

Darwin Initiative Main & Extra: Final Report

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

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

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

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

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Scheme (Main or Extra)	Main
Project reference	29-031
Project title	Improved Conservation and Community Benefits in Kenya's Critical Mountain Forests
Country(ies)	Kenya – Aberdare Ecosystem and South Western Mau
Lead Organisation	The Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust
Project partner(s)	Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Ndoinet Community Forest Association (NOCFA), Geta Community Forest Association (GECOFA)
Darwin Initiative grant value	£379,319
Start/end dates of project	May 2022 – March 2025
Project Leader name	Christian Lambrechts
Project website/blog/social media	https://rhinoark.org/ @rhino.ark (instagram) @RhinoArk (twitter) @rhinoark (facebook) https://www.linkedin.com/company/rhino-ark-charitable-trust/
Report author(s) and date	Stacey Smith and Gloria Waswa July 9, 2025

1. Project Summary

This project sought to secure critical biodiversity and improve community wellbeing in two of Kenya's most important mountain forests the Aberdare ecosystem and South Western Mau by addressing the underlying causes of forest degradation and poverty. Specifically, it aimed to reduce illegal forest activities, restore degraded forest areas, conserve endangered species, and build resilient livelihoods through community-driven conservation and sustainable enterprise development.

Kenya's mountain forests provide essential ecosystem services. They are water towers that support major rivers supplying urban and rural populations, wildlife habitats for threatened species such as the black rhino, mountain bongo, leopard, and elephant, and carbon sinks critical to climate regulation. However, despite their ecological and economic importance, these forests continue to face alarming degradation due to illegal logging, charcoal production, poaching, fuelwood extraction, and unsustainable grazing.

These pressures are primarily driven by poverty and limited livelihood alternatives for forest-adjacent communities. Many households rely directly on forest resources to meet basic needs, often without secure user rights or knowledge of sustainable practices. Additionally, their conservation-compatible livelihood options such as honey production or ecotourism are either underdeveloped or inaccessible due to lack of skills, equipment, or market access.

The project targeted the conservation of ecologically significant mountain forest ecosystems home to a range of endemic and threatened species. It focused on enhancing forest protection through electric fencing, habitat restoration, and improved forest surveillance. These measures aimed to reduce habitat loss and human-wildlife conflict, safeguard biodiversity, and enable ecosystem regeneration.

The project sought to improve the livelihoods of marginalized communities living along forest boundaries by creating sustainable income-generating opportunities. It supported the establishment of a beekeeping cooperative in South Western Mau and a community ecotourism association in Aberdare, in addition to providing employment for over 1,200 individuals in forest restoration work. These interventions offered alternatives to unsustainable forest resource use, helped build community resilience, and empowered both women and men through equitable participation and skills training.

Forest degradation and biodiversity loss are acutely felt by local communities, who are also key to their solution. The project worked with the Geta and Ndoinet Community Forest Associations (CFAs), prioritizing participatory approaches that placed communities at the center of decision-making, benefit-sharing, and long-term stewardship. The beneficiaries include forest-adjacent households (both men and women), youth, former forest offenders now employed as rangers, and CFA structures that were strengthened to co-manage the forests with government agencies.

The design was informed by over 30 years of Rhino Ark's conservation experience, prior socio-ecological assessments, and direct consultation with local communities and partners, including the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). It built on the proven success of previous Rhino Ark initiatives, notably in the Aberdares, where fencing and community engagement had resulted in measurable biodiversity recovery and reduced illegal activity.

The project builds on a replicable, field-tested model of integrated conservation and development. The beekeeping cooperative and ecotourism circuits are scalable with minimal capital and can be adapted to other regions. The community ranger model, already proven successful in the Aberdares, was replicated in South Western Mau, and is being promoted as a national model. Monitoring mechanisms, including aerial surveys and participatory reporting, provided regular feedback to adapt approaches and inform wider forest policy.

Project Location

The interventions took place in two high-conservation-value areas: refer to Annex 3&4.

Geta Forest Station and part of Aberdare National Park in the Northern sector: the area is characterised with illegal logging especially of red cedar (an indigenous tree species), human-wildlife conflict and populace exerting unsustainable pressure on forest resources.

South Western Mau: targeted the Tirigoi block, an area under high pressure from illegal grazing, logging, and poaching.

These areas are part of Kenya's five major "water towers" and are critical for maintaining ecosystem connectivity, hydrological services, and climate resilience.

2. Project Partnerships

Rhino Ark works closely with national agencies and local communities. The project was co-designed and delivered with the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Community Forest Associations (CFAs), KEFRI, and the National Beekeeping Institute, ensuring local ownership and legitimacy.

Biannual aerial surveys by Rhino Ark, KWS, and KFS identify illegal logging and grazing hotspots to guide enforcement. KFS oversees nursery operations and trains CFA members in forest management, while KWS supports ecotourism, mountain safety, and electric fencing. Geta and Ndoinet CFAs mobilize communities for planting, nursery work, trail maintenance, beekeeping, and improved governance.

Over 20 villages participate in restoration and income-generating activities like honey production and ecotourism, with women, youth, and elders involved in enterprises, conflict resolution, and stewardship. KEFRI supplies high-survival seedlings, and the Beekeeping Institute trains farmers in sustainable honey production and cooperative management.

Achievements and Lessons in Partnership Management

The project successfully institutionalized infrastructure (nurseries, patrol bases, trails) on public land, ensuring sustainability through co-management. Partner flexibility especially from KFS and KWS allowed adaptive responses to challenges like difficult terrain and seasonal delays. Capacity building was cost-effective by utilizing government trainers. Joint activities, including patrols and training launches, built mutual trust and strengthened long-term collaboration.

Stakeholder Awareness and Biodiversity–Poverty Linkages

Through training, community meetings, and local radio, the project elevated understanding of how biodiversity supports livelihoods and climate resilience. CFAs both in SW Mau and Aberdares and local government partners now better recognize the role of forest conservation in poverty alleviation evidenced by continued requests for technical support and governance training.

3. Achievements

3.1 Output

Output 1: Forest restoration – 80 hectares of degraded mountain forest secured, replanted and maintained

Baseline:

At project inception, targeted forest areas in South Western Mau and the Aberdares exhibited severe degradation due to unsustainable fuelwood harvesting, overgrazing, and historical logging. Natural regeneration was minimal, vegetation cover had deteriorated significantly, and key springs and water catchments faced ecological stress posing serious risks to biodiversity and watershed stability. These conditions were verified through aerial surveillance

flights conducted in October 2022 by Rhino Ark, Kenya Forest Service (KFS), and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), which identified widespread canopy loss, active charcoal kilns, and livestock encroachment. Supplementary site-level assessments with CFAs and KFS officers between 2022 and 2023 further confirmed degradation in proposed restoration blocks and informed prioritization of intervention areas.

Progress:

The project successfully restored 95 hectares of forest exceeding the original 80-hectare target with 65 hectares rehabilitated in the Aberdares and 30 hectares in South Western Mau. Indigenous tree species, selected in collaboration with KFS and KEFRI, were planted to enhance ecological integrity. Restoration sites were secured using micro-fencing to prevent livestock intrusion, particularly in heavily grazed blocks such as Korabariet and Bosta. Implementation was community-led, engaging a total of **1,833 local people** in site preparation, planting, and maintenance activities. This included **1,208 individuals (604 men and 604 women)** supported directly through the Darwin Initiative and an additional **625 individuals** (410 women and 215 men) mobilized with **co-funding from Platinum Credit**. These efforts provided short-term employment while fostering strong local stewardship and ownership of restoration sites.

Post-planting survival assessments conducted across all sites including Korabariet, Geta, and Ndoinet showed encouraging results, with an average seedling survival rate above 70% as of April 2025. Drought-tolerant species such as *Dombeya torrida*, *Fagara macrophylla*, and *Olea africana* performed particularly well. Where survival rates fell below expected thresholds due to site-specific conditions, targeted replanting was carried out to reinforce restoration success. This output has contributed meaningfully to improved forest structure, enhanced habitat conditions, and increased community participation in conservation.

Output 2: Community livelihoods – 3 enterprises (honey, ecotourism, nurseries) established, creating 90 jobs

Baseline: Community economic activities were largely subsistence-based. In Ndoinet and Geta, traditional beekeeping dominated (with low yields), and ecotourism potential remained untapped. CFA structures were weak, and formal enterprises were lacking.

Progress:

Beekeeping (SW Mau): The project began with a full hive census in Ndoinet Forest Station, recording 1,863 hives mostly traditional (90%). Capacity-building included training by the Nairobi National Beekeeping Institute for 50 bee farmers and a benchmarking visit to Baringo's Kapkuikui Honey Cooperative. 104 beekeepers mobilized; 50 received formal training. A fully registered honey cooperative was established and is now aggregating and packaging honey for commercial sale. Adoption of modern hive technologies (Langstroth and top-bar) has steadily grown over the lifetime of the project. These interventions led to the formation of a registered cooperative that is now aggregating, processing, and packaging honey for sale. Monthly production has reached over 200 kg, and more farmers are adopting modern hives. This has enhanced income generation, improved market access, and reduced dependency on forest resources.

Ecotourism (Aberdare): A total of 29 community members were trained and certified as guides, porters, and cooks. More than 56.5 km of trails were mapped, cleared, and signposted. An ecotourism route linking Wanjohi to Table Mountain to Seven ponds to Ol Donyo Lesatima (the highest peak in the Aberdare- 4,000m A.S.L.) Table Mountain to Ol Donyo Lesatima is now in use. The guides have begun receiving bookings, and media features are helping increase visibility.

