Darwin Initiative Main & Extra Annual 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: 30th April 2025

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	31-018
Project title	Strengthening policy, capacity, climate resiliency to conserve Mutitu and Mumoni
Country/ies	Kenya
Lead Organisation	Nature Kenya
Project partner(s)	Mutitu Hill Site Support Group, Mumoni Hill Site Support Group, County Government of Kitui, Kenya Forest Service
Darwin Initiative grant value	**£404,472**
Start/end dates of project	Start: 01/07/2024 End: 30/06/2027
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024 – Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2024 – March 2025; Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Paul Matiku
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/DAR31018
Report author(s) and date	Paul Matiku and James Mutunga Joshua April 30th 2025

1. Project summary

Project aims see Mutitu and Mumoni forests restored and safeguarded through strong policy informed by scientific evidence from ecosystem service assessment, and social-ecological studies for participatory forest management, and enhanced capacity of County officials and local community including adoption of climate resilient livelihood interventions such as crop tree agro-forestry, climate smart agriculture, honey, and pasture development that enhance conservation of 13,000 Ha and restoration of 350Ha by community maintaining biodiversity, water security, climate change mitigation and other socio-ecological benefits around the dryland hilltop forest.

The project is located within Kitui County, Kenya (see Annex 31-018_1 for reference). Mutitu (c.1958.7Ha) and Mumoni (11, 031Ha) are species rich hilltop state forests, surrounded by vast private farm lands. They are Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), and part of Kenya and East Africa centres of Endemism. Mutitu and Mumoni forests are important for social economic values providing food, fodder, medicine, water springs, are culturally rich, critical dryland water catchments, are critical carbon sinks and offer environmental services: soil and water conservation, air purification. Threatened, rare and endemic flora and fauna are abundant (Plants: *Balanites wilsoniana – Least Concern (LC)*, *Oryza punctata - LC* etc); Amphibians:

Bufo taitanus - LC; Reptiles: *Malacochersus tornieri – Critically Endangered (CR)*, *Python natalensis - LC*; Birds: *Turdoides hindei* – Vulnerable (VU) Kenyan Endemic, *Polemaetus bellicosus* -Endangered (EN); *Stephanoaetus coronatus* – Near Threatened (NT), Afrotropical and Palearctic migrants, and 5 forest specialists; Invertebrates: butterfly and snail species.

Unfortunately, these dryland areas have not been given attention as biodiversity hotspots in their own merit because they are considered dry, not valuable in-terms of timber, no glamorous mammals (Big Five) and were never a focus for photography or trophy hunting. As a result, there has been limited investment making Mutitu and Mumoni forests come under serious threats: overgrazing, encroachment, forest fire, degradation of catchments and habitat loss, over extraction of forest products (timber and firewood), and unsustainable charcoal production.

Threats are driven by policy failures, insufficient capacity of forest guardians (County officials, Site Support Groups (SSGs) and community forest associations (CFAs)), poverty and limited livelihood options, poor agricultural practices, and increasing demand for extractive forest products. Government of Kitui County lacks forestry policies to guide conservation and management of forests within its boundaries.

Lessons from BIOPAMA ref: RRG-EA-1108 showed that government, NGOs and local community partnerships strengthen forest and biodiversity safeguards. The safeguards of biodiversity, nature and people's climate change resilience, and social economic benefits in Mutitu and Mumoni KBAs can be strengthened and sustained through policy, capacity development, and innovative livelihoods interventions. We will support county forestry policy through ecosystem service assessment, and inclusive governance through social-ecological studies informing participatory forest management plans (PFMPs) for Mutitu and Mumoni forests implemented by CFAs and Kenya Forest Service (KFS). We aim to build capacity of county officials, CFAs and SSGs, established by law and support conservation, to protect and restore the forests while promoting sustainable use within their communities. We will support climate resilience livelihoods improving incomes of local community reducing pressure on the natural forests. We have two field staff to support project implementation in Mutitu and Mumoni.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The project was designed with partnership from Nature Kenya, Mutitu and Mumoni SSGs and CFAs, County Government of Kitui, and KFS where each offered a letter of support (see Annex 31-018_2 for reference). Nature Kenya defined Mutitu and Mumoni hill forests as KBAs, helped the county government of Kitui set up site support groups and community forest associations. The sites are state forests managed by Kenya Forest Service (KFS). Working with government experts and agencies provides cost effective labour for delivery of key project components while availing opportunities for uptake of results influencing policy and decision making. Stakeholders' roles are explained below:

1. **Nature Kenya** is leading the overall coordination ensuring effective and efficient project management.
2. **Site Support Groups**. Mutitu and Mumoni SSGs are registered community-based organisation that have been working with Nature Kenya since 2016 to educate, advocate, monitor biodiversity and promote adoption of sustainable livelihood improvement activities within their local communities. They will participate in forest management and restoration working closely with CFAs. The SSGs have been trained (see Annex 31-018_3 for reference -tree nursery report) in forest restoration, nursery establishment and management to establish tree nurseries, they will use their membership to plant trees in degraded forest and on-farm protecting to ensure restoration success. They will champion biodiversity monitoring, and implement poverty reduction interventions (pasture development, climate smart agriculture, bee keeping) during and after the project.
3. **Community Forest Associations** (CFAs): Mutitu and Mumoni CFAs are community groups established by law to support forest conservation and management while promoting sustainable use. We aim to enhance capacity of the two CFAs to support collective forest restoration with broad long-term impacts, they are key beneficiaries of capacity actions supported by this project. The two CFAs have been trained (see

Annex 31-018_3 for reference -tree nursery report) in forest restoration, nursery establishment and management, they have established tree nurseries and used their membership to plant trees in degraded forest areas. The CFAs will work closely with KFS to develop PFMPs, which they will implement enhancing inclusive forest governance.

4. **Kenya Forest Service (KFS)**: KFS is responsible for maintaining Kenya's forest resource base to provide ecosystem services including water. KFS manages Kenya's Forest Reserves, works with registered CFAs and mobilises actions necessary for forest conservation. KFS develops national and site-based policies including National Forest Programme which includes national tree cover targets for Kenya. The role of KFS in this project, in line with its mandate, is to promote the conservation, sustainable development, management and utilisation of Mutitu and Mumoni forests for equitable benefit of present and future generations. KFS will support the 2CFAs to develop and sign PFMPs. They will strengthen the capacity of local institutions through CFAs to achieve strategic objectives to maintain and restore forest cover. KFS will train CFAs to restore degraded areas, monitor uptake of trees, supervise replacing dead seedlings and provide protection as they continue to work towards sustainable finance for CFAs operations. KFS will ensure the lessons from this project will be mainstreamed into national forest policy to enhance implementation of the National Forest Programme.
5. **County government of Kitui**. The County has a legislative responsibility. The constitution 2010 devolved forest, land, water and agriculture to become functions performed by county governments. Mutitu and Mumoni Forests are located in Kitui County, and the government has a mandate to ensure the forest ecosystem services including water, carbon sequestration, tourism, timber and biodiversity are maintained for present and future generations. The county government will mainstream ecosystem services assessment results through development of Forestry policies, and regulations and steer implementation. They will engage and work with trained KFS and CFAs to achieve restoration targets. County officials will be beneficiaries of capacity actions supported by this project ensuring mainstreaming of best forestry practices in County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and budgetary processes.

Engagement of other experts: Nature Kenya supported experts to delivery key activities:

1. National Museums of Kenya (NMK). Experts from NMK were supported to train local community groups (SSGs and CFAs) on bird identification and biodiversity monitoring (see Annex 31-018_4 for reference). They were facilitated to conduct bird surveys in Mutitu and Mumoni forests (see Annex 31-018_5 for reference), and the data generated from annual surveys will be archived by NMK, which is a national biodiversity data repository centre in Kenya.
2. Kenyatta University. Experts from Kenyatta University were supported to conduct ecosystem services assessments (see Annex 31-018_6a; Annex 31-018_6b for reference) for Mutitu and Mumoni forests to inform Kitui County forestry policy process.
3. Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI). KEFRI is Kenya's forestry research agency focused on promoting sustainable forest management and conservation. Experts from KEFRI were supported to conduct social-ecological studies (see Annex 31-018_7 for reference) in Mutitu and Mumoni forests to provide evidence required to develop participatory forest management plans for the two sites. Social economic data generated through the surveys will be used as baselines for income characteristics of local community in Mutitu and Mumoni.

