICRAF)	
Output indicator 3.1 At least 25 people consisting of village leaders, commune leaders and district authority staff (50% female) are engaged in a train-the-trainer mentorship group in years 1 and 2 (2022-23, 2023-24) and are facilitating further training sessions in years 2 and 3 (2023-24, 2024-25) for at least 200 community members	• 25 people attended the TOT mentorship group. **(Annex 5.25, Annex 5.26)** • 12 (8 men and 4 women) of the trainers trained an additional 224 community members.
Output indicator 3.2 At least 40% of the 200 community members are women and trained in sustainable agricultural practices for high-value crops, small-scale business development, and prevention of zoonotic diseases by the end of year 3 (2025)	• 382 community members (197 men, 185 women) participated in 13 training sessions including poultry farming, beekeeping, agroforestry model design and tree planting, processing poultry products, selling products online, prevention of zoonotic diseases and biodiversity conservation. 48.4% were women. (**Annex 5.27, Annex 5.28, Annex 5.29, Annex 5.30, Annex 5.31, Annex 5.32, Annex 5.33**)
Output indicator 3.3 At least 30 community members (at least 50% women) are employed in nursery management, tree planting and restoration activities by the end of the Project (2025) and beyond as the nurseries continue to generate incomes through production of seedlings for restoration and agroforestry	• 32 community members, including 25 women (78,1% women) were employed in nurseries. **(Annex 5.34)**
Output indicator 3.4 2 new nurseries of forest and fruit producing tree species are built with a total holding capacity of 30,000 seedlings by the end of year 2 (2023-24)	• Two (2) nurseries were established in early 2023 in Thuận Tiến village, Thuận Hóa Commune, covering a total area of 2,500 sqm. **(Annex 5.34)** • Total seedlings produced from 2023 to March 2025: 67,500 seedlings. 2023: 32,000 seedlings (22,000 native trees, 3,000 medicinal plants, 3,000 forestry seedlings, 2,000 fruit trees, 2,000 food trees for the Hà Tĩnh Langur). 2024: 35,500 seedlings, including new species based on botanical recommendations from Dr. Trịnh Ngọc Bon's report. (**Annex 5.34**) • The nurseries provided stable seasonal employment for 32 workers, of whom 25 (78.1%) are women. (**Annex 5.34**)
Output 4 **Best-practice of development and implementation of community-based management of SUF, including forest ecological restoration and sustainable agroforestry models, is promoted for integration in national and sub-national policies by the end of the Project (2025) (CEGORN, ICRAF, BGCI).**	
Output indicator 4.1 Land-suitability analysis conducted for selected tree species and participatory mapping used to identify suitable sites for new agroforestry development in year 2 (2023-24)	• Land-suitability analysis conducted in Year 2 (2023–24) for 6 fruit tree groups: jackfruit, pomelo, orange, guava, custard apple, and sapote. (**Annex 5.35**) • Spatial data collected on land use, climate, weather, soil, and topography from national and international sources.

	• Over 100 households helped select tree species through a Year 1 agroforestry survey. • Agroforestry pilot designs developed by ICRAF experts and established on-farm. • Species-specific ecological data provided by FAVRI. • Participatory mapping with local authorities held in March 2024 to incorporate land tenure, practices, market demand, and policy context. • Mapping results used to refine land-suitability analysis for agroforestry expansion.
Output indicator 4.2 Policy recommendations on forest restoration, agroforestry practices and small -scale business development for livelihood improvement and community-based biodiversity conservation produced and promoted beyond Quang Binh province with other national and sub-national policymakers by the end of the Project (2025)	• Draft policy recommendations on forest restoration, agroforestry, small-scale business development, and community-based biodiversity conservation were developed by project partners. (**Annex 5.36a**, **Annex 5.36b**)

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: **Vietnam's evergreen tropical forests, home to unique species such as the Hatinh langur, enjoy community-managed protection incentivised by enhanced knowledge and novel agroforestry practices that support improved health and livelihoods.**			
Outcome: Forest biodiversity degradation including threats to the Hatinh langur in Vietnam's Tuyen Hoa district is decreased through active community participation in Special-use forest (SUF) management and livelihoods' improving agroforestry models.	0.1 At least 80% of households in Tuyen Hoa district supported by the Project have at least 2 additional sources of farm income and an increase of at least 7% between start of project (2022) and end (2025) 0.2. At least 90% of the seedlings planted in the Project site including at least 5 native forest tree species, survive at end of project (2025) 0.3 Reduction of langur poaching in the conservation area by at least by 20% between 2022 and 2025 0.4 The local communities in Tuyen Hoa district are formally included in Special-use forest management at the Project end (2025)	0.1 Socio-economic survey reports for 2022 and 2025 0.2 Monitoring and evaluation report of the forest restoration plan in 2025 0.3 Langur survey report at the end of the Project (2025), including data collected by VCG periodic patrolling 0.4 Cooperation agreement between the local authority and community recognising local community participation in Special-use forest management at project end (2025)	Participatory development and implementation and awareness raising on forest restoration and sustainable agroforestry can be implemented under the absence of severe impact from the COVID-19 pandemic Extreme weather events such as drought, floods, etc. will not occur or greatly impact forest restoration and agroforestry trials Mother trees and viable propagules of project target species are available and identified for home gardens, agroforestry and forest restoration activities (some species don't produce seed every year)
Output 1 **The socio-economic status, income sources and market situation of households in Tuyen Hoa district are assessed and market-based agroforestry practices are established (ICRAF, CEGORN)**	1.1 The socio economic, agroforestry and forest products surveys in the Project communes at baseline (2022) and end of project (2025), are used to guide forest restoration and protection, agroforestry and agribusiness planning and implementation 1.2 Market opportunities and value chain report for key agroforestry	1.1 Baseline and end-of-project socio-economic survey reports for 2022 and 2025, and agroforestry characterization report for 2023 1.2 Results of analysis of market opportunities and value chain of selected products	Community members can see the benefits of agroforestry as a more sustainable agricultural model and participate in agroforestry pilot trials Extreme weather events will not occur or greatly impact agroforestry and restoration activities