Tree Nurseries: Nurseries at Geta and Ndoinet have been established and are producing a combined 40,000+ seedlings annually. The nurseries are managed by trained local

attendants (2 per site), who receive monthly stipends. CFA members are involved in production, potting, and transplanting, ensuring long-term sustainability.

Evidence: Refer to Annex 6 – Honey Baseline Study, Annex 7 Hive Distribution, Annex Cooperative Certificate, Annex 9 – Beekeepers member's certificate.

Output 3: Forest security – 3 new security elements and 15 trained community rangers

Baseline:

Prior to project implementation, forest security in South Western Mau was compromised by widespread illegal activities, particularly in remote areas like Itare, Kericho, and Korabariet. Data from aerial surveillance and patrol logs in 2022 reported high incidences: 1,736 livestock within forest boundaries, 160 cases of illegal logging, and 91 charcoal kilns. Enforcement was limited by poor infrastructure and the vastness of the terrain.

Progress:

The project addressed these challenges through a combination of physical infrastructure and strengthened community-led enforcement. Two new forest outposts were constructed in Bosta and Korabariet, enabling effective year-round presence in previously unmonitored zones. These are fully operational through collaboration with Kenya Forest Service (KFS). In the Aberdares, the conservation fence was extended by 12 km beyond the original 10 km target following a boundary realignment. This now completes the 410 km electric fence encircling the Aberdare ecosystem, currently the longest conservation fence in Africa. The fence continues to play a vital role in preventing human-wildlife conflict, illegal logging, and unregulated fuelwood collection.

A Joint Surveillance Unit was established, consisting of 15 trained community rangers (including 5 women), who now work alongside KFS and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) in day and night patrols across five forest blocks. Surveillance logs from November 2023 to March 2025 show active enforcement, with varying levels of illegal charcoal production throughout the year. Initial high numbers such as 22 kilns destroyed in February 2024 fell significantly to just 2 by November 2024, suggesting increased deterrence. Though minor spikes were recorded due to seasonal dynamics, overall, charcoal burning has shown a downward trend.

Illegal grazing, peaking between January and April 2024 with over 1,000 livestock removed, also declined in response to intensified patrols. By January 2025, grazing incidents had decreased notably, although activity remains variable depending on KFS directives. Illegal logging followed a similar pattern, surging from February to July 2024 and then gradually decreasing by early 2025, reflecting improved enforcement and increased local compliance.

Evidence: Refer to Annex 5 – Aerial Surveillance for 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Output 4: Communications – Outputs documented and shared with key audiences

Baseline:

Prior to the project's communications strategy being formalized in 2022, Rhino Ark's outreach was largely event-driven and limited to traditional reports. Structured storytelling, digital engagement, and media placement were sporadic and lacked alignment with field milestones.

Progress:

In line with the project's output indicators, communications have significantly improved in coverage, consistency, and strategic targeting. Major developments include:

Digital and Print Media: Between 2022 and 2025, over 10 articles were published across national and international platforms documenting project milestones such as the launch of the Mau honey cooperative, ecotourism trail development, fencing completion, and CFA elections.

Social Media Engagement: Rhino Ark's social media platforms regularly featured project activities. Annex 14 provides a detail of the media over the course of the project.

Stakeholder Engagement: Monthly field reports were compiled into updates for UK and US partners, aligning content with donor communication priorities. Testimonials from CFA leaders and project partners were gathered to strengthen the human voice in reporting and advocacy.

3.2 Outcome

The project concluded successfully in March 2025, having fully achieved its intended outcomes. The outcome indicators proved appropriate and effective for measuring impact, with all showing clear and verifiable progress from baseline to endline. The results demonstrate a significant transformation in both forest ecosystem integrity and community wellbeing.

Indicator 1: Increased area of degraded forest rehabilitated and under active community-led protection

At baseline, key forest blocks in the Aberdares and South Western Mau exhibited severe degradation, including canopy loss, soil erosion, spring depletion, and arrested natural regeneration caused by overgrazing and illegal logging. By project close in March 2025, **95 hectares** (65 ha in the Aberdares and 30 ha in South Western Mau) were rehabilitated exceeding the 80 ha target. Restoration was implemented through **1,833 paid community members**, including **1,208 (50% women)** recruited via local CFA structures with support from the Darwin Initiative, and an additional **625 (predominantly women)** engaged through **co-funding from Platinum Credit**. Over **80,000 indigenous seedlings** were planted, and all sites were protected by micro-fencing to reduce livestock intrusion. **Seedling survival averaged over 70%**, surpassing national benchmarks. These sites are now integrated into regular Kenya Forest Service patrols and CFA oversight routines, ensuring sustained protection and regeneration.

Indicator 2: Increased proportion of local households benefiting from sustainable, conservation-compatible livelihoods

The project significantly increased household engagement in income-generating activities that align with forest conservation.

In South Western Mau, a full hive census identified **1,863 beehives**. A total of **104 beekeepers were mobilized and received basic trained**, with 50 receiving advanced training through the Nairobi National Beekeeping Institute and a benchmarking mission to Baringo. A new **honey cooperative** was registered, and members now produce over **200 kg of honey per month** using modern hives and shared processing facilities.

In the Aberdares, **29 local men and women** were trained and equipped as guides, porters, and cooks, supporting the opening and maintenance of **56.5 km of ecotourism trails** across key routes.

Tree nurseries at Geta and Ndoinet CFAs produced over **40,000 seedlings annually**, generating income for community members through sales to restoration projects and fencing programs. These interventions reduced household reliance on extractive forest use, shifted income streams to sustainable enterprises, and fostered stronger CFA cohesion. Beneficiary feedback confirms increased incomes and improved awareness of conservation benefits.

Indicator 3: Decline in forest degradation indicators (e.g., illegal logging, charcoal burning, livestock grazing)

Three years of aerial surveillance, ranger logs, and field patrol reports demonstrate clear progress. **Livestock intrusions declined from 1,736 in 2022 to 191 in 2024. Charcoal kilns were reduced from 91 to just 2 by March 2025. Illegal logging cases fell from 160 to 4, while boma sites decreased from 36 to 6.** These results were driven by the construction of **two new forest outposts** in Bosta and Korabariet, the **training and deployment of 15 community rangers** (including 5 women), and the **installation of 12 km of electric fencing** along the high-conflict Wanjohi–Shamata corridor in the Aberdares. Daily and night patrols, coordinated with KFS and KWS, covered five key forest blocks and maintained enforcement pressure. The substantial reduction in illegal activities demonstrates that **joint enforcement models** combining infrastructure, community rangers, and institutional coordination are effective in reducing degradation and safeguarding forest gains.

Indicator 4: Enhanced institutional and community capacity for forest governance

The project significantly strengthened the governance capacity of Ndoinet CFA in South Western Mau and Geta CFA in the Aberdares. Both associations are now fully operational with elected leadership and inclusive structures, updated constitutions and formal co-management agreements with the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), and expanded membership exceeding 3,900 individuals, including improved representation of women, youth, and Persons with Disabilities.

CFAs are now central actors in coordinating nursery management, enterprise activities, and community ranger patrols. Their growing legitimacy and role in implementation have built **local ownership**, increased transparency, and embedded conservation as a shared community responsibility.

3.3 Monitoring of assumptions**Assumption 1: Availability of quality seeds from the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI).**

Comment: This assumption remains valid. KEFRI continues to supply high-quality, certified indigenous tree seeds, boosting seedling propagation at community nurseries and improving survival rates and ecological suitability. Initially, locally sourced seedlings enabled timely restoration, while KEFRI's seeds have since raised quality standards. Coordination with KEFRI has also provided training for nursery attendants on seed handling, further reinforcing this assumption.

Assumption 2: KFS and KWS rangers available to participate in joint security patrols.

Comment: The assumption remains valid and underpins forest security efforts. Joint patrols by KFS, KWS, and trained community rangers have improved surveillance and law enforcement. Strong ties with KFS and KWS ensure regular patrols, information sharing, and legitimize community conservation, reducing illegal logging and encroachment.

Assumption 3: Community members desirous to be gainfully employed in pro-conservation work.

Comment: This assumption holds. Project activities like restoration, ecotourism, honey production, and nurseries continue to attract strong community interest, especially from youth and women. In 2024/25, over 1,200 people (604 men, 604 women) earned income through forest restoration. These opportunities foster income and stewardship, with high recruitment and retention showing strong community support.

Assumption 4: COVID-19 pandemic and Kenyan elections 2022 will not adversely affect tourism industry and community outreach

Comment: This assumption largely held. The 2022 elections caused minor outreach delays, but rescheduling and remote coordination kept activities on track. Full operations resumed post-election. Tourism is recovering, with community guides maintaining trails and serving visitors. Outreach has regained momentum, with CFA AGMs and livelihood trainings proceeding as planned.

Assumption 5: Favourable climatic conditions will prevail to enhance seedlings survival rates at the replanting sites.

Comment: This assumption has mostly held true. Increased rainfall boosted seedling survival in nurseries and reforestation sites. Cold spells at higher elevations required some schedule adjustments, but adaptive planting, site monitoring, and cold-tolerant species ensured success across 95 hectares. Ongoing monitoring addresses climate variability.

3.4 Impact

Original Intended Impact

The project's overarching impact is to conserve Kenya's mountain forests the Aberdare and South Western Mau while improving livelihoods for nearby communities. These globally significant forests provide vital biodiversity, water catchment, and habitats for endangered species like the mountain bongo, black rhino, and African elephant.