Stakeholder awareness.

Stakeholders have been made aware of the project components and underlying objectives through meetings (see Annex 31-018_8 for reference), public gatherings (see 31-018_Annex 9a; 31-018_Annex 9b for reference), publicity materials (see 31-018_Annex 25a; 31-018_Annex 25b)

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

The project commenced July 1st 2024. Project activities in Year 1 were implemented as planned. Nature Kenya engaged external lead and experienced consultant from Kenyatta University to carry out Ecosystem Services Assessment for Mutitu and Mumon using the TESSA Toolkit (*Activity 1.1.*) where an assessment methodology was developed (see Annex 31-018_6a; Annex 31-018_6b for reference). As a result, startup virtual workshops were held between Nature Kenya and lead expert consultants to agree on the methods and protocols for the ecosystem service assessment for Mutitu and Mumoni hills forests (*Activity 1.2.*). Following the agreement on methods and protocol of assessments, relevant stakeholder consultations (Activity 1.3) were conducted between 28th-31st January 2025 in Mutitu and Mumoni (see Annex 31-018_6a; Annex 31-018_6b for reference). As a result, mapping of vital ecosystem services in each forest informed by the key stakeholders was done. Further field work to gather more details on ecosystem services assessment (*Activity 1.4*) was integrated in the detailed socio-economic and ecological survey carried out January 5th – 12th 2025 (see Annex 31-018_7 for reference). Draft detailed ecosystem services assessment for Mutitu and Mumoni was developed (*Activity 1.5)* (see Annex 31-018_6a; Annex 31-018_6b for reference) completion expected in Q1 of Year 2. Results from the ecosystem services assessment will inform the formulation/enriching the Kitui county forest conservation and management policy framework (*Activity 1.6-Acvitity 1.11*).

To support the development of Participatory Forest Management Plans (PFMPs) for Mutitu and Mumoni forests, data generated from detailed ecosystem services assessment and socio-economic survey will be used to inform the management plans. Initial consultations to facilitate the drafting of the PFMPs for Mutitu and Mumoni were carried out *(Activity 1.12*) (see Annex 31-018_8 for reference). As a result, Kenya Forestry Research Institute-KEFRI was agreed to be the lead institution to coordinate the development of the management plan (see Annex 31-018_10 for reference). KEFRI will progress consultations towards the development of the management plan (*Activity 1.14-Activity 1.15*).

Detailed field work and GIS mapping for management plan was carried out (*Activity 1.13*) resulting to land use land cover maps of Mutitu and Mumoni (see Annex 31-018_11 for reference).

Capacity enhancement workshop to train community members on tree nursery establishment (*Activity 2.2*) was carried out. Targeting 100 people (≤35% women) from 2 CFAs and 2 SSGs, between 3rd- 5th October 2024, Nature Kenya in collaboration with experts from Kenya Forest Service trained 44 community members (25M, 19F) on tree nursery establishment and management (Annex 31-018_12) to propagate trees for forest restoration and crop trees for on-farm tree growing. As a result, the 4 community led tree nurseries in Mutitu and Mumoni have propagated approximately 200,000 tree seedlings (*Activity 2.3*) (see Annex 31-018_3 for reference).

Baseline landscape map cover was carried out by GIS expert producing land use land cover map (*Activity 2.4*.).

To compliment and validate GIS generated Land Use Land Cover maps, site level training on job for 44 CFA and SSG members on rapid forest disturbance assessment was carried out (*Activity 2.5*; see Annex 13a for reference) guided by forest disturbance forest assessment protocol (*Activity 2.6*; see Annex 31-018_13b for reference).

With support from National Museums of Kenya practical site level training of local community on bird survey techniques (*Activity 2.7;* Annex 31-018_4 for reference) was carried out. Detailed bird assessment was carried out between 26th August 2024 and 4th September 2024 (see Annex 31-018_5 for reference) recording 47 individuals of the Kenyan endemic Hinde's Babbler birds in the two project sites and overall, 109 bird species were recorded during the surveys (*Activity 2.8 and Activity 2.9*).

Baseline livelihood assessment was completed in Mutitu and Mumoni through socio-economic assessment *(Activity 3.1)* (see Annex 31-018_7 for reference). *Activity 3.2 and Activity 3.9,*

targeting 50 CFA/SSG members, was carried out through training of 44 people on climate adapted farming techniques (this covered area matched improved sorghum, millet, green grams, cowpeas etc); ii) pasture management; iii) fruit tree nurseries and husbandry (see Annex 31-018_14 for reference).
Activities 3.5, Activity 3.8 and Activity 3.10 were carried out through support to CFAs and SSGs to develop criteria for selecting beneficiaries of climate smart crops and grass, bee hives, and jiko liners for improved cookstoves (see Annex 31-018_15b for reference).

Activity 3.3 was carried out. African Beekeepers Ltd was officially engaged by Nature Kenya to provide beehive products market linkages and capacity of local communities on beekeeping resulting into signing of Agreement with Mutitu SSG (see Annex 31-018_16 for reference). As a result, 70 households in Mutitu project area were supported to adopt modern beekeeping with 100modern Langstroth hives (see Annex 31-018_17 for reference). Currently 40% of the beehives are colonised.

196 households (143women, 53men) were supported with 775KGs of drought resistant and fast-growing variety of green grams to improve community resilience to climate change (see Annex 31-018_15a for reference). Farmers were supported with 500Kgs of grass seeds (*Eragrostis superba*, *Enteropogon macrostachyus*) targeting seeding 150Ha for pasture development benefitting 134 households – 70% received by women (see Annex 31-018_18 for reference).

A survey report by Nature Kenya (see Annex 31-018_19 for reference) on firewood consumption and cooking technologies used by households in Kitui County formed the baseline against which this activity was delivered. Results showed that 99% of households in Kitui County used firewood as primary source of cooking energy, and 83.1% used traditional three-stone open fire including in Mutitu and Mumoni. Residents dwelling adjacent Mumoni forest were provided with ceramic jiko liners (see Annex 31-018_20 for reference) for improved cooking energy efficiency benefiting 1000 households. This aims to remove pressure on the forest through reduced firewood consumption by at least 30% alongside health benefits and relieving more time to school going girls and women who comprise 99% of firewood collectors.

Activity 4.4 was delivered. Between 8th -12th September 2024, four SSG members from Mutitu and Mumoni forest convened among 56 (37M, 19F) community members from 24 other KBAs nationally discussing diverse subjects on Landscape Restoration for Biodiversity and People (see Annex 31-018_21 for reference). This forum provided insights and experiences that shall be replicated in the project sites.

4.

4.1 Progress towards project Outputs

Progress towards delivery of:

Output 1 on *County forestry policy regulations strengthen inclusive forest governance and empower local people (CFAs, SSGs) to enhance their engagement in safeguarding Mutitu and Mumoni forests in the longer term* was achieved by undertaking detailed ecosystem services (see Annex 31-018_6a; 6b for reference), with results generated to be used to inform the development and enriching of Kitui county forest conservation and management policy framework (*Indicator 1.1*.). The results of the detailed ecosystem services assessment will complement detailed socio-economic surveys results (see Annex 31-018_7) which will contribute to the development of Participatory Forest Management Plan for Mutitu and Mumoni forest reserves which are led by Kenya Forestry Research Institute (*Indicator 1.2*.) (see Annex 31-018_10 for reference. Initial capacity building on forest protection for Mutitu and Mumoni Community Forest Associations (CFAs) and Site Support Groups (SSGs) was carried out (*Indicator 1.3.)* training 44 community representatives (see Annex 31-018_22 for reference).

