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	31-019
Project title	*Sustainable Shea: supporting communities, ecosystems restoration, and livelihoods in Gambella* project
Country/ies	Ethiopia
Lead Organisation	Tree Aid
Project partner(s)	N/A
Darwin Initiative grant value	£399,379
Start/end dates of project	01/09/2024 to 31/08/2027
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024 – Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	Sep 2024 – Mar 2025 (Annual Report #1)
Project Leader name	Cheru Tessema
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.treeaid.org/projects/ethiopia/sustainable-shea/
Report author(s) and date	Cheru Tessema and Fazal Mabood 30/04/2025

Project summary

Increasing levels of encroachment and uncontrolled and unplanned expansion of croplands has caused serious destruction on local biodiversity resources in Ethiopia. The Gambella region, in the west of the country, is endowed with huge biodiversity, some of which is unique and endemic to that area. The largest national park, the Gambella National Park (GNP), having an estimated area of 50,600 hectares is found in the region. Originally, the park was created for protection of extensive swamp habitat and its wildlife.

The park area is home to the Nuer and the Anuak people and is one of the most bio-diverse, unique and lesser-known wilderness areas. Above half a million White-eared kob & elephants seasonally migrate between South Sudan and Ethiopia, one of the largest mammal migrations in the world next to the great wild beast migration in East Africa.

Reviewed documents and discussions had with the local community indicated that expanding commercial agricultural in the area is destroying the forest in the locality, which is the critical resource for them in terms of food, fodder, energy, medicine, etc.

By virtue of its fertile soil, substantial water resources, and sparse population, Gambella has been targeted as one of the focal regions for agricultural expansion. Degradation and forest destruction combined with wildfires are the major causes of the loss of plant biodiversity in the region. It is

also causing destruction of animal habitats. Felling trees to clear land for commercial agriculture is the major causes of deforestation in the region. Unless regulatory measures to control such large-scale tree-cutting is adopted soon, the practice of open clearing will highly affect the environment and create changes in ecosystem functions of the area.