Contribution to Biodiversity Conservation

The project made clear, measurable gains for biodiversity in both landscapes. Ninety-five hectares of degraded forest were restored with indigenous trees, improving cover, soil stability, and habitats. Micro-fencing kept livestock out, raising seedling survival to over 75%. New outposts and community ranger patrols with KFS and KWS cut illegal logging, charcoal burning, and encroachment—supported by aerial surveys showing an 89% drop in livestock intrusion. Installing 12 km of electric fencing in the Aberdares reduced human-wildlife conflict and protected corridors and breeding grounds for endangered species.”

Contribution to Human Development and Wellbeing (Poverty Reduction)

The project's integrated approach offered alternatives to forest-based subsistence. Three main enterprises—beekeeping in SW Mau, ecotourism in the Aberdares, and tree nurseries in both—created 90 sustainable jobs and supported over 1,200 people in short-term work. Beekeeping cooperatives were formalized and trained, boosting production and raising honey incomes by 40–60% for some households. Eight community rangers were employed with average earnings of £160/month. Ecotourism now provides income for trained guides and porters. Nurseries produce 40,000+ seedlings yearly, creating stipends and jobs. Sensitization forums, training, and exposure visits strengthened environmental awareness.

Overall Impact Outlook

The project has made a strong, credible impact: biodiversity improved, enforcement capacity increased, and conservation-friendly livelihoods established. Community support is evident in active participation in planting, patrols, and CFA governance. Though local in scale, the project offers a replicable model for linking conservation and poverty reduction in Kenyan forests. These outcomes are supported by field reports, aerial data, surveys, and partner feedback detailed in the annexes.

4. Contribution to Darwin Initiative Programme Objectives

4.1 Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

1. Convention on Biological Diversity (entered into force in Kenya on 24 Oct 1994). The project will contribute towards the implementation of Art.8 (d), (e), (f) by protecting the forest

ecosystems and its wildlife; promoting conservation-compatible livelihoods within the forest-adjacent communities; development of a community ecotourism associations, and rehabilitating degraded forest areas

2. NAGOYA PROTOCOL (entered into force in Kenya 12 October 2014). The project will contribute towards the implementation of Art. 1 and 5 by operationalizing two community forest associations that will be able to enter into an agreement with KFS to secure user rights; Art. 6 by carrying out a prior informed consent process before implementing the project activities.

3. CITES (entered into force in Kenya on 13 Mar 1979). The project will contribute towards the implementation of Art. II (4) and Art. VIII (1) by helping protect species listed in CITES Appendices (Appendix I: African elephant, leopard; Appendix II: Yellow-backed duiker, *Prunus africana*).

4. RAMSAR (entered into force in Kenya on 5 Oct 1990). The project will contribute towards the protection of the northern Aberdare, which is the upper water catchment of Malewa River, a main tributary to Lake Naivasha listed as a Ramsar Site.

5. UNFCCC (entered into force in Kenya on 28 Nov 1994). The project will contribute towards Kenya's National Adaptation Plan (2015-2030) by enhancing the resilience of key mountain ecosystems to climate variability and change, and support Kenya's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) by replanting degraded areas towards achieving a tree cover of at least 10% of the land area of Kenya - contributing towards the following SDGs:

No 1 No Poverty: by promoting poverty alleviating conservation-compatible livelihoods (establishment community patrol team; establishment of a beekeeping cooperative society; development of a community ecotourism association, replanting of forest - providing employment for over 1200 persons.

No 6 Clean Water and Sanitation: by rehabilitating critical upper water catchment areas for Malewa River (Aberdares) and Sondu and Mara Rivers (SW Mau).

No 13 Climate Action: by enhancing carbon sinks (forest protection enabling natural forest regeneration over 19,000 hectares of degraded forest and increased ecosystem resilience to climate variability through forest protection and restoration.

No 15 Life on Land: by protecting and restoring forest ecosystems in SW Mau and northern Aberdare that have a rich biodiversity, including threatened species (e.g. African elephant, Mountain bongo, leopard, African golden cat, Yellow-backed duiker).

4.2 Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

This project contributed to multidimensional poverty reduction by strengthening community governance, generating employment, and enhancing ecosystem services for vulnerable forest-edge communities in South Western Mau and the Aberdares. These areas have high poverty levels and strong dependence on natural resources.

Over **1,800 local residents** were engaged in restoration, patrols, beekeeping, ecotourism, and CFA governance activities. Participatory planning with Community Forest Associations ensured interventions addressed local priorities through regular sensitization meetings and feedback sessions.

Key outcomes include the restoration of **95 hectares** of degraded forest, which improved water regulation, soil retention, and pollination services. New infrastructure and community patrols helped reduce illegal logging and enhanced safety in surrounding areas.

Environmental awareness grew through school visits, community barazas, and active local participation. Women and youth gained access to income opportunities, shifting traditional roles and strengthening household resilience.

The project exceeded key targets—**restoring 15 more hectares** than planned, developing **56.5 km of trails (vs. 40 km target)**, and **training 55 beekeepers (vs. 50)**. It also revitalized CFA structures and deepened cooperation with KFS, KWS, and local leaders, improving law enforcement and trust in conservation processes.

4.3 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Rhino Ark integrates gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) into all projects by analyzing legal, customary, and socio-cultural factors affecting women and marginalized groups.

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

We respect legal and customary land rights, especially of Indigenous communities, aligning activities with local norms. To overcome cultural barriers, we collaborate with local leaders and design flexible initiatives—like beekeeping trainings—that accommodate women’s domestic roles. By diversifying livelihoods (e.g., beekeeping), we reduce economic vulnerabilities from climate and human-wildlife impacts. We consider household labor divisions to avoid burdening women, promoting shared duties and new income sources. Inclusive meetings and committees ensure marginalized voices shape planning and monitoring, boosting project acceptance and sustainability. Our projects improve access to skills, equipment, markets, and decision-making power for women and marginalized groups.

How has the project ensured social inclusion and meaningful participation for all engaged?

We take a community-led approach that emphasizes continuous consultation and feedback. Our staff receive training on inclusive facilitation and conflict resolution to address barriers that may prevent marginalized groups from engaging. For example, we hold separate focus group discussions when needed to ensure safe spaces for women or youth to voice their views.

Lessons learned or challenges on GESI in the past 12 months:

One key lesson is the importance of sustained engagement. It often takes time to overcome deeply rooted social norms. In some communities, there was initial hesitation to allow women to take on leadership roles within enterprise groups. We partnered with respected community leaders and showcased successful examples of women leaders to gradually shift perceptions.

Notable achievements or changes to approach:

Over the past year, we have increased the number of women trained as lead beekeepers and trainers, which has created visible role models within the community. This has encouraged greater uptake among other women and improved household income diversification.

4.4 Transfer of knowledge

The project actively contributed to the transfer of practical conservation knowledge to a wide range of stakeholders—both practitioners and policymakers—across local, national, and international platforms. This transfer was embedded within the design of restoration, livelihoods, and governance activities, and reinforced through field demonstration, training, and communication efforts.

At the local level, community trainings, exchange visits (e.g., Karura Forest, Camp Ndunda), and sensitization forums in over 20 villages enabled peer learning and reinforced biodiversity-livelihood linkages.

Nationally, the project participated in KFS and Ministry-led roundtables and gained visibility through media coverage in outlets like *Daily Nation* and *Capital FM*.

At the **international level**, knowledge products and project learning were shared through:

- **Darwin Initiative project profiles** and updates disseminated via the UK government platform.
<https://www.facebook.com/100069593564889/posts/565909022405545/?mibextid=wvXlfr&rdid=eR5nTO2ilF5DbBgc#>
- We have registered to participate in the **2nd International Wildlife Scientific Conference** organized by the Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI), scheduled for **23rd–25th September 2025 in Naivasha**. During this event, we will present results and lessons learned from the Darwin-funded project, contributing to knowledge exchange on innovations in wildlife and forest conservation.
- Documentation of outcomes in Rhino Ark's digital platforms including blogs, photo essays, social media reels, and a video documentary on the SW Mau beekeeping and surveillance model.

These multiple channels helped ensure knowledge transfer was both contextual and scalable, encouraging uptake in other Kenyan montane forest contexts.

4.5 Capacity building

The project resulted in significant capacity enhancement for both individuals and institutions, particularly in forest restoration, community enterprise management, and governance. A total of **90 individuals (44 women, 46 men)** received hands-on technical training in ecotourism guiding (29), nursery management (11), and modern beekeeping (50).

GESI Considerations

Gender equity and social inclusion (GESI) were central to recruitment and training. The project deliberately prioritized the inclusion of women-led planting teams and tree nursery committees, youth groups managing hiking trails and campsite facilities and local opinion leaders and elders engaged to bridge participation gaps among traditional groups

Institutional and Professional Recognition

Forest Station Managers at Geta and Ndoinet were recognised for their role in leading field training and community liaison and have since been nominated by KFS for national roles in CFA oversight coordination. Several CFA leaders were invited to regional peer-learning events and have since been consulted by nearby forest associations seeking to replicate successful governance and enterprise structures. Rhino Ark's field team, including community liaison officers and conservation enterprise coordinators, gained visibility and credibility, with one team member invited to present the ecotourism model at a national workshop on nature-based livelihoods.

5. Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Sustainability

A robust, adaptive M&E framework guided project implementation, enabling effective delivery, real-time learning, and continuous improvement. Many monitoring systems remain active post-project through collaboration between Rhino Ark, Kenya Forest Service (KFS), and Community Forest Associations (CFAs), ensuring sustained impact.

Ongoing Field Monitoring

Joint weekly monitoring by Rhino Ark and KFS covered restoration, fencing, enforcement, and livelihoods. Reports informed decision-making and enabled rapid course correction. These collaborative field systems will continue to support long-term sustainability.