To deliver on ***Output 2:*** *Kitui County Government, CFAs and SSGs have capacity, restoring and safeguarding Mutitu and Mumoni forest ecosystems,* working collaboratively with Kenya Forest Service 44 community members (25M, 19F) were trained on tree nursery establishment and management (Annex 31-018_12 for reference) contributing to *Indicator 2.2.* A total of

31,097 indigenous tree species representing 12 indigenous tree species were planted inside Mutitu (15,000 tree seedling) and Mumoni (16,097) forest reserves (see Annex 31-018_23 for reference) supported by CFAs and SSGs in collaboration with diverse stakeholders including Kitui County Government, Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife and Utalii College of Tourism (see 31-01_Annex 27 for reference)- *Indicator 2.3.*_To deliver *Indicator 2.4*., CFAs and SSGs have propagated 13,000 agroforestry trees (see Annex 31-018_23 for reference) which will be used to support at least 500 households. 500Kg of certified indigenous grass seeds have been distributed at community level (see Annex 31-018_23 for reference) aimed contributing to at aiding natural regeneration through restoration and sowing over an area of 500ha including grazing areas (*Indicator 2.5*.). Baseline GIS maps on Land Use Land Cover of Mumoni and Mutitu (*Indicator 2.6*.) were developed and validated through ground truthing by trained CFA and SSG members (see Annex 31-018_23 for reference). Baseline site level bird surveys (*Indicator 2.7*) were carried out led by experts from National Museums of Kenya and local community monitoring team, documenting 109 bird species with 47 individuals of endemic Hinde's Babbler recorded (see Annex 31-018_5 for reference).

Output 3 *on Livelihoods of local communities are enhanced through climate resilience initiatives including agro-forestry, climate smart agriculture (area-matched and improved seeds: green grams, cowpeas, sorghum, millet; bee keeping, hay production etc.)* was delivered, where with support from Kitui county agriculture extension officers, 196 households (143women, 53men) were supported with 775KGs of locally adapted, early maturing with high market demand variety of green grams to improve community resilience to climate change (see Annex 31-018_15a for reference) and 500Kg of certified pasture seeds of *Eragrostis superba* and *Enteropogon macrostachyus* benefitting 134 households – 70% received by women (see Annex 31-018_18 for reference) (*Indicator 3.1.*).

Support was provided to 1000 household beneficiaries to adopt improved energy efficient cookstoves (see Annex 31-018_20 for reference) aimed at reducing household fuel wood consumption *(Indicator 3.2.).* Targeting by end of Y3 200 beehives increase household income of 200 households- *Indicator 3.3*.; 70 households in Mutitu forest reserve area were supported to adopt modern beekeeping with 100modern Langstroth hives (see Annex 31-018_16; see Annex 31-018_17 for reference) which by end of Y1, 40% of the beehives were colonised. Livelihood assessments completed in Mutitu and Mumoni (*Indicator 3.4.)* documented in detailed socio-economic assessment report (see Annex 31-018_7 for reference).

Farmers were supported with 500Kgs of grass seeds (*Eragrostis superba*, *Enteropogon macrostachyus*) targeting seeding 150Ha for pasture development benefitting 134 households – 70% received by women (see Annex 31-018_18 for reference). This investment is expected to increased income alleviating poverty for vulnerable beneficiary households. 196 households (143women, 53men) were supported with 775KGs of locally adapted, early maturing with high market demand variety of green grams to improve community resilience to climate change (see Annex 31-018_15a for reference).

Contribution to delivery of ***Output 4:*** *on Lessons learned and best practices are documented and disseminated locally, nationally and globally* was done through publications- see 2024 Kenya Birding Magazine pg 18 (Link), which is disseminated nationally and globally (*Indicator 4.1*.). A national Site Support Group forum was convened in (see Annex 31-018_21 for reference), where key lessons on Landscape Restoration for Biodiversity and People were disseminated (*Indicator 4.2*.)

4.2 Progress towards the project Outcome

Progress towards achieving *Indicator 0.1.* was recorded where inception meeting (see Annex 31-018_8 for reference) was convened bringing together Kitui county level stakeholders on deliberation on formulation of county level policy framework on forest conservation and management. Results from the detailed ecosystem services assessment (see Annex 31-018_6a; Annex 31-018_6b for reference) will be used to enrich the policy and contribute to the strengthening forestry governance through Participatory Forest Management approach. Capacity strengthening of Mutitu and Mumoni groups (*Indicator 0.2*.) was done through training

on tree nursery establishment, landscape restoration approaches and best practices (see Annex 31-018_3 for reference). Baseline land use land cover maps were generated, and validated through ground truthing (see Annex 31-018_11 for reference), demonstration through time series that 24 of vegetation change between 2000 and 2023, and will be used to assess vegetation recovery and change by End of Project (*Indicator 0.3*.). Baseline biodiversity survey was carried out documenting 109 bird species including 47 individuals of the endemic Hinde's Babbler (see Annex 31-018_5 for reference), with annual biodiversity surveys to be carried out to assess change (*Indicator 0.4*.). To contribute to *Indicator 0.5*; detailed baseline socio-economic survey was carried out (see Annex 31-018_7 for reference); where 1000 household beneficiaries have been supported to adopt improved energy efficient cookstoves (see Annex 31-018_20). Supported community led tree nurseries have propagated 13,000 agroforestry trees (see Annex 31-018_3 for reference) which will be used to support at least 500 households; 31,097 indigenous tree species representing 12 indigenous tree species were planted inside Mutitu and Mumoni forest reserves (see Annex 31-018_23); and 500Kg of certified indigenous grass seeds have been distributed at community level (see Annex 31-018_18 for reference) aimed contributing to at aiding natural regeneration.

Targeting by end of project 200 bee hives increase the income of 200 households (*Indicator 0.6*), initial 70 households in Mutitu forest reserve area have been supported to adopt modern beekeeping with 100modern Langstroth hives (see Annex 31-018_17for reference), and creating honey market linkages with Africa Beekeepers Ltd (see Annex 31-018_16 for reference)

4.3 Monitoring of assumptions

There has not been cause for changing assumptions listed in the approved logframe. All the assumptions remain relevant under current status of this project.

4.4 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and multidimensional poverty reduction

Progress has been made towards contributing to the project Impact of; *Mutitu and Mumoni Hill Forests are sustainably managed, provide critical services of nature and support climate resilient livelihoods of local communities strengthening local action for conservation of biodiversity*; whereby detailed studies have been carried out to generate useful data to support forest management-1. Detailed ecosystem services assessment (see Annex 31-018_6a; Annex 31-018_6b for reference) and 2. Detailed socio-economic survey (see Annex 31-018_7). Results from this surveys will contribute to the development of participatory forest management plans for Mutitu and Mumoni forest reserves, which will support in sustainable management of the forests; while providing opportunities for forest adjacent communities to adopt climate resilient livelihoods through reducing household emissions (see Annex 31-018_20) Climate smart agriculture (see Annex 31-018_15a), implementation of Nature Based Enterprises (see Annex 31-018_17) and restoration of degraded areas (see Annex 31-018_23 ; see Annex 31-018_18 for reference)

5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

Contribution to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

SDG 1: End extreme poverty in all forms by 2030 – Support to CFAs/SSGs with climate resilient livelihood improvement activities, tree nursery establishment and beekeeping aim to alleviate poverty elevation (for reference see Annex 31-018_17; Annex 31-018_15a; Annex 31-018_18).
SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all –1000 households in Mumoni benefited from clean cook stoves aimed at reducing of household of fuel wood consumption by 30% (see Annex 31-018_20 for reference).
SDG 12: Responsible production and consumption- The project has promoted bee keeping as an ecosystem-based enterprise bringing in private investor to showcase the importance of vital ecosystem services household incomes and business.
SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts – All activities in this project target forest and land restoration safeguarding forest ecosystem services in Mutitu and Mumoni water,

pollination, food and climate regulation as a result of increasing the carbon sequestration of capacity of the forest.
SDG 15: Life on land – The aims to directly plant trees and seed grass restoring 500ha of degraded areas in Mutitu and Mumoni (see Annex 31-018_23 for reference). We have supported adoption of beekeeping enterprise which is supporting pollination ecosystem services
SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals – Supporting forestry policy and regulations is helping establishing partnerships for environmental conservation. Nature Kenya is working in partnership with local communities, county governments, national government and private sector, and other non-government organizations to deliver this project.