There are around 107 fish and 327 bird species in the park. The threatened Shoebill (*Balaeniceps rex*) and Basra Reed Warbler (Acrocephalus griseldis) in the IUCN red-list have been recorded here since the 1960s. Gambella's waterways contain the highest diversity of fish in Ethiopia and the region offers a powerful opportunity to capitalize on its natural collateral with commercial farming, fisheries, protected areas, ecotourism, and community conservation zones
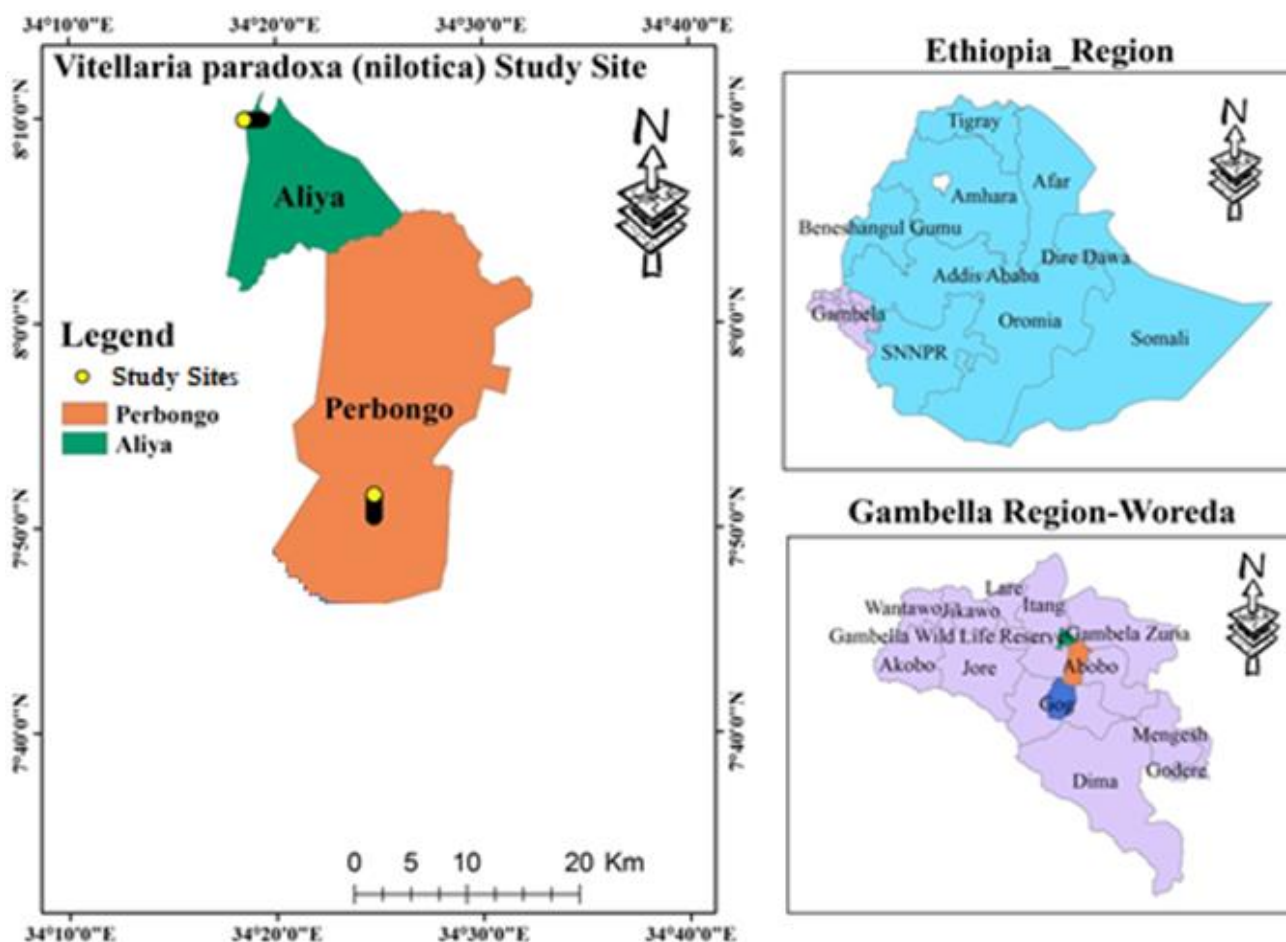
Vegetation in the Gambella Region has affinity to two phyto-geographical regions - the Sudanian and the Guineo-Congolian, which make the area very rich in terms of biodiversity. In the dry season, the vegetation is susceptible to fire. Riverine forests (*Tamarindus indica*, *Terminalia*) are also parts of the park flora and found along the Baro, Alwero and Gilo Rivers and their tributaries. Some 493 different plant species, of which 27 are limited to the park and its surrounding areas, are growing in the park. The Shea tree (*Vitellaria paradoxa subsp. nilotica*), which has enormous economic potential, is also growing. Ecotourism is a potential industry, which can bring significant and sustainable socio-economic development to the region and beyond. Magnificent scenery and abundant wildlife could attract tourists, and a profitable economic opportunity opened for the region and the whole country in the form of sustainable tourism enterprises. Apart from commercial agriculture and ecotourism, the Gambella Region also has the potential to support numerous other land uses, including fisheries and other forms of agriculture, shea butter production, game ranching, and community conservation areas.

Despite the huge potential of the forest areas, actions to conserve, sustainably manage and profit from the resources are very scant and majority of the people live in poverty.

The project aims to contribute to ecosystem conservation, restoration and improved living conditions through enhancing benefits from forest resources using sustainable management approach. The main expected results of the project are:

- Enable local communities to conserve 16,700 hectares of natural forest through strengthening/developing and practicing of sustainable forest management approaches and systems through development and implementation of forest management plan
- Rehabilitate 3,000ha degraded areas in the forest through enrichment planting, assisted natural regeneration (ANR), and enclosure management
- Raise 227,000 indigenous trees (87,000 through ANR and 140,000 by planting) focusing on Shea, *Tamarindus indica*, *Terminalia spp.*, *Ziziphus spp.*, *Balanites spp.*, and *Combretum spp.*
- Establish and make functional 4 Participatory Forest Management Committees (PFMCs) having 320 members through training, awareness and provision of productive inputs
- Work with 300 vulnerable local community members towards improving their household income through training on market analysis and development (MA&D) and use of technologies to produce high quality shea butter.
- Work with local actors to strengthen a regional multi-actor platform to advocate on biodiversity conservation and ensure the sustainable management of natural forests and the quality of NTFPs

The project is located in two districts, Abobo and Itang Special Woreda, both located in the Agnua Zone of Gambella regional state of Ethiopia. Within these woredas, the initiative focuses on four kebeles: Terkudi and Perbongo (Abobo Woreda) and Elia and