Forest Rehabilitation Monitoring

Regular inspections and seasonal seedling survival assessments—conducted jointly by Rhino Ark, KFS, and CFAs—confirmed success rates above 70%, validating restoration methods.

Livelihood Monitoring

Enterprise activities (e.g., beekeeping, nurseries, ecotourism) were tracked through site visits, cooperative records, and interviews. Notable outcomes include increased honey production and over 40,000 seedlings produced annually.

Fence and Forest Security Monitoring

The 12 km fence in Aberdare was reviewed via monthly technical meetings and patrol data. Aerial surveys and field patrols showed marked reductions in illegal logging, charcoal burning, and livestock incursions between 2022 and 2025.

Impact Assessment and Post-Project Continuity

Key outcomes—forest recovery, reduced threats, and improved livelihoods—were measured against logframe indicators using field and stakeholder data. Continued CFA and KFS involvement in joint patrols, nursery management, and fence maintenance reflects strong institutional ownership. Rhino Ark and partners are committed to sustaining these efforts beyond the project's end.

6. Lessons learnt

The project provided several key lessons that will inform future forest conservation efforts. A primary takeaway is the critical importance of **continuous community engagement** across all phases of project implementation. Regular dialogue, inclusion, and co-design with local communities helped ensure ownership, reduced resistance, and improved the quality of outcomes.

In **forest restoration**, the use of micro-fencing to enclose replanting sites proved highly effective. It not only protected young seedlings from livestock intrusion but also promoted **natural regeneration** of native flora, leading to higher survival rates—over 70% across sites.

The **recruitment and deployment of the Joint Surveillance Unit (JSU)** in South Western Mau was a notable success, largely due to a transparent and inclusive selection process. Engagement of CFAs, KFS, and Rhino Ark helped ensure candidates were both qualified and deeply rooted in their communities. This approach prevented perceptions of nepotism and resulted in an elite and effective team, capable of identifying and deterring illegal forest activities.

Addressing gender imbalance remains an ongoing challenge in the traditionally male-dominated forest-edge communities. However, the project demonstrated promising strategies, such as assigning women-focused roles in nursery management and tree planting, where women excelled. Training and exchange visits also encouraged women to explore beekeeping, a domain previously reserved for men, highlighting their potential in alternative livelihoods.

In **CFA strengthening**, the introduction of photo-based membership cards, combined with community registration drives, helped clearly distinguish legitimate forest users from illegal actors. In Geta, this initiative increased CFA membership to 3,900 individuals, enhancing governance and accountability.

The **boundary alignment exercise** during the 12-km Aberdare fence construction recovered over 50 acres of encroached forest land. This success was due to the coordinated involvement of KFS surveyors, the District Survey Office, national government representatives, and local farmers. The transparent process ensured community acceptance and minimized conflict.

To uphold permitted forest user rights, the project incorporated **access gates** into the conservation fence. These gates enable controlled entry for legitimate forest users while supporting KFS in monitoring extraction activities.

Lastly, **hands-on exchange visits and peer learning** helped CFA members and beekeepers gain a deeper understanding of sustainable forest use and enterprise development. These experiences demonstrated that forest resources, if managed well, can support long-term community wellbeing and shift livelihoods away from extractive practices.

7. Actions taken in response to Annual Report reviews

Not applicable. No action was required following any previous annual reviews or from the 2024 6-month review

8. Risk Management

No new risks have arisen in the last 12 months.

9. Scalability and Durability

This project was designed from inception with long-term viability, scale, and replication in mind. All core interventions—forest restoration, fencing, sustainable livelihoods, and CFA strengthening—were embedded within government and community-led structures to ensure they remain durable beyond the project's March 2025 conclusion.

Stakeholder Engagement and Awareness Creation

Project stakeholders, particularly Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), and Community Forest Associations (CFAs), were actively engaged in the full cycle of the project—from planning and implementation to monitoring and learning. More than 20 public forums were held across the two landscapes, building widespread understanding of the benefits, costs, and institutional roles in each intervention. Targeted training events and peer-learning exchanges (e.g. with Karura Forest and Kapkuikui Honey Cooperative) helped CFAs and community leaders appreciate the replicability of restoration and ecotourism models.

Public awareness was further elevated through national media coverage and digital campaigns. Notably, blog articles and broadcast features highlighted the benefits of fencing, reforestation, and local enterprise development, reinforcing community buy-in and peer visibility across Kenya's conservation landscape.

Evidence of Project Attractiveness to Potential Adopters

Community enthusiasm and uptake are demonstrated by the successful **revival of the Ndoinet CFA** after over a decade of inactivity, now managing a fully operational tree nursery and newly established honey cooperative. We have engaged with the communities and

registered over 3,900 members with the Geta CFA - increasing volunteerism for patrols, nursery operations, and ecotourism trail development.

Created significant interest from **Mount Kenya stakeholders**, who cited the Aberdare model as a justification to independently mobilize funds and partner with Rhino Ark for fencing and ecosystem protection—evidence that project models are not only technically viable but also socially and economically desirable.

Additionally, visible livelihood improvements—such as increased honey sales, paid roles in fencing and planting, and reductions in human-wildlife conflict—have led to tangible shifts in household income and wellbeing, incentivizing further adoption.

Institutional Alignment and Policy Leverage

Key institutions, particularly KFS and KWS, were incentivized through:

- Embedded co-ownership of interventions (e.g. co-managed nurseries, shared outpost staffing, and patrol operations)
- Leveraging existing government forestry goals and aligning with Kenya's 15-billion-tree initiative and Vision 2030 forest cover targets
- Demonstrating cost-effectiveness and performance, which has enhanced the legitimacy of CFAs in the eyes of government and opened doors for further state-led investment

Rhino Ark's long-standing relationships and field-based credibility allowed the project to influence local forest station planning processes and contribute to policy discussions on forest co-management frameworks. For example, KFS has now included several CFA members trained under the project in national knowledge-sharing sessions.

Changing Attitudes, Norms, and Behaviours

There is strong evidence that the project helped catalyse behavioural and attitudinal shifts:

- Communities now report encroachment and illegal grazing cases, and several local leaders have participated in conflict resolution committees supporting forest protection.
- Youth groups and women's cooperatives, initially disengaged from formal conservation, are now active in managing ecotourism trails and participating in beekeeping ventures.
- Long-term presence in Aberdare has shown how conservation can evolve from conflict-prone enforcement to community-led stewardship—reflected in improved forest health, reduced livestock incursions, and more peaceful cohabitation at the forest edge.

Exit Strategy Implementation and Legacy

As outlined in the original exit plan, Rhino Ark focused on:

- Institutional embedding of nurseries and patrols within KFS/CFA operations
- Capacity-building of local actors to maintain and scale interventions
- Public awareness and visibility to support continued donor and government engagement

Key legacy elements now in place include:

- **Fully operational tree nurseries** at Geta and Ndoinet, with trained local staff and support from KFS
- **Established ecotourism trails and service providers**, currently engaging tourists and generating CFA revenue
- **Registered and active honey cooperative**, with trained beekeepers and early sales
- **Forest patrol teams**, composed of community scouts working jointly with KFS/KWS, and supported by existing infrastructure and operational procedures
- a newly completed **12 km game-proof electric fence** in the Aberdares, closing a critical conservation gap.

These outputs are expected to endure because they are locally owned, institutionally supported, and economically linked to ongoing community and partner incentives.

Post-Project Staffing and Resource Continuity

Rhino Ark continues to operate in both landscapes beyond the Darwin funding cycle. Project staff previously funded under the grant have been retained under core and complementary funding streams, ensuring continuity of technical support, monitoring, and adaptive management. Resources such as vehicles, equipment, and community field hubs remain active and integrated into Rhino Ark's broader mountain forest conservation programme.

10. Darwin Initiative identity

The project made consistent and deliberate efforts to publicise the Darwin Initiative and ensure that the UK Government's contribution was clearly acknowledged across communication platforms, partner events, and project outputs.

Visibility of the Darwin Initiative Logo and Identity

The Darwin Initiative logo was prominently displayed across all physical and digital project materials. This included:

- Project signage at the Geta and Ndoinet tree nurseries
- Training banners during CFA sensitization forums and honey cooperative meetings
- Branded t-shirts and field gear issued to nursery workers, ecotourism guides, and community rangers
- Official reports, policy briefs, and newsletters shared with local and national stakeholders

All videos, infographics, and media content produced by Rhino Ark included visual recognition of the Darwin Initiative and the UK Government's role. For example, the project video titled "*Reviving South West Mau with Darwin Initiative*" on Rhino Ark's YouTube channel carries Darwin branding and was actively shared across platforms.

Media and Public Recognition of UK Government Support

Major media features—including those in *Daily Nation*, *The Star*, and *Capital FM*—explicitly credited the Darwin Initiative as the project funder. Online articles referred to "UK Government support through the Darwin Initiative," reinforcing the link between the project's success and British foreign assistance in conservation.

During training events and high-profile field visits, project staff, KFS/KWS officials, and community representatives consistently referenced Darwin Initiative support in their remarks. This ensured consistent public messaging and partner-level visibility.

Framing and Positioning of the Project

The project was implemented as a **distinct initiative** under Rhino Ark's broader conservation programme but maintained a **unique identity and standalone workstream**. Internally and among field partners, the "Darwin Project" was referred to using its full title or

acronym (DI 29-031), and its milestones were tracked separately in Rhino Ark's programme dashboards. CFAs and KFS station teams clearly associated key restoration, fencing, and livelihood activities with Darwin support.