The project supports Kenya to implement the following articles of the UNCBD:

This has made contributions helping Kenya to achieve the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework:

Goal A: The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems…. identify the most important areas for the global biodiversity. Target 1, Target 2, Target 3: - we are supporting inclusive forestry governance through participatory forest planning in Mutitu and Mumoni. To contribute towards 30% by 2030 restoration and connectivity targets, this project will plant indigenous trees inside forests and support agroforestry on-farm targeting 500Ha (see Annex 31-018_23 for reference).

6. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

This project has delivered interventions targeted at alleviating poverty of local community in Mutitu and Mumoni. Overall, targeting 1500 households (c. 9000 people) household income improved by 10% by year 3, 1430 households (c.8580 people) have been reached with poverty alleviation interventions through CFAs and SSGs. Targeting 50 CFA/SSG members, capacity of 44 has been built on climate adapted farming and resilience techniques. With project support, farmers were supported with 500Kgs of grass seeds (*Eragrostis superba*, *Enteropogon macrostachyus*) targeting seeding 150Ha for pasture development benefitting 134 households – 70% received by women (see Annex 31-018_18 for reference). 1000 households in Mumoni were supported with ceramic jiko liners (see Annex 31-018_20 for reference) for improved cooking energy efficiency aimed at removing pressure on the forests targeting reduction in firewood consumption by beneficiaries by 30%. 196 households were supported with 775KGs of locally adapted, early maturing with high market demand variety of green grams to improve resilience to climate change (see Annex 31-018_15 for reference). A private investor was officially engaged by Nature Kenya to provide beehive products market linkages and capacity of CFAs and SSGs on beekeeping (see Annex 31-018_16 for reference). As a result, 70 households in Mutitu were supported to adopt modern beekeeping with 100modern Langstroth hives (see Annex 31-018_17 for reference). This investment is expected generate £6400 annual income for 70 households – 70% received by women (out of targeted 200 households) benefitting c.420 people. These investments aim to increase income by 10% by end of year 3 alleviating poverty for vulnerable beneficiary households.

7. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

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

During the reporting period, we ensured that in the delivery of implementation actions women and men were represented with equal opportunity adhering to the Kenyan government gender policy whereby neither gender had more than two thirds representation in any of the meetings and training seminars we organised. In addition, we ensured that in all our reporting, participants/beneficiaries were disaggregated by gender. For example, for all livelihood support interventions (for reference see Annex 31-018_17; Annex 31-018_15; Annex 31-018_18) including bee hives, women and youth represented 70% of beneficiaries. Nature Kenya has an institutional gender policy included in the Operational Manual ensuring implementation. Overall, we expect to train all community groups we are working with to integrate GESI principles in their institutional operations.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

The project implementation is progressing towards achieving set outcome. This has been possible through consultants engaged initiating studies required for detailed ecosystem services assessment (see Annex 31-018_6a; Annex 31-018_6b for reference) and social-economic and ecological surveys in Mutitu and Mumoni, all expected to generate data informing County forestry policy. Building capacity of 44 community members enabled establishment of 4 community tree nurseries propagating over 200,000 seedlings supplying 31,097 indigenous trees planted (see Annex 31-018_23 for reference) of the 100,000 targeted. Climate resilient interventions were delivered through support with climate adapted green grams and grass seeds for pasture development targeting 150 households with 1000 households supplied with improved cooking stoves targeting. Baselines were set for bird populations (see Annex 31-018_5 for reference) in Mutitu and Mumoni generating data comparable with annual surveys by community. An expert used GIS technology developing land cover change detection maps for both sites (see Annex 31-018_11 for reference) In all reporting, participants data was disaggregated by gender. The internal Project Implementation Team (PIT) headed by the Nature Kenya Executive Director, supported by the project manager, met quarterly to compare progress against an M&E plan guided by the project work plan.

9. Lessons learnt

Implementing in partnership and with experts is key for delivery of project activities cost effectively and in set time. Partnership with County Government of Kitui, Kenya Forest Service, and community groups (CFAs and SSGs) enabled rollout of activities seamlessly supporting progress towards project outcome. We will document key lesson from all activities applying to strengthen implementation. We do not plan to change the implementation plan.

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

Nature Kenya responded to feedback provided in the Award letter (see Annex 31-018_24 for reference)

11. Risk Management

The project has not experienced any new risks during the reporting period. The project design and methods of implementation remain valid in the context of for delivering the project (see Annex 31-018_26 for reference).

12. Scalability and durability

The project aims to demonstrate how evidence-driven policy frameworks can promote sustainable forest resources management maintaining ecosystem services provided by the forests to biodiversity and local communities supporting resilience of livelihoods to changing climate. County forestry policy will guide forest conservation and management in Kitui County when completed and into the future. In addition, we have built the capacity of CFAs and SSGs as local institutions who can replicate and apply skills on biodiversity monitoring and climate adaptation techniques (see Annex 31-018_14 for reference), knowledge transferable across other similar ecosystems in the landscape. Nature Kenya will not leave the forest restoration, mobilizing much-needed support and mentoring the community groups to continue operating after end of this project. This according to the exit strategy described in the project document.

13. Darwin Initiative identity

Nature Kenya has ensured that Darwin Initiative identity has been publicized through different media. During project delivery, Darwin Initiative logo has been included in all publications that have been produced (see Annex 31-018_21 for reference). Within the publications, special

Darwin Initiative has been referred in the acknowledgements (for reference see Annex 31-018_6a; Annex 31-018_6b for reference; Annex 31-018_17). In addition, during public meetings which we have participated in and produced banners and posters (see Annex 31-018_25a, Annex 31-018_25b for reference), we have included Darwin Initiative logo. We have introduced and made all the partners we are engaging in this project, that program activities are made possible through funding from Darwin Initiative.

14. Safeguarding

15. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2024/25 Grant (£)	2024/25 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	**113,646**	**113,684**	**-0.03**	

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			Community Forest Associations and Site Support Groups providing labour in project activities
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			

16. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

There are no notable issues currently

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

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds 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 including description, country and credit	Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
Image	31-018_0_Photos_Darwin MutituMumoni-Kenya	Photo 1_Bee keeping for resiliend enterprise Mutitu Kenya, Credit Faith Nkatha		Yes
Image	31-018_0_Photos_Darwin MutituMumoni-Kenya	Photo 2_Bee keeping for resiliend enterprise Mutitu Kenya, Credit Faith Nkatha		Yes
Image	31-018_0_Photos_Darwin MutituMumoni-Kenya	Photo 3_Bee keeping for resiliend enterprise Mutitu Kenya, Credit Faith Nkatha		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
Impact: Mutitu and Mumoni Hill Forests are sustainably managed, provide critical services of nature and support climate resilient livelihoods of local communities strengthening local action for conservation of biodiversity	Delivery has progressed towards contributing to project impact of "Mutitu and Mumoni Hill Forests are sustainably managed, provide critical services of nature and support climate resilient livelihoods of local communities strengthening local action for conservation of biodiversity whereby" 1. Consultations on ecosystem services assessment were carried aimed to inform Kitui County forestry policy processes and participatory forest management plans to be implemented by community setting base for enabling sustainable management and inclusive governance of forest resources in Mutitu and Mumoni catalysing attitude change towards safeguarding forests for continued supply of ecosystem services provided by the ecosystems for biodiversity and local community. 2. Capacity was enhanced of local community in restoration and climate resilient livelihoods 3. We provided investments to community for climate smart agriculture and resilience building	[redacted]
Outcome: Mutitu and Mumoni Hill forests are managed under inclusive policy, enhanced capacity, degraded areas restored for sustaining full functions of nature to support biodiversity and community livelihoods		
Outcome indicator 0.1 County Forest conservation and management policy regulations are strengthening inclusive forestry governance by end of year 3 **[DI-B12]**	Progress has been made toward achieving *Indicator 0.1* whereby Draft ecosystem services assessment report for Mutitu and Mumoni resulting from stakeholder consultations carried out at site level engaging local communities, government and other key actors to be completed in Q1 of Year 2 informing formulation/enriching the Kitui county forest conservation and management policy framework. Evidence provided in section 4.2 of the report and Annex 31-018_6a; Annex 31-018_6b.	The consultant will compile findings into a detailed report on ecosystem services assessment for Mutitu and Mumoni forests used to inform processes toward formulation/enriching the Kitui county forest conservation and management policy framework
Outcome indicator 0.2 Mutitu and Mumoni local Community Groups (CFAs, SSGs) capacity strengthened and actively involved in the forest conservation and management throughout years 1-3. **[DI-B05]**	To contribute towards *Indicator 0.2*, Capacity of 2 CFAs and 2 SSGs strengthened in birds and habitat monitoring trained members participating in detailed bird and disturbance surveys year 1. Farmers trained in climate adapted farming supported fast maturing drought tolerant crop and grass seeds promoting resilience building. Trained community members established 4 tree nurseries propagating 200,000 tree seedlings planting 31,097 putting 31ha forest land under restoration during March – May rains. Evidence provided in section 4.2 of the report and Annex 31-018_4; Annex 31-018_5; Annex 31-018_14; Annex 31-018_15a; Annex 31-018_3;	We will train CFa and SSg members strengthening their capacity in: 1.Birds and habitat monitoring 2. Climate smart agriculture including postharvest techniques 3. Tree nursery management expanding tree nurseries 4. Participatory Forest Management