	products from the region in year 1 (2022) 1.3 Market opportunities tested for at least 4 crop species by the end of year 3 (2025), and at least 100 agroforestry trial plots, including apiculture and fishing raising, established by the end of year 2 (2024)	1.3 Adopted market guidance and agroforestry modes by community members	
Output 2 **The SUF community co-management plan is jointly developed and implemented with community members and local authorities (BGCI, CEGORN, VCG, ICRAF)**	2.1 The number of days annually spent collecting forest (timber or non-timber) products for subsistence or income generation reported by community members decrease by 20% between start of the Project (2022) and the end (2025) 2.2 SUF community co-management plan developed and approved by community members and local authorities, including natural and assisted regeneration by the end of the Project (2025) and reflected in the site's SUF designation 2.3 At least 70,000 forest trees planted of at least 5 native tree species by the end of the Project (2025)	2.1 Baseline and end-of-project socio-economic survey reports for 2022 and 2025 2.2 Community co-management plan jointly developed by community members and local authorities 2.3 Forest tree planting records	Community members and local authorities have collective views on the development and implementation of forest restoration and co-management plan of the Hatinh langur's habitat
Output 3 **Knowledge of and capacities and capabilities of local communities in Tuyen Hoa district in forest restoration, sustainable and income generating agroforestry, small-scale farm businesses, and prevention of zoonotic diseases from close animal-human interaction, are increased (CEGORN, VCG, BGCI, ICRAF)**	3.1 At least 25 people consisting of village leaders, commune leaders and district authority staff (50% female) are engaged in a train-the-trainer mentorship group in years 1 and 2 (2022-23, 2023-24) and are facilitating further training sessions in years 2 and 3 (2023-24, 2024-25) for at least 200 community members 3.2 At least 40% of the 200 community members are women and trained in	3.1 Training participation records 3.2 Training participation records and training evaluation; survey and analytics to measure success of training 3.3 Employment and tree planting records 3.4 Nursery production records	Women are able to participate, and the outreach and capacity development activities can be implemented should social distancing measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic be reintroduced

	sustainable agricultural practices for high-value crops, small-scale business development, and prevention of zoonotic diseases by the end of year 3 (2025) 3.3 At least 30 community members (at least 50% women) are employed in nursery management, tree planting and restoration activities by the end of the Project (2025) and beyond as the nurseries continue to generate incomes through production of seedlings for restoration and agroforestry 3.4 2 new nurseries of forest and fruit producing tree species are built with a total holding capacity of 30,000 seedlings by the end of year 2 (2023-24)		
Output 4 **Best-practice of development and implementation of community-based management of SUF, including forest ecological restoration and sustainable agroforestry models, is promoted for integration in national and sub-national policies by the end of the Project (2025) (CEGORN, ICRAF, BGCI).**	4.1 Land-suitability analysis conducted for selected tree species and participatory mapping used to identify suitable sites for new agroforestry development in year 2 (2023-24) 4.2 Policy recommendations on forest restoration, agroforestry practices and small -scale business development for livelihood improvement and community-based biodiversity conservation produced and promoted beyond Quang Binh province with other national and sub-national policy-makers by the end of the Project (2025)	4.1 Results of participatory mapping of vulnerable areas within the district and land suitability analysis for selected tree species 4.2 Policy recommendations made available to national policy stakeholders	Spatial and other data are available and accurate to support the promotion of sustainable agroforestry models at larger (e.g. district) scale Consultation meetings with national and sub-national policy makers as part of policy advocacy can be organised according to the time plan without much delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic
Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1) Overarching, project management level: A project steering committee will be established to oversee project implementation, monitor progress and enable adaptive management.			

OUTPUT 1. The socio-economic status, income sources and market situation of households in Tuyen Hoa district are assessed and market-based agroforestry practises are established.