Understanding and Recognition in Kenya

Awareness of the Darwin Initiative has grown steadily among forest stakeholders and partner communities due to this project. CFA leaders, KFS/KWS officers, and trained community groups—especially in Geta and Ndoinet—now associate the Darwin Initiative with results-focused conservation that delivers both biodiversity and livelihood outcomes. National-level partners, including KEFRI and the National Beekeeping Institute, have also acknowledged and shared the link between UK support and local conservation action.

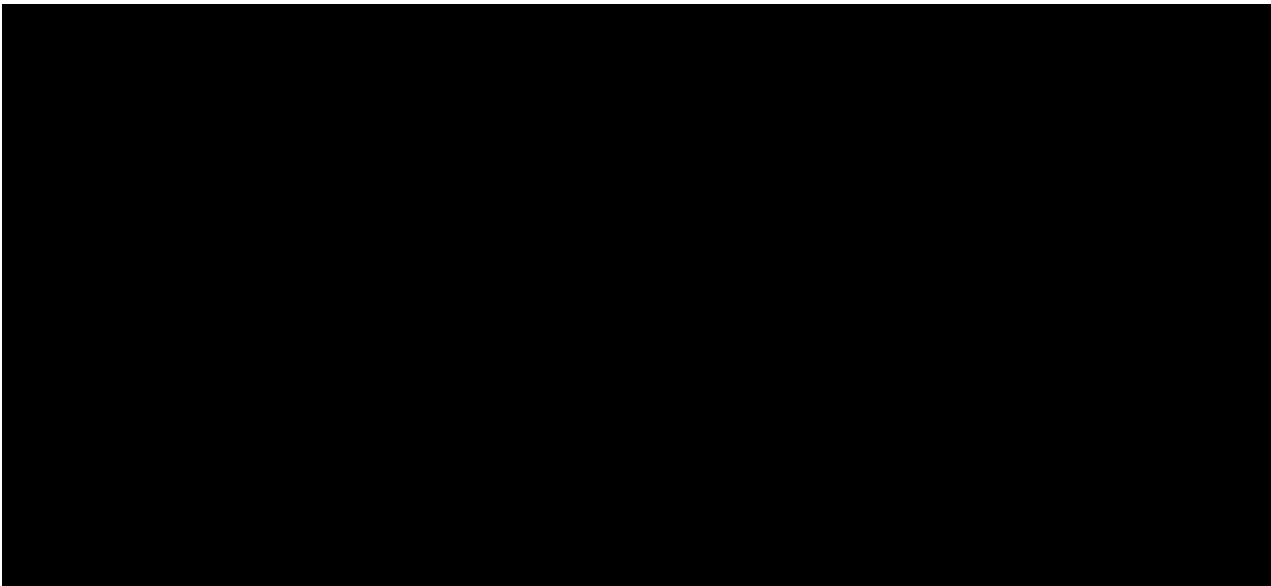
While broader public familiarity with the Darwin Initiative in Kenya remains limited, this project has improved awareness within the forestry and environmental NGO sectors.

Social Media and Online Engagement

Rhino Ark actively promoted the project on its social media platforms.

11. Safeguarding





12. Finance and administration

12.1 Project expenditure

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

Others (see below)				
TOTAL	74,114	76,221		

Staff employed (Name and position)	Cost (£)
Adam Mwangi	
Eric Kihui	
Catherine Wambui Mwangi	
TOTAL	

Capital items – description	Capital items – cost (£)
Not Applicable	

Other items – description	Other items – cost (£)
The expenditure classified under “Others” mainly supported the Joint Surveillance Unit (JSU) operations in South Western Mau. It covered essential needs like food, fuel, field allowances, and basic patrol equipment, enabling day and night operations across five forest blocks. These costs ensured a sustained presence by KFS, KWS, and community rangers, directly contributing to the reduction of illegal activities such as charcoal burning, logging, and grazing	
TOTAL	

12.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project	Total (£)
Rhino Ark Staff Cost	
Rhino Ark Vehicles	
Kenya Wildlife Rangers Salary	
Kenya Forest Service Rangers Salary	
Ndoinet CFA tree nursery caretaker	
GETA CFA tree nursery caretaker	
Kenya Forest Service Station Manager salary	
Platinum Credit (Phase 2)	
TOTAL	

Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project	Total (£)

Platinum Credit (Phase 3)	
EU Nature Africa Funded project Via World Wide Fund for Nature	
TOTAL	

12.3 Value for Money

Yes, the project demonstrated strong value for money by delivering high-impact outcomes through efficient, community-based implementation and leveraging of in-kind contributions. Project delivery was anchored in existing structures, minimizing administrative and start-up costs. Key partners including the Kenya Forest Service provided extensive technical and logistical support at no cost to the project, enhancing capacity without increasing expenditure.

Efficiency was achieved through localized delivery models that empowered Community Forest Associations and trained community rangers to implement activities such as reforestation, beekeeping, and forest surveillance. This approach reduced the need for external contractors and ensured ownership at community level. Strategic partnerships and co-financing allowed for shared use of infrastructure and coordination across projects, further maximizing resources.

The project effectively met its targets: 90 hectares of degraded forest were restored, three enterprises established with 90 new jobs created, 12 km of game proof fence constructed, and a Joint Surveillance Unit recorded a sharp decline in illegal logging, grazing, and charcoal burning. Patrol data showed an 89% reduction in livestock presence and significant drops in forest crimes. These sustained outcomes, achieved within budget and with minimal variance, confirm that the project was both cost-efficient and impactful.

13. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Over the lifetime of the project, several enhancements were made to the original design to improve implementation efficiency, deepen community ownership, and strengthen long-term sustainability.

One key refinement was the **intensification of community involvement in surveillance activities**, especially in the South West Mau. Initially envisioned as supplementary to KFS-led patrols, community rangers eventually took a leading role in conducting joint patrols, supported by targeted capacity-building and structured reporting mechanisms. This adaptation not only improved enforcement reaches across vast forest areas but also bolstered trust and information-sharing between communities and state agencies.

The **design of the beekeeping enterprise support** also evolved in response to baseline assessments. When early surveys revealed a strong reliance on traditional hives and subsistence production methods, the project incorporated more extensive training, exposure visits, and the formation of a honey cooperative to enable commercialization and aggregation of produce. This pivot from awareness-raising to enterprise development significantly improved the livelihood relevance and attractiveness of the intervention.

Difficulties Encountered and Mitigation Measures

- **Adverse weather conditions** in early 2024, particularly in Aberdare, disrupted micro-fencing and planting schedules. The project responded by rescheduling activities and using contingency labour arrangements to complete critical restoration tasks.

- **Challenges with CFA functionality**, especially in Ndoinet, delayed some implementation milestones. These were addressed through sustained engagement with Kenya Forest Service and facilitated community meetings to rebuild trust, culminating in the formal reactivation of the CFA and its involvement in key project components.
- **Inflationary pressures and procurement delays** also affected some input costs (e.g. fencing materials and transport). To manage this, Rhino Ark leveraged in-kind support from partners like KFS and prioritised procurement through local vendors to reduce logistical bottlenecks.

Exit Strategy Refinement

As implementation progressed, the exit strategy was updated to emphasise embedded institutional support. Notably, the joint establishment of forest outposts, CFA-led maintenance of planted sites, and integration of trail guides into KWS frameworks will help secure lasting impact beyond the project's funding window. Rhino Ark has also continued engaging with potential donors and local authorities to scale successful components of the project and link them to wider landscape initiatives, such as the national climate resilience strategy.

Reflections and Considerations for the Darwin Initiative

The project team appreciates the flexibility and responsiveness provided by the Darwin Initiative Secretariat. The ability to communicate adjustments (e.g., to activity timelines or field plans) and receive timely guidance was instrumental in managing risks and maintaining progress. Future funding rounds could consider more structured linkages between peer projects operating in similar ecosystems to promote learning and joint influence on national policy platforms. No sensitive issues require redaction.

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

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

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption, country and credit	Online accounts to be tagged	Consent of subjects received
Print/Online	“Locals join hands to restore degraded Geta Forest” (rhinoark.org)	Daily Nation Hosted on Rhino Ark		Yes
Print/Online	“Arkive Issue 51 Rhino Ark progress updates”	Arkive Magazine		Yes
Online	["Rhino Ark partners with Darwin Initiative to protect Aberdare Forests"]	Capital Business		Yes

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2024-2025

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><i>Impact</i></p> <p>Kenya's vital mountain forest ecosystems protected and restored, contributing to improved biodiversity and human welfare while serving as a scalable model for conservation of other montane forests.</p>	<p>Rhino Ark continues to protect the biodiversity of Kenya's mountain ecosystems. The first year has seen great steps towards improving the way in which communities interact with the forest with the integration of action, education and improved livelihoods for those living in the region.</p>	
<p><i>Outcome Forest conservation</i></p> <p><i>Through integrated community engagement in SW Mau and Aberdare resulting in 90,000ha of forest safer, 80ha restored, 3 community enterprises established, 2 community forest management structures operationalized</i></p>		
<p>Outcome indicator 0.1 80 hectares of forest will be replanted across two mountain ecosystems by the end of 2024.</p>	<p>0.1 This outcome has been completed and the target exceeded. The Aberdares replanted 65ha of forest and SW Mau completed the 30ha.</p>	<p>(Highlight key actions relevant to this indicator planned for next period)</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 0.2 90,000 hectares of forest safer for biodiversity by end of 2024 through 20-days per month joint community / government anti-poaching, de-snaring and biodiversity monitoring foot patrols.</p>		