	31-018_23.	Plan implementation
Outcome indicator 0.3 Land cover assessments show 320Ha of degraded Mutitu and Mumoni regenerating by end of year 3 compared with KFS data at the start of year 1. **[DI-D12]**	Contribution towards *Indicator 0.3* was achieved by expert appllying GIS techniques to assess changes over past 24 years (2000 – 2024) generating baseline land cover change detection data and maps for Mutitu and Mumoni forests by end of Year1. Eevidence provided in section 4.2 of report and Annex 31-018_11.	Engage a GIS expert yo carry out Land cover change assessments showing 320Ha of degraded Mutitu and Mumoni regenerating by end of year 3 compared with KFS data at the start of year 1
Outcome indicator 0.4 Annual biodiversity surveys show populations of bird species (indicators of biodiversity) remain stable in areas where forest habitat is being better managed (13,000Ha) or restored	With support from National Museums of Kenya, *Indicator 0.4* was achieved whereby 44 trained local community members participated in detailed bird assessment was confirming 47 individuals of the Kenyan endemic Hinde's Babbler birds in the two project sites. Data from these surveys forms the baseline for comparison with annual surveys by the community groups with years 2 and 3. Evidence is provided in section 4.2 of the report and Annex 31-018_4; Annex 31-018_5.	Facilitate community groups to carry out annual birds and habitat disturbance surveys showing populations of bird species stabilizing in areas where forest habitat is being better managed (13,000Ha) or restored
Outcome indicator 0.5 Livelihoods of c.1500 households (c.9,000 people) are improved by 20% through innovative interventions: tree nurseries crop trees (20,000 seedlings) and indigenous (200,000 seedlings), grass pasture (100Ha), improved cook stove technology and production capacity (2000 stoves). **[DI-A10] [DI-D11]**	To achieve *Indicator 0.5* on resilient livelihoods, 134 households (804 people: 70%F, 30%) to150acres with 500Kgs with grass aimed at pasture development for livestock and income generation. Community in Mumoni was supported with jiko liners benefiting 1000 households (c.6000 people majority being from poor women-headed households aimed to reduce fuel wood consumption by 30% based on baseline. Evidence is provided in section 4.1 of the report and Annex 31-018_20; Annex 31-018_19; Appendix 31-018_18.	We will support Livelihoods of c.1500 households (c.9,000 people) by 20% through: 1.support community groups to expand fruit tree nurseries planting 20,000 in their farms 2.facilitate pasture development as an income generating activity for 150 households (c.900 people) 3.support community in Mutitu with 500 improved jiko liners aimed t reducing fuelwood consumption by 30% compared to baseline
Outcome indicator 0.6 0.6 By end of the project 200 bee hives increase the income of 200 households (c.1200 people) of forest dependent adjacent community (£18,000/year or total of £48,000) by end of the project **[DI-D16]**	*Indicator 0.6* was progressed through establishment of market linkages for bee keeping enterprise whereby a private investor partnered with community groups starting with Mutitutu where SSG members benefited with 100 bee hives aimed increase income for 70 households (70% women) Annex 31-018_16; Annex 31-018_17.	We will strengthen engagement of private investor and community groups to stabilise the bee keeping enterprise increasing household income. We will support 100 households with bee hives in Mumoni promotion adoption of bee keeping to increase household income annually by

		£9,000 benefitting c.600 people.
Output 1 County forestry policy regulations strengthen inclusive forest governance and empower local people (CFAs, SSGs) to enhance their engagement in safeguarding Mutitu and Mumoni forests in the longer term		
Output indicator 1.1 Mutitu/Mumoni forests' ecosystem services assessment completed by end of year1 and used to inform development of Kitui County Forest policy/laws/regulations by end of year2 and their implementation through to year3. [**DI-D08]**	*Indicator 1.1* Mutitu/Mumoni forests' ecosystem services assessment Draft report by end of year1 (Evidence provided in Section 4.1 of this report and Annex 31-018_6a; Annex 31-018_6b; Annex 31-018_7). When completed in Q1of Year 2, results will be used to inform development of Kitui County Forest policy/laws/regulations by end of year2 and their implementation through to year3.	The consultant will compile findings into a detailed report on ecosystem services assessment for Mutitu and Mumoni. Using the Ecosystem Services Assessment Report for Mutitu and Mumoni to inform development of Kitui County forestry policy regulations, we will:
Output indicator 1.2 Participatory Forest Management Plans for Mutitu and Mumoni CFAs completed by end of year 1 and are being implemented through to end of year3 **[DI-B01]**	*Indicator 1.2* Participatory Forest Management Plans (PFMPs) for Mutitu and Mumoni CFAs process started by end of year 1. Key consultations to facilitate drafting of the PFMPs were carried out; consultants conducted detailed field work and mapping for management plan process. Evidence provided in section 4.1 of this report and Annex 31-018_8; Annex 31-018_10; Annex 31-018_11).	We will: 1. Facilitate participatory consultations required to complete the management plan
Output indicator 1.3 Capacity Building on forest protection for Mutitu and Mumoni CFAs and SSGs completed by end of year 1 **[DI-A04]**	*Indicator 1.3* Capacity Building on forest protection for Mutitu and Mumoni CFAs and SSGs was completed by end of year 1. Evidence provided in section 4.1 of this report and Annex 31-018_22.	Completed in Year 1
Output 2. Kitui County Government, CFAs and SSGs have capacity, restoring and safeguarding Mutitu and Mumoni forest ecosystems		
Output indicator 2.1. Trained Kitui County Government officials (12 on development/adoption of forest policies; 10 on participatory policy implementation) by end of year2 adopt policies and are implementing forest policies by end of year3 [DI-A01]	*Indicator 2.1*. Training was not carried out for Kitui County Government officials (12 on development/adoption of forest policies; 10 on participatory policy implementation) by end of year2 adopt policies and are implementing forest policies by end of year3	We will organise training seminars/workshops for government officials/county assembly members/committee members and train them on participatory forest policy/management and implementation
Output indicator 2.2. At least 100 people (≤35% women) from 2 CFAs, 2 SSGs trained on nursery management (indigenous/crop trees, and seed collection) and forest/catchment restoration by end of year1 and are actively restoring degraded areas by end of year3 **[DI-A01]**	*Indicator 2.2*. Targeting at least 100 people (≤35% women) from 2 CFAs, 2 SSGs trained on nursery management (indigenous/crop trees, and seed collection) and forest/catchment restoration by end of year1 who are actively restoring degraded areas by end of year3, 44 (43% being women) community members trained on tree nursery establishment and management established 4 nurseries propagating 200,000 tree seedlings. Evidence provided in section 4.1 of this report and Annex 31-018_12; Annex 31-018_3)	We will facilitate training of at least 60 (≤35% women) members of Mutitu and Mumoni CFAs and SSGs on nursery management (indigenous/crop trees, and seed collection) and forest/catchment restoration