1.1. Design and conduct household surveys (years 1 and 3) to characterise and assess the Project's impacts on local livelihoods, farming systems, and forest uses (years 1 and 3).
1.2. Characterise good local agroforestry practises in the four communes of Dong-, Son-, Thach- and Thuan Hoa, as options for agroforestry interventions (Year 1).
1.3. Design and conduct market opportunities and value chains, with a special focus on gender roles and equality, of at least 4 key agroforestry products (Year 1).
1.4. Implement participatory development of market-led agroforestry pilots with local communities in the 4 project communes (years 1-2).
1.5. Provide ongoing support to local communities for monitoring and evaluation of agroforestry pilot farms (years 2-3).

OUTPUT 2. The SUF community co-management plan is jointly developed and implemented with community members and local authorities.

2.1. Organise multi-stakeholder, participatory workshops (years 1-3) to develop the community co-management plan, including options for ecological connectivity of SUF patches ~~through~~ as a key measure to regenerate the Hatinh langur's habitat.
2.2. Carry out an eco-geographical survey of the SUF and surrounding areas (Year 1).
2.3. Assess the potential of human-langur interaction and associated risks of zoonotic infection (years 1 and 2).
2.4. Carry out forest restoration (years 2 and 3) engaging local communities and local authorities, including enrichment planting with native tree species raised in the new nurseries to demonstrate implementation of the SUF co-management plan.
2.5 Generate periodic reports on Langur poaching to be presented by VCG at the multi-stakeholder workshop as per activity 2.1 (years 1 - 3)

OUTPUT 3. Knowledge of and capacities and capabilities of local communities in Tuyen Hoa district in forest restoration, sustainable and income generating agroforestry, small-scale farm businesses, and prevention of zoonotic diseases from close animal-human interaction, are increased

3.1. Conduct a gender disaggregated needs-assessment, and develop training materials and programmes for training of trainers (TOT) and farmers engaged in new agroforestry models development (years 1 and 2).
3.2. Provide TOT training for community representatives and local officials on market, small-scale farm businesses, forest restoration and sustainable agroforestry (years 2 and 3).
3.3. Support TOT participants to provide on-site trainings for community members on forest restoration and sustainable agroforestry (years 2 and 3)
3.4. Establish and maintain 2 community-based nurseries for production of seedlings of native tree and crop species, and assess their market potential (years 1-3).
3.5. Undertake public awareness campaigns using local and national outreach channels on SUF biodiversity conservation needs and opportunities, and prevention of diseases from zoonotic transmissions (years 1-3).

OUTPUT 4. Best-practice of development and implementation of community-based management of SUF, including forest ecological restoration and sustainable agroforestry models, is promoted for integration in national and sub-national policies by the end of the Project (2025)

4.1. Conduct participatory suitability mapping for upscaling sustainable agroforestry models from the Project site to the district scale (years 2 and 3).
4.2. Document project best practices of community-based management of SUF, and incorporate in the SUF co-management plan (Year 3).
4.3. Produce policy recommendations for local, provincial and national authorities on community-based management of SUF, as well as public awareness materials, and share them widely through local and national media channels (years 2 - 3).
4.4. Promote the integration of policy recommendations on best-practice models for SUF community co-management in ongoing and future policy frameworks and strategies for sustainable forest management at meetings with local, provincial and national authorities (years 2 and 3).

Annex 3 Standard Indicators

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 a project indicator(s), please note the indicator number here	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total achieved	Total planned
DI-A01	Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	3.1 and 3.2	Number of People	Gender (men / women)	0	224 (87 men, 137 women)	158 (110 men, 48 women)	382 (197 men, 185 women)	200 (120 men, 80 women)
DI-A04	Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.	3.2	Number of People	Gender (men / women)	0	0	373 (192 men, 181 women)	373 (192 men, 181 women)	200 (120 men, 8 women)
DI-A05	Number of trainers trained reporting to have delivered further training.	3.1	Number of People	Gender (men / women)	1	12	0	12 (8 men, 4, women)	25 (12 men, 12 women)
DI-B01	Number of new or improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	2.2	Number of plans	Improved	0	0	1	1	1
DI-C15	Current reference DI-C08 Number of Media related activities.	-	Number of activities	Media	2	2	3	7	7
DI-D04	Number of people with enhanced wellbeing	-	Number of people	Gender (men/women)	0	0	305 (157 men and 148 women)	305 (157 men and 148 women)	200 (120 men, 80 women)
DI-D16	Current reference DI-D03 Number of households reporting improved livelihoods	0.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4	Number of people	Gender (men/women)	0	0	309 (159 men and 150 women)	309 (159 men and 150 women)	200 (120 men, 80 women)

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)
Begonia tui, a new species of Begonia sect. Coelocentrum from Quang Binh Province, Central Vietnam	Journal	Trinh Ngoc BON, Joachim GRATZFELD, Truong Thi Anh TUYET, Che-Wei LIN	Male	Vietnamese	National Taiwan University & Biodiversity Association of Taiwan, Taiwan	https://taiwania.ntu.edu.tw/pdf/tai.2023.68.412.pdf

1. 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.	No
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.	Yes
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, **do these meet the outlined requirements** (see section 14)?	Yes
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.	