<p>Outcome Indicator 0.3 Community Forest Association (CFA) co-management governance structures operationalized in Geta (Aberdare) and Ndoinet (South Western Mau) by 2024 as evidenced by zonal elections and official registration with Registrar of Societies in 2023, and membership drives completed in 2024.</p>	<p>0.3 Aberdare Geta CRA rebuilding completed. Held CFA elections in Geta in May 2023, continued to coordinate training and learning opportunities to drive interest with memberships, producing over 3,900 membership cards with the project benefitting over 390 community members by March 2025.</p> <p>South Western Mau (Ndoinet): CFA mobilization activities were undertaken, including a community sensitization meeting on tree nursery establishment held in 2024. This session engaged 215 community members (of which 145 were men and 70 were women) and provided a platform to reinforce awareness of the CFA's role in co-management of forest resources.</p> <p>In addition, 4 community members (2 men, 2 women) were recruited as nursery caretakers to support CFA-linked restoration efforts. These engagements reflect progress in building grassroots support and operational capacity for the CFA in Ndoinet</p>	
<p>Outcome Indicator 0.4 Pro-conservation employment and livelihood supports through establishment by 2024 of:</p> <p><u>In South Western Mau:</u></p> <p>a) 8-person (6 men; 2 women) community ranger team, resulting in an average</p>	<p>0.4 <u>South Western Mau</u></p> <p>8-person ranger team was hired for SW Mau and 104 beekeepers are engaged (64 men and 40 women)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In South Western Mau: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) 8-person community ranger team (6 men; 2 women): This target was met. An 8-person ranger 	<p>The Aberdare area is experiencing a positive impact on local incomes with an average of 120 additional visitors on the weekends. Visitors are navigating the area much more effectively as the signage keeps people from getting lost.</p>

<p>income increase of £160 per person per month; and</p> <p>b) one commercial honey enterprise benefitting 50 individuals and beekeeping groups.</p> <p><u>In Aberdare:</u></p> <p>40km of mountain hiking trails; and b) one community hiking association comprised of 10 women and 20 men as guides (10), porters (15) and cooks (5).</p> <p><u>In both ecosystems:</u></p> <p>a) one tree nursery benefitting all duly registered CFA members; and</p> <p>b) the employment of 8 community tree caretakers in forest restoration re-planted areas resulting in an average income increase of £ 80 per person per month.</p>	<p>team was recruited in December 2022, composed of 6 men and 2 women, to support joint forest patrols with KFS. These rangers have played a critical role in forest surveillance and restoration site security. On average, rangers receive monthly income of approximately KES 25,000 (equivalent to £160), meeting the indicator target for income support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • b) One commercial honey enterprise benefitting 50 individuals and beekeeping groups: As of March 2025, 55 beekeepers (36 men and 19 women) are actively engaged in a structured honey production initiative in the SW Mau region. The group has received training on modern beekeeping techniques, hive maintenance, harvesting, and marketing. A honey cooperative society is being formalized with support from Rhino Ark and KFS to support commercialization. <p><u>Aberdares</u></p> <p>56.5 km of mountain hiking trails established, exceeding the 40km goal, mapped hiking routes, erected trail markers and identified picnic sites. Procured gear for 29 guides and porters (21 males and 8 females).</p> <p><u>Both Ecosystems</u></p> <p>At the Geta Tree Nursery, two caretakers were hired—one male and one female—to support daily nursery operations.</p>	
--	---	--

	<p>At the Sofia replanting site in the Aberdares, two caretakers were hired to manage the site. Although the initial plan was to have a 1:1 gender ratio (one female and one male), the female candidate later withdrew and nominated a male replacement. As a result, both caretakers at Sofia are male.</p> <p>Regarding the broader Sofia replanting effort, a total of 63 community members were engaged for planting activities. Of these, 39 were female and 24 were male, reflecting strong female participation.</p>	
<p>Outcome Indicator 0.5 Project outputs documented and shared with target audiences, including:</p> <p>a) annual project progress reports and final results presented to CFAs at their AGMs.</p> <p>b) progress report to KFS and KWS for South Western Mau at the bi-annual aerial surveillance meetings; and for Aberdare at the monthly Fence Technical Committee meetings.</p> <p>c) annual community barazas (meetings).</p> <p>d) progress report to our national and international partners and supporters through the biannual ARKive newsletter and Rhino Ark social media channels; and</p>	<p>In South Western Mau, regular updates were provided through monthly and bi-monthly meetings with the CFA Executive Committee and KFS forest station management. These meetings served as platforms to review project progress, develop joint action plans, and discuss nursery performance, which was formally reviewed quarterly. Broader community engagement was achieved through barazas and CFA special general meetings, where detailed activity reports were presented, including progress on PFMP development, FMA signing, and exposure visits such as the Karura Forest exchange.</p> <p>In the Aberdares, updates were presented during the monthly Fence Technical Committee meetings, attended by KFS, KWS, and Rhino Ark. These meetings also tracked restoration and security activities.</p> <p>Progress reporting extended to national and international audiences through Rhino Ark's communication channels. Articles highlighting project</p>	

e) PowerPoint presentations at science conferences in East Africa (e.g. ICCB, Pathways).	<p>milestones were published in the ARKive newsletter, including the November 2023 and May 2024 editions. Additionally, updates were shared via Rhino Ark's social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn</p> <p>To further contribute to the regional conservation discourse, Rhino Ark has registered for the 2nd International Wildlife Scientific Conference, organized by the Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI), to be held in Naivasha from 23rd–25th September 2025. At this event, we will present project results and lessons learned, supporting the broader dissemination of best practices in forest and biodiversity conservation.</p>	
Output 1 Forest restoration – 80 hectares of heavily degraded mountain forest secured, replanted and maintained in SW Mau and the Aberdare providing job opportunities to 604 female and 604 male community members.		
<i>Output indicator 1.1</i> 60 hectares (66,000 KFS-recommended indigenous tree species) of forest replanted in Tirigoi area, microfenced and maintained in South Western Mau by end of 2024.	<p><u>Aberdare:</u> Site at Sofia, Geta Forest stations identified, surpassed the projected 20Ha for a total area of 65Ha.</p> <p>Korabariet has completed 30Ha of restoration in the SW Mau.</p> <p>We completed 95Ha between the two locations, exceeding our goal of 85Ha.</p>	
<i>Output indicator 1.2</i> 20 hectares (22,000 KFS-recommended indigenous tree species) of forest replanted in Sophia area, micro-fenced and maintained in the Aberdare by end of 2024.	<p><u>Aberdare:</u> Perimeter micro-fence built. 1594m made of gum posts and barbed wire. 40 people hired (23 men and 13 female) for 15 days. Completed and repairs are ongoing as needed.</p>	

<p><i>Output indicator 1.3</i> 1,200 tree planters (600 woman and 600 men) hired to plant 88,000 seedlings by the end of 2024.</p>	<p>By the end of 2024, a total of 1,833 community members (947 men and 886 women) were hired to support forest restoration through tree planting activities, surpassing the project's original target of 1,200 individuals (600 men and 600 women).</p> <p>Under Darwin Initiative funding, a total of 886 individuals were recruited</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In South Western Mau, 565 community members (319 men and 246 women) participated in planting 33,000 indigenous seedlings. <p>In the Aberdares, an additional 321 individuals (141 men and 180 women) were engaged to restore degraded blocks.</p> <p>At the Sofia site, 63 casual labourers (24 men and 39 women) were also mobilized and supported under the Darwin budget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complementing this, additional support mobilized from Platinum Credit enabled a significant expansion of activities in Tirigoi, South Western Mau. Through this partnership, 947 individuals (547 men and 410 women) were hired and deployed for tree planting, nearly doubling the restoration workforce and accelerating site coverage. 	
<p><i>Output indicator 1.4</i> 8 (4 women and 4 men) community tree caretakers (1 caretaker/10ha x 80ha) hired</p>	<p><u>Geta Tree Nursery</u> - expanded the capacity to 100,000 seedlings exceeded the current capacity of 93,679 seedlings. Of which 45,000 are ready for</p>	

<p>to safeguard and maintain the re-planted areas up to end of 2024</p>	<p>transplanting during the next rainy season. To date, we have successfully 40,750 seedlings from this nursery.</p> <p>Aberdares - 2 site attendants hired (1 male and 1 female) and they continue to monitor and maintain the replanted site.</p>	
<p>Output 2. Community livelihoods – Through Geta and Ndoinet CFAs, 3 community enterprises established (forest honey, ecotourism, and tree nurseries), creating 90 jobs and benefiting forest edge communities while supporting the conservation of 90,000 hectares in South Western Mau and Aberdare.</p>		
<p><i>Output indicator 2.1.</i> CFA forest co-management governance structures operationalized in Geta (Aberdare) and Ndoinet (South Western Mau) by 2024 as evidenced by zonal elections and official registration with Registrar of Societies in 2023; and membership drives completed in 2024.</p>	<p>We facilitated successful Geta CFA election and CRA leader training, including training leaders on how to develop a CFA and how to establish an ecotourism project.</p> <p>We facilitated the handing-over process and helped officials in the legal registration process through the office of the Registrar of Societies according to the Kenyan Law.</p> <p>With the Geta CFA, we have registered 3,900 members by the end of March 2025.</p> <p>One meeting held at Geta Forest, Wanjohi block in Sofia to sensitize the community on CFA membership in March 2025.</p> <p>South Western Mau (Ndoinet CFA): This Darwin-funded project marks the first direct support to CFA governance structures in Ndoinet. In 2024, Rhino Ark facilitated community sensitization meetings to promote CFA participation, particularly linked to restoration and enterprise initiatives. For example, a workshop on the establishment of the community tree nursery drew 215 participants (145 men, 70 women). These</p>	