Output indicator 2.3. 100,000 indigenous trees planted by CFAs/SSGs by end of year 3 as a result of 10 indigenous tree nurseries established by end of year 1 **[DI-A01]**	*Indicator 2.3*. Targeting 100,000 indigenous trees planted by CFAs/SSGs by end of year 3 as a result of 10 indigenous tree nurseries established by end of year 1, the community groups planted 31,097 trees of 12 indigenous species from 4 nurseries, and putting 31Ha inside Mutitu and Mumoni forests under restoration; evidence provided in section 4.1 of this report and Annex 31-018_23)	We will facilitate 2CFAs and 2SSGs in Mutitu and Mumoni to plant at least 70,000 indigenous trees maintaining 31,097 and strengthening 4 tree nurseries to propagate seedlings for planting
Output indicator 2.4. Climate adapted livelihoods of 500 households (3000 people (≤35% women) enhanced through 10 crop tree nurseries (including mango, pawpaw and orange) established in year1 produce 20,000 agroforestry seedlings planted by end of year 3 **[DI-D11]**	*Indicator 2.4*. Livelihoods enhancement for 500 households (3000 people (≤35% women) through climate adaptation was partially achieved through 2 crop tree nurseries (including mango, pawpaw, orange, tamarind) established in year1 producing 13,000 seedlings to be planted in farms in Year2 through by end of year 3. Evidence is provided in section 4.1 of the report and Annex 31-018_3.	We will support least 500 households ((≤35% women) of CFAs and SSGs in Mutitu and Mumoni to produce 10,000 additional fruit trees planting 20,000 in their farms promoting climate adaptation and resilience
Output indicator 2.5. At least 500 people (≤35% being women) from 2 CFAs, 2SSGs trained on aided natural regeneration by end of year1 are restoring through seed collection and sowing over an area of 500 Ha (includes grazing areas) by end of year3 **[DI-A01]**	*Indicator 2.5*. Targeting at least 500 people (≤35% women) on aided natural regeneration by end of year1, we trained 44 people (43% women) from 2 CFAs, 2SSGs in Mutitu and Mumoni who collected seeds and wildings supporting nursery establishment; evidence provided in section 4.1 of the report and Annex Annex 31-018_22. The trained will support restoration through seed collection and sowing over an area of 500 Ha (includes grazing areas) by end of year3	We train 460 people (≤35% being women) on aided natural regeneration who will support restoration through seed collection and sawing in 500Ha through Year 3
Output indicator 2.6 Change detection GIS maps indicate tree cover in and around Mumoni and Mutitu forests remains stable by end of year 3 compared GIS baseline at end of year1 **[DI -D01]**	*Indicator 2.6* Baseline land cover change maps for Mutitu and Mumoni forests and associated buffer area were developed using GIS techniques. Evidence provided in section 4.1 of the report and Annex 31-018_11.	We will facilitate an expert to apply GIS techniques to determine landscape tree cover (indigenous and crop) end of project and calculate tree cover change
Output indicator 2.7. Annual Bird surveys (for forest specialists/generalists) in pristine and restored habitats carried out in Mutitu and Mumoni by 100 trained members (from 2 CFAs and 2 SSGs, at least 35% women) in year1 show bird populations remain stable by end of year3 **[DI -A04], [DI-C16], [DI-A01]**	*Indicator 2.7*. Supported by National Museums of Kenya, we trained 44 (43% women) CFA and SSG members in Mutitu and Mumoni on bird survey techniques; they participated in detailed bird surveys setting birds populations baseline in year 1. Evidence provided in section 4.1 of the report and Annex Annex 31-018_4; Annex 31-018_5.	We will facilitate annual bird surveys (for forest specialists/generalists) in pristine and restored habitats in Mutitu and Mumoni by 100 trained members (from 2 CFAs and 2 SSGs, at least 35% women) showing status of birds' populations compared to baseline in year 1
Output 3. Livelihoods of local communities are enhanced through climate resilience initiatives including agro-forestry, climate smart agriculture (area-matched and improved seeds: green grams, cowpeas, sorghum, millet; bee keeping, hay production etc.)		
Output indicator 3.1 By end of year 1, c.150 households (c.900 people: 52%F;42%M) supported have 100Ha seeded with grass pasture and nitrogen fixing fodder for production of hay **[DI-D11]**	*Indicator 3.1* By end of year 1, 134 households (804 people: 70%F, 30%) were supported with 500Kgs of grass seeds aimed at seeding 150Ha for pasture development; Evidence provided in section 4.1 and Appendix 31-018_18.	We will facilitate local agriculture extensionists to support farmers in grass pasture development with 150ha
Output indicator 3.2 Adoption of energy cooking stoves by 1500 households (9000 people especially from poor women-headed households) by end of year1 reduce their fuel wood consumption by 30%	*Indicator 3.2* Residents dwelling adjacent Mumoni forest were provided with ceramic jiko liners benefiting 1000 households (c.6000 people majority being from poor women-headed households). This	We will give energy saving jiko liners to 500 households (c.3000 people especially poor women-led

based on comparison of baseline and end of project survey on adoption of energy-saving cook stoves **[DI-D18]**	investment aims to reduce fuel wood consumption the forest through reduced firewood consumption by 30% based on baseline; we adopted a survey report by Nature Kenya on firewood consumption and cooking technologies used by households in Kitui County as baseline in Year 1. Evidence is provided in section 4.1 of the report and Annex 31-018_20; Annex 31-018_19.	households) in Mutitu. We will carry out surveys in Mutitu and Mumoni to assess adoption of the liners and their contribution towards reduction in household fuel wood compared with baseline.
Output indicator 3.3 By end of year3, 200 bee hives increase income of 200 households (c.1200 equal men and women) of forest dependent/adjacent households (£12,800/year (80% colonization) or total of £38,400 in Year3) **[DI-D16]**	*Indicator 3.3* achieved through engagement of a private investor providing market linkages and capacity of local communities on beekeeping resulting into signing of Agreement. Out of 200 households target, 70 in Mutitu adopted bee keeping receiving 100modern Langstroth hives. This investment is expected generate annually £6400 income for beneficiaries (c.420 people; 70% women). Evidence provided in section 4.1 of the report and Annex 31-018_16; Annex 31-018_17.	We will facilitate community groups in Mutitu and Mumoni and the private investor strengthening bee keeping enterprise for increased household income. We will provide 100modern Langstroth bee hives to community groups in Mumoni benefitting 100 households (c.600 people equal men and women)
Output indicator 3.4 Livelihood assessments completed in Mutitu and Mumoni start of year 1 and end of year 3 show change of 10% household income **[DI-B10]**	*Indicator 3.4* progressed, Consultants from KEFRI conducted social-economic surveys collecting data to determine livelihoods in Mutitu and Mumoni. Data generated from the survey forms baseline at year 1 compared with year 3 results to demonstrate 10% increase in household income.	Complete data analysis and social-ecological report for Mutitu and Mumoni determining livelihoods baseline
Output 4. Lessons learned and best practices are documented and disseminated locally, nationally and globally.		
Output indicator 4.1 Newspaper articles,6 radio broadcast, 2television features,6 Nature Net articles by end of year 3 **[DI-C15]; [DI-C19]**	To progress this indicator, an article (see 31-018_Annex 27) was submitted for publication in the 2024 Kenya Birding Magazine – under publication which is disseminated nationally and globally (*Indicator 4.1*.).	We facilitate the community groups in Mutitu and Mumoni to broadcast through Newspapers, at least 6 radio talks, 2 television features, and at least 6 Nature Net articles by end of year 3
Output indicator 4.2 Findings and recommendations from the project are shared with ministry of environment and natural resources Kitui County and all other relevant bodies at least annually throughout the project.	In an Annual Site Support Group workshop convened in September 2024 (see Annex 31-018_21 for reference – SSG workshop), key lessons on Landscape Restoration for Biodiversity and People were disseminated (*Indicator 4.2*.)	Document and findings plans

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: Mutitu and Mumoni Hill Forests are sustainably managed, provide critical services of nature and support climate resilient livelihoods of local communities strengthening local action for conservation of biodiversity			
Outcome: Mutitu and Mumoni Hill forests are managed under inclusive policy, enhanced capacity, degraded areas restored for sustaining full functions of nature to support biodiversity and community livelihoods	0.1 County forest conservation and management policy regulations are strengthening inclusive forestry governance by end of year 3 **[DI-B12]** 0.2 Mutitu and Mumoni local Community Groups (CFAs, SSGs) capacity strengthened and actively involved in the forest conservation and management throughout years 1-3. **[DI-B05]** 0.3 Land cover assessments show 320Ha of degraded Mutitu and Mumoni regenerating by end of year 3 compared with KFS data at the start of year 1. **[DI-D12]** 0.4 Annual biodiversity surveys show populations of bird species (indicators of biodiversity) remain stable in areas where forest habitat is being better managed (13,000Ha) or restored (500Ha) by the project **[DI-D04]** 0.5. Livelihoods of c.1500 households (c.9,000 people) is improved by 20% through innovative interventions: tree nurseries crop trees (20,000 seedlings) and indigenous (200,000 seedlings), grass pasture (100Ha), improved cook stove technology and production capacity (2000 stoves). **[DI-A10] [DI-D11]** 0.6 By end of the project 200 bee hives increase the income of 200 households (c.1200 people) of forest dependent adjacent community (£18,000/year or	0.1 Number of policies developed/strengthened and evidence of implementation efforts 0.2 Training reports/participant lists by gender; Partnership agreements between County government, Kenya Forest Service (KFS), and CFAs, and other stakeholders are signed; 0.3 Reports on findings from landcover assessment at start and end of project, including maps and photographs 0.4 Reports on findings from biodiversity surveys 0.5 Reports on findings from livelihood assessments at the start and end of the project (considering that most tree-based benefits will accrue post project as the trees productivity will increase as they grow). 0.6 Reports on findings from livelihoods assessments at the start and end of the	Process of devolving forestry functions from National to County government has been completed and policy formulation is vested in the County government. The County Government (CG) of Kitui signed the TIP prepared jointly with KFS. The CG is obligated to implement the National Forest Landscape Restoration Action plan, and the presidential order to restore 10.2 million Ha by planting 15 billion trees Participatory management plans are developed and inclusive implementation guidelines formed. National campaigns for tree planting and ecosystems restoration have catalyzed participatory protection of forests by county and national governments in partnership with local community (CFAs and water resource user's association (WRUAs). We assume that the situation will remain favorable for these partnerships plus interests of the private sector to continue the restoration interest. Trained CFA and SSG members carry out the surveys routinely Most livelihood activities in Kitui are rain-fed, lack of enough rainfall affects agricultural productivity and nature-

	total of £48,000) by end of the project **[DI-D16]**	project	based ventures (honey production and tree nurseries). We assume that drought does not prevent the delivery of project outputs from leading to the outcome. With more capacity building and support, they will be better prepared to mitigate threats.
Output 1: County forestry policy regulations strengthen inclusive forest governance and empower local people (CFAs, SSGs) to enhance their engagement in safeguarding Mutitu and Mumoni forests in the longer term	1.1 Mutitu/Mumoni forests' ecosystem services assessment completed by end of year1 and used to inform development of Kitui County Forest policy/laws/regulations by end of year2 and their implementation through to year3. [**DI-D08]** 1.2 Participatory Forest Management Plans for Mutitu and Mumoni CFAs completed by end of year 1 and are being implemented through to end of year3 **[DI-B01]** 1.3 Capacity Building on forest protection for Mutitu and Mumoni CFAs and SSGs completed by end of year 1 **[DI-A04]**	1.1 Progress reports; Ecosystem services assessment report; draft Kitui County Forest Conservation and Management policies 1.2 Participant lists by gender; Participatory Forest Management Plans for Mutitu and Mumoni CFAs and their implementation frameworks 1.3 Records of training sessions (e.g. number of people trained, and photos) disaggregated by gender	Local communities and county government remain supportive of forest protection and continue their commitment to delivering the participatory forest management plans (PFMPs). Kitui County government commits to its duty on participatory forest protection The restrictive COVID-19 threats will have declined to low levels to significantly affect delivering the output
Output 2: Kitui County Government, CFAs and SSGs have capacity, restoring and safeguarding Mutitu and Mumoni forest ecosystems	2.1 Trained Kitui County Government officials (12 on development/adoption of forest policies; 10 on participatory policy implementation) by end of year2 adopt policies and are implementing forest policies by end of year3 **[DI-A01]** 2.2 At least 100 people (≤35% women) from 2 CFAs, 2 SSGs trained on nursery management (indigenous/crop trees, and seed collection) and forest/catchment restoration by end of year1 and are actively restoring degraded areas by end of year3 **[DI-A01]**	2.1 Records of training (e.g participants lists, photographs, reports) by gender; and records of meetings discussing and recommending policies for adoption (with participant lists) by gender 2.2 Records of training sessions, including lists of trainees specifying their gender, age, and community group and number of trained people engaging in landscape restoration	KFS continues to be supportive and working with County Government towards attaining the goals of Transition Implementation Programmes (TIPs) including law enforcement supporting sustainability of community participation in forest management. This is core to KFS work and progressively KFS should make its work as it is a legal obligation in forest law in Kenya. Local communities and the county government remain supportive of forest restoration

	2.3 100,000 indigenous trees planted by CFAs/SSGs by end of year 3 as a result of 10 indigenous tree nurseries established by end of year 1 **[DI-A01]** 2.4 Climate adapted livelihoods of 500 households (3000 people (≤35% women) enhanced through 10 crop tree nurseries (including mango, pawpaw and orange) established in year1 produce 20,000 agroforestry seedlings planted by end of year 3 **[DI-D11]** 2.5 At least 500 people (≤35% being women) from 2 CFAs, 2SSGs trained on aided natural regeneration by end of year1 are restoring through seed collection and sowing over an area of 500 Ha (includes grazing areas) by end of year3 **[DI-A01]** **2.6** Change detection GIS maps indicate tree cover in and around Mumoni and Mutitu forests remains stable by end of year 3 compared GIS baseline at end of year1 **[DI -D01]** **2.7** Annual Bird surveys (for forest specialists/generalists) in pristine and restored habitats carried out in Mutitu and Mumoni by 100 trained members (from 2 CFAs and 2 SSGs, at least 35% women) in year1 show bird populations remain stable by end of year3 **[DI -A04], [DI-C16], [DI-A01]**	2.3 Nursery inventory/reports on tree planting and photographs 2.4 Nursery inventory, photographs of tree nurseries and progress reports 2.5 Records of community groups' training sessions including lists of trainees specifying their gender, age, and community group 2.6 GIS land cover maps, forest disturbance assessment reports for Mutitu and Mumoni 2.7 Bird monitoring training records (List of participants, photographs); and bird survey reports and data for World KBAs Database	Weather conditions will be favorable for nursery establishment to progress The engagement of the local champions (CFAs, SSGs) enhances their capability to work locally
Output 3: Livelihoods of local communities are enhanced through climate resilience initiatives including agro-forestry, climate smart agriculture (area-matched and improved seeds: green grams, cowpeas, sorghum, millet; bee keeping, hay production etc.)	3.1 By end of year 1, c.150 households (c.900 people: 52%F;42%M) supported have 100Ha seeded with grass pasture and nitrogen fixing fodder for production of hay **[DI-D11]** 3.2 Adoption of energy cooking stoves	3.1 Nursery and seedbank area (and KGs of grass broadcast), records including photographs, progress reports disaggregated by gender 3.2 Survey reports on adoption of	Extreme weather events such as drought do not significantly impact agro-forestry activities or the utility of water tanks Local communities and the county