	<p>engagements strengthened local awareness and reinforced the CFA's leadership in co-management.</p> <p>As part of the project, Rhino Ark supported the recruitment of 4 community nursery caretakers (2 men, 2 women) and engaged 373 local residents in forest restoration work at Korabariet. The CFA has continued to support mobilization efforts and project oversight, though formal zonal elections and legal registration are pending. These will be prioritized in the next reporting period to fully align with the output indicator.</p>	
<p><i>Output indicator 2.2</i></p> <p>50 beekeepers (women and men) trained in modern honey production techniques and established within a honey cooperative society concerned with commercial grade honey production.</p>	<p>In South Western Mau, the project successfully supported the training and engagement of 55 community beekeepers (31 men and 24 women) in modern honey production techniques. These individuals were drawn from various forest-adjacent community zones, particularly within areas supported by the Ndoinet CFA.</p> <p>The training included modules on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern hive management techniques • Harvesting and post-harvest handling for quality honey • Value addition and market readiness • Environmental conservation through pollinator-friendly practices • Training sessions were carried out in collaboration with local government agriculture and forestry officers, with hands-on 	

	demonstrations using modern Langstroth hives.	
<p><i>Output indicator 2.2.</i> 10 women and 20 men registered in an ecotourism association and trained as guides (10), porters (15), and cooks (5) using 40kms newly documented and signposted mountain hiking trails.</p>	<p>Trained and equipped 29 local guides and porters, established and continue to maintain 56.5km of hiking trails - exceeding the 40km target. Installed trail markers along the 56.5 stretch and sign boards on the four summits (Ol donyo, LeSatima, Rurimeria, Seven Ponds and Table Mountain). Brochures and maps also developed in 2024. The trail was officially commissioned on 31st March 2025.</p>	
<p><i>Output indicator 2.3</i> 10 tree nursery attendants (5 women and 5 men) hired in Geta and Ndoinet CFAs, including the establishment of 2 model tree nurseries (potting sheds, stone seedbeds, perimeter chain-link fences, water tanks, shade netting and KEFRI certified seed species stock and tools including wheelbarrows, rakes, water-cans, etc.)</p>	<p>A total of 10 tree nursery attendants (5 women and 5 men) has been hired across Geta and Ndoinet CFAs to support the establishment and operation of two model tree nurseries. These nurseries are equipped with potting sheds, stone seedbeds, perimeter chain-link fences, water tanks, shade netting, KEFRI-certified seed stock, and essential tools such as wheelbarrows, rakes, and watering cans.</p> <p>In Geta, the nursery expanded its capacity from 93,679 to 100,000 seedlings in 2024/25, with 45,000 seedlings currently ready for transplanting during the next rainy season. To date, 40,500 seedlings have been planted from Geta.</p> <p>At the Ndoinet Tree Nursery, four community members (2 women and 2 men) have been employed as nursery caretakers. Their responsibilities include daily maintenance such as weeding, sorting, root pruning, watering, seedling arrangement, and record-keeping. So far, 33,000 seedlings from Ndoinet have</p>	

	been planted, bringing the total to 73,500 seedlings planted across both sites.	
Output 3. Forest security – 3 new forest security infrastructural elements established, and capacity built for 8 community rangers to undertake joint government / community forest patrols.		
<i>Output indicator 3.1.</i> 2 forest outposts (uni-huts housing 7 government rangers) built near forest crime hotspots in South Western Mau by end of 2023.	Two initial forest outposts were completed and two additional were constructed because of matching funding.	
<i>Output indicator 3.2</i> 10 kilometres of conservation electric fence built (Wanjohi to Shamata) in north-western Aberdare by the end of 2023.	Exceeded the target. Constructed 12km of conservation electrical fence between Wanjohi and Shamata including the energizer house. Two fence attendants were hired then deployed to KWS to monitor the fence. Official commissioning of the fence was completed in March 2025	
<i>Output indicator 3.3</i> 8 community scouts (6 men; 2 women) hired, trained and equipped in South Western Mau by the end of 2023.	8 (6 men and 2 women) scouts were hired, trained and equipped to monitor SW Mau.	
Output 4. Communications Project outputs are documented and shared with target audiences (CFAs, Kenyan government partners, community stakeholders, and international conservation community).		
<i>Output indicator 4.1.</i> Annual project progress reports and final results presented to CFAs at their AGMs.	Completed	
<i>Output indicator 4.2</i> Progress report to KFS and KWS on South Western Mau at the bi-annual aerial surveillance meetings; Progress report to KFS and KWS on Aberdare at the monthly Fence Technical Committee meetings.	Completed and ongoing	

<i>Output indicator 4.3</i> Annual community barazas (meetings).	Completed and ongoing	
<i>Output indicator 4.4</i> Progress report to our national and international partners and supporters through the biannual ARKive newsletter and Rhino Ark social media channels.	Completed and ongoing	
<i>Output indicator 4.5</i> PowerPoint presentations at science conferences in East Africa, (e.g. ICCB, Pathways)	We have registered to participate in the 2nd International Wildlife Scientific Conference organized by the Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI), scheduled for 23rd–25th September 2025 in Naivasha . During this event, we will present results and lessons learned from the Darwin-funded project, contributing to knowledge exchange on innovations in wildlife and forest conservation	

•

- 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: Kenya's vital mountain forest ecosystems protected and restored, contributing to improved biodiversity and human welfare while serving as a scalable model for conservation of other montane forests.			
Outcome: Forest conservation through integrated community engagement in South Western Mau and Aberdare resulting in 90,000ha of forest safer, 80ha restored, 3 community enterprises established, 2 community forest management structures operationalized.	<p>0.1 80 hectares of forest replanted across two mountain ecosystems by end of 2024.</p> <p>0.2 90,000 hectares of forest safer for biodiversity by end of 2024 through 20-days per month joint community / government anti-poaching, de-snaring and biodiversity monitoring foot patrols.</p> <p>0.3 Community Forest Association (CFA) co-management governance structures operationalized in Geta (Aberdare) and Ndoinet (South Western Mau) by 2024 as evidenced by zonal elections and official registration with Registrar of Societies in 2023, and membership drives completed in 2024.</p> <p>0.4 Pro-conservation employment and livelihood supports through establishment by 2024 of:</p> <p><u>In South Western Mau:</u></p> <p>a) 8-person (6 men; 2 women) community ranger team, resulting</p>	<p>0.1 Annual seedling survival reports for 2022, 2023, and 2024 from 2 mountain ecosystems.</p> <p>0.2 Annual Forest security reports from 2 mountain ecosystems for 2022, 2023, and 2024.</p> <p>0.3 AGM minutes from Geta and Ndoinet CFA for 2022, 2023, and 2024.</p> <p>0.4 In South Western Mau:</p> <p>a) employment contracts for 8 people, and quarterly GPS maps of forest patrolling activities and results in 2022, 2023, and 2024; b) certificate of registration for beekeeping co-operative society.</p> <p>In Aberdare:</p> <p>a) trail markers and signage for 40kms of mountain hiking trails, and paper and digital maps of</p>	<p>0.1 Availability of quality seeds from the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI). Note: In the first year, tree seedlings will be purchased from existing local tree nurseries while we engage the government supplier of certified seeds (KEFRI) to help secure their availability.</p> <p>0.2 KFS and KWS rangers available to participate in joint security patrols.</p> <p>0.3 Community members desirous to be gainfully employed in pro-conservation work.</p> <p>0.4 COVID-19 pandemic and Kenyan elections 2022 will not adversely affect tourism industry and community outreach</p>

	<p>in an average income increase of £160 per person per month; and</p> <p>b) one commercial honey enterprise benefitting 50 individuals and beekeeping groups.</p> <p><u>In Aberdare:</u></p> <p>40km of mountain hiking trails; and b) one community hiking association comprised of 10 women and 20 men as guides (10), porters (15) and cooks (5).</p> <p><u>In both ecosystems:</u></p> <p>a) one tree nursery benefitting all duly registered CFA members; and</p> <p>b) the employment of 8 community tree caretakers in forest restoration re-planted areas resulting in an average income increase of £ 80 per person per month.</p> <p>0.5 Project outputs documented and shared with target audiences, including:</p> <p>a) annual project progress reports and final results presented to CFAs at their AGMs.</p> <p>b) progress report to KFS and KWS for South Western Mau at the</p>	<p>hiking trails; and b) training certificates for guides, porters, and cooks; In both ecosystems:</p> <p>a) annual seedling inventory from tree nurseries; and b) employment contracts for 8 community tree caretakers</p>	
--	--	---	--

	<p>bi-annual aerial surveillance meetings; and for Aberdare at the monthly Fence Technical Committee meetings.</p> <p>c) annual community barazas (meetings).</p> <p>d) progress report to our national and international partners and supporters through the biannual ARKive newsletter and Rhino Ark social media channels; and</p> <p>e) PowerPoint presentations at science conferences in East Africa (e.g. ICCB, Pathways).</p>		
<p>Output 1</p> <p>1. Forest restoration – 80 hectares heavily degraded mountain forest secured, replanted and maintained in South Western Mau and the Aberdare providing job opportunities to 604 female and 604 male community members.</p>	<p>1.1 60 hectares (66,000 KFS-recommended indigenous tree species) of forest replanted in Tirigoi area, microfenced and maintained in South Western Mau by end of 2024.</p> <p>1.2 20 hectares (22,000 KFS-recommended indigenous tree species) of forest replanted in Sophia area, micro-fenced and maintained in the Aberdare by end of 2024.</p> <p>1.3 1,200 tree planters (600 woman and 600 men) hired to</p>	<p>1.1 Annual seedling survival reports for 2022, 2023, and 2024 from South Western Mau Forest.</p> <p>1.2 Annual seedling survival reports for 2022, 2023, and 2024 from the Aberdare.</p> <p>1.3 Payment schedules for community tree planters.</p> <p>1.4 Employment contracts for 8 community tree caretakers.</p>	<p>Availability of quality seeds from the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI). Note: In the first year, tree seedlings will be purchased from existing local tree nurseries while we engage the government supplier of certified seeds (KEFRI) to help secure their availability.</p>