	by 1500 households (9000 people especially from poor women-headed households) by end of year1 reduce their fuel wood consumption by 30% based on comparison of baseline and end of project survey on adoption of energy-saving cook stoves **[DI-D18]** **3.3** By end of year3, 200 bee hives increase income of 200 households (c.1200 equal men and women) of forest dependent/adjacent households (£12,800/year (80% colonization) or total of £38,400 in Year3) **[DI-D16]** **3.4** Livelihood assessments completed in Mutitu and Mumoni start of year 1 and end of year 3 show change of 10% household income **[DI-B10]**	energy-saving cooking stoves by households and schools and fuel wood reduction/carbon saving baseline and end **3.3** Report of uptake and benefits from bee keeping, Scorecard **3.4** Reports of livelihood assessments	government remain supportive of forest conservation and management initiatives Extreme weather events, such as drought do not significantly impact climate smart activities and the local community adopt the techniques Key assumption on beekeeping is that locust invasion and massive spraying which affected bees will not occur during the project period
Output 4: Lessons learned and best practices are documented and disseminated locally, nationally and globally.	**4.1** Newspaper articles,6 radio broadcast, 2television features,6 Nature Net articles by end of year 3 **[DI-C15]; [DI-C19]** **4.2** Findings and recommendations from the project are shared with ministry of environment and natural resources Kitui County and all other relevant bodies at least annually throughout the project. **4.3** All the project findings and recommendations will be available online through appropriate national, regional and global databases including nature Kenya website. **[DI-C19]**	**4.1** Copies of all publications and, data and recordings of radio and television broadcasts **4.2** Reports shared with Kitui County Government, records of progress and lesson sharing **4.3** Reports shared with government, uploaded onto Nature Kenya website for open access	The project will be implemented successfully to generate data, experiences and lessons to be shared

Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

Output 1: County forestry policy regulations strengthen inclusive forest governance and empower local people (CFAs, SSGs) to enhance their engagement in safeguarding Mutitu and Mumoni forests in the longer term

1.1 Facilitate support for Nature Kenya in the Ecosystem Services Assessment using the Toolkit for Ecosystem Services Site-based Assessment in Mutitu and Mumoni
1.2 Convene a start-up workshop to agree on methods and provide training on protocols for the Ecosystem Service Assessment for Mutitu and Mumoni Hill Forests
1.3 Carry out relevant consultations to assess ecosystem services (e.g discussions about utilization of land, plants, water and other natural resources in Mutitu and Mumoni)
1.4 Conduct the field work required to assess the ecosystem services provided by Mutitu and Mumoni Hill Forests
1.5 Compile the findings into a detailed report on ecosystem services for Mutitu and Mumoni

1.6 Facilitate preparation of a draft Forest Policy to serve as working document
1.7 Carry out consultations needed to ensure public participation and readiness for approval for the county forest policy by the members of the county assembly
1.8 Facilitate preparation of a draft of County Forest Act to serve as working document
1.9 Carry out consultations needed to ensure public participation and readiness for approval for the county forest Act by the members of the county assembly
1.10 Facilitate preparation of a draft forest and sub-catchment regulations to serve as working document
1.11 Carry out consultations needed to ensure public participation and readiness for approval for the county forest and sub-catchment regulations by the members of the county assembly
1.13 Organize consultations to support Nature Kenya in facilitating and writing PFMP for Mutitu and Mumoni
1.13 Carry out the fieldwork and mapping required for the management plan (e.g. landcover, and extent of forest reserves)
1.14 Carry out participatory consultations required to develop and validate the management plan (e.g discussions on utilization of forest and forest products)
1.15 Support CFAs to engage KFS to sign PFMP and County Government to give them space in forest management and provide input in decision-making processes 1.16 Carry out organizational capacity assessment of 2 CFAs and 2 SSGs and produce capacity enhancement plans
1.17 Carry out two-day joint (KFS, NK, County Government) site-level trainings for the CFAs and SSGs on forest conservation, management and protection and develop terms of reference for community scouts
1.18 Develop and provide training materials and equipment for the community scouts through the CFAs

Output 2. Kitui County Government, CFAs and SSGs have capacity and safeguard Mutitu and Mumoni forest ecosystems

2.1 Organise training seminars/workshops for government officials/county assembly members/committee members and train them on participatory forest policy/management and implementation
2.2 Organise training seminars/workshops and train community members (2CFAs and 2SSGs) on tree nursery establishment, forest land and sub-catchment restoration
2.3 Support establishment of 10 indigenous/crop trees nurseries in year 1 to produce at least 100,000 indigenous seedlings and 20,000 fruit trees in Mutitu and Mumoni
2.4 Facilitate a GIS expert to determine landscape tree cover (indigenous and crop) at start and end of project and calculate tree cover change
2.5 Carry out site-level training on job for 40 CFA and SSG members on rapid forest disturbance assessments
2.6 Develop a forest disturbance forest assessment protocol and data collection tool for Mutitu and Mumoni
2.7 Support by NMK, train 50 members of 2CFAs and 2SSGs on bird survey techniques and use of basic bird survey equipment (binoculars, guidebooks, GPS)
2.8 Support CFA and SSG to conduct bird surveys twice yearly in Mutitu and Mumoni years 1, 2, and 3
2.9 Support the NMK/NK ornithologists to carryout surveys of forest specialists and generalists and calculate population indices at start and project end

Output 3. Livelihoods of local communities are enhanced through climate resilience initiatives including agro-forestry, climate smart agriculture (area-matched and improved seeds: green grams, cowpeas, sorghum, millet; livestock: improved goat breeds etc.; and nature-based diversification ventures (bee keeping, hay production etc.)

3.1 Carry out social-economic assessments of livelihoods (clearly listing beneficiaries by gender) at start and end of the project
3.2 Train CFAs/SSGs and other CBOs and community members in i) climate adapted farming techniques (these may include, area matched improved sorghum, millet, green grams, cowpeas etc); ii) pasture management; iii) fruit tree nurseries and husbandry
3.3 Provide investment support for: i) crop trees; beehives (apiary establishment and management, honey and honey-based product marketing); pasture; energy saving stoves/liners;
3.4 Produce business plans, value chain analysis for livelihoods products and train business owners in entrepreneurship
3.5 Facilitate meetings by the community groups (CFAs, SSGs) to develop a criterion for selecting beneficiaries of crop trees
3.6 Facilitate CFAs/SSGs/CBOs community members to plant crop trees (20,000 fruit trees for business/livelihoods)
3.7 Conduct an assessment on fuelwood use based on a representative sample and make recommendations for application in schools and households
3.8 Develop criteria and agree on beneficiaries of energy saving stoves (households and schools)
3.9 Train 50 members of 2CFA and 2SSGs on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) techniques (supported by climate change unit Ministry of Agriculture)
3.10 Develop criteria for selecting beneficiaries for: i) adoption of climate smart agriculture techniques; ii) beehives (c. 200 Households of c.1200 people)

Output 4. Lessons learned and best practices are documented and disseminated locally, nationally and globally.

4.1 Mainstream forest landscape restoration and climate smart agriculture into routine fundraising effort of Nature Kenya

4.2 Document lessons and share within the 2CFAs and 2SSGs and outside within/among more than 1000 Nature Kenya members 4.3 Share lessons and experiences through memoranda of the CFAs and SSGs to Kitui County ministry of environment and natural resources to mainstream forest landscape restoration into county integrated development plans and annual budgets 4.4 The SSGs to share lessons with 24 others from 23 sites during annual SSG forum convened by Nature Kenya 4.5 Publicize lessons in global environmental important days with national or county government and others (including Birdlife International Congress, Council of Africa Partnership, IUCN Congress, CBD Convention of Parties and others) 4.6 Avail online all project findings and recommendations through relevant national, regional, and global databases including Nature Kenya website 4.7 Broadcast through Newspapers, at least 6 radio talks, 2 television features, and at least 6 Nature Net articles by end of year 3

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?	
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.	
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.	
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.	
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see Section 16)?	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	