	<p>plant 88,000 seedlings by the end of 2024.</p> <p>1.4 8 (4 women and 4 men) community tree caretakers (1 caretaker/10ha x 80ha) hired to safeguard and maintain the re-planted areas up to end of 2024</p>		
<p>Output 2 Community livelihoods – Through Geta and Ndoinet CFAs, 3 community enterprises established (forest honey, ecotourism, and tree nurseries), creating 90 jobs and benefiting forestedge communities while supporting the conservation of 90,000 hectares in South Western Mau and Aberdare.</p>	<p>.1 CFA forest co-management governance structures operationalized in Geta (Aberdare) and Ndoinet (South Western Mau) by 2024 as evidenced by zonal elections and official registration with Registrar of Societies in 2023; and membership drives completed in 2024.</p> <p>2.2 50 beekeepers (woman and men) trained in modern honey production techniques and established within a honey cooperative society concerned with commercial grade honey production.</p> <p>2.3 10 women and 20 men registered in an ecotourism association and trained as guides (10), porters (15), and cooks (5) using 40kms newly documented and signposted mountain hiking trails.</p>	<p>2.1 AGM minutes from Geta and Ndoinet CFAs for 2022, 2023 and 2024.</p> <p>2.2 Ethnographic survey report of all beekeeping groups and individuals including GPS maps of all established beehives.</p> <p>2.3 Training course certificates for 50 beekeepers.</p> <p>2.4 Training course certificates for 30 community members involved in the ecotourism programme; trail markers, signage, paper / digital maps for 40kms of mountain hiking trails.</p> <p>2.5 Biannual nursery evaluation reports, and employment contracts for 8 community tree caretakers</p>	<p>2.1 Honey harvesting groups and individuals are willing to work together under a single cooperative society umbrella</p>

	2.4 10 tree nursery attendants (5 women and 5 men) hired in Geta and Ndoinet CFAs, including the establishment of 2 model tree nurseries (potting sheds, stone seedbeds, perimeter chain-link fences, water tanks, shade netting and KEFRI certified seed species stock and tools including wheelbarrows, rakes, water-cans, etc.)		
Output 3 Forest security – 3 new forest security infrastructural elements established, and capacity built for 8 community rangers to undertake joint government / community forest patrols.	<p>3.1 2 forest outposts (uni-huts housing 7 government rangers) built near forest crime hotspots in South Western Mau by end of 2023.</p> <p>3.2 10 kilometres of conservation electric fence built (Wanjohi to Shamata) in north-western Aberdare by the end of 2023.</p> <p>3.3 8 community scouts (6 men; 2 women) hired, trained and equipped in South Western Mau by the end of 2023.</p>	<p>3.1 Completed structures; annual forest security reports from 2023 and 2024.</p> <p>3.2 Completed electric fence officially launched by the end of 2023.</p> <p>3.3 Employment contracts for 8 people; quarterly GPS maps of forest patrolling activities; and annual forest security reports from 2022, 2023, and 2024.</p>	<p>3.1 Construction permits secured for building inside the forest.</p> <p>3.2 Fencing materials procured in a timely fashion.</p> <p>3.3 KFS and KWS rangers available to participate in the joint security patrols.</p>
Output 4 Communications Project outputs documented and shared with target audiences (CFAs, Kenyan government partners, community stakeholders, and	<p>4.1 Annual project progress reports and final results presented to CFAs at their AGMs.</p> <p>4.2 Progress report to KFS and KWS on South Western Mau at the</p>	<p>4.1 Minutes of the AGMs.</p> <p>4.2 Minutes of the aerial surveillance meetings and</p>	Aerial surveillance flight and meetings are convened at the planned intervals; Fence Technical Committee meetings are convened at planned intervals

<p>international conservation community).</p>	<p>bi-annual aerial surveillance meetings; Progress report to KFS and KWS on Aberdare at the monthly Fence Technical Committee meetings.</p> <p>4.3 Annual community barazas (meetings).</p> <p>4.4 Progress report to our national and international partners and supporters through the biannual ARKive newsletter and Rhino Ark social media channels.</p> <p>4.5 PowerPoint presentations at science conferences in East Africa, (e.g. ICCB, Pathways)</p>	<p>Fence Technical Committee meetings.</p> <p>4.3 List of attendances.</p> <p>4.4 Articles in the ARKive newsletter; Posts on Rhino Ark social media channels.</p> <p>4.5 PowerPoint presentations</p>	
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for examples 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p>Output 1: Forest Restoration</p> <p>1.1 Survey and secure restoration sites</p> <p>1.2 Micro-fence the restoration sites</p> <p>1.3 Identify through the CFAs the tree planters</p> <p>1.4 Select, procure and plant indigenous forest seedlings</p> <p>1.5 Monitor and maintain the replanted sites</p> <p>Output 2: Community Livelihoods</p> <p>2.1 CFAs re-building programme</p> <p>2.1.1 Conduct community CFA sensitization meetings across all administrative zones</p> <p>2.1.2 Facilitate election of CFA board representatives</p> <p>2.1.3 Support the legal registration process</p>			

- 2.1.4 Conduct membership drive and registration of members
- 2.1.5 Support the convening of the AGMs and review progress made over the past year
- 2.2 Commercial Forest honey enterprise
 - 2.2.1 Carry out survey to gather data on individual beekeepers and beekeeping groups
 - 2.2.2 Undertake GPS mapping for all hives belonging to individual beekeepers and beekeeping groups .
- 2.3 Establish beekeeping cooperative with constitution and bylaws through negotiation meetings with representatives from all constituent beekeeping groups and individuals including selection of 10-member pioneer committee to lead the group to 1st official cooperative meeting and elections
- 2.2.4 Conduct beekeeping training programmes with the National Beekeeping Institute (in Nairobi and in situ at South Western Mau) on modern beekeeping methods (hive construction and maintenance, colony management, use of beekeeping suits, harvesting techniques, adaptations to cold weather conditions, etc.)
- 2.2.5 Select suitable location and acquire a rental property to commence honey processing activities; purchase honey processing equipment including Extractors and bottling machines
- 2.3 Ecotourism enterprise
 - 2.3.1 Convene meetings with Geta CFA to identify candidates to participate in the guides, porters, and cooks training programme
 - 2.3.2 Contract a certified mountain guide consultant to carry out training courses for guides, porters and cooks
 - 2.3.3 Equip community ecotourism staff with branded uniforms, raingear, backpacks, sleeping bags, and other camping equipment
 - 2.3.4 GPS replace map all trails and document useful landmarks and natural features towards the creation of tourist brochure/maps
 - 2.3.5 Clear and maintain all trails, camp and picnic sites through contracted labour
 - 2.3.6 Design and erect trail markers and signage
 - 2.3.7 Official commissioning of trails network and community ecotourism association
 - 2.3.8 Support the CFA in promoting trails network and community ecotourism programme via social media and national media houses
- 2.4 Community tree nurseries
 - 2.4.1 Identify through the CFAs, the tree nursery attendants and issue contracts
 - 2.4.2 Train tree nursery attendants in nursery management by KFS
 - 2.4.3 Prepare land and seedbeds, construct perimeter fence and other nursery structures
 - 2.4.4 Procure seeds and tree nursery tools
 - 2.4.5 Official public launch of nurseries, and promotion on social and other media
 - 2.4.6 Biannual review of tree nursery performance

Output 3: Forest Security

3.1 Two forest security outposts established (knowing that we already have

a) KFS approval; b) a known standard outpost design template; c) secured forest locations 3.1.1 Procure construction materials for forest security outposts

3.1.2 Build 2 forest security outposts

3.1.3 Officially hand over the 2 forest security outposts to Kenya Forest Service

3.2 Ten kilometres of conservation fence built between Wanjohi and Shamata in Geta Forest Station, Aberdare

3.2.1 Leaders and community sensitization meetings

3.2.2 Procure fence construction materials, tools and equipment

3.2.3 Establish Forest boundary beacons by KFS surveyors

3.2.4 Recruit community labour and establish fence construction camp at Wanjohi

3.2.5 Official launch of the fence project "Placement of the First Post ceremony"

3.2.6 Fence alignment, construction of the fence and energizer house

3.2.7 Fence construction committee field inspection and site meetings

3.2.8 Official Commissioning of the fence "Placement of Final Post ceremony"

3.2.9 Establish fence maintenance system including recruitment of 2 Fence Attendants

3.3 Community Forest patrols established

3.3.1 Develop standard operating procedures for the community forest patrols

3.3.2 Recruit, train and equip the 8-member community ranger team

3.3.3 Establish patrolling schedule; supervise and manage community rangers

Output 4: Communications

4.1 Convene community barazas (meetings) and CFA briefings

4.2 Provide briefings to field-level partner staff during periodic joint project inspections

4.3 Present project reports at executive level partner meeting (including aerial surveillance meeting, fence technical committee meetings)

4.4 Issue quarterly project updates through Rhino Ark Mailing list e-shot updates

4.5 Publish project reports through Rhino Ark's biannual ARKive newsletter and website 4.6 Publish social media story posts

4.7 Organize media (journalist) field trips

4.8 Produce periodic mini-documentary (short video) for wide distribution

4.9 Make PowerPoint presentations at science conferences in East Africa

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?	x
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	
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.	
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 14)?	x
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.	x
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.	x
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	x
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	x
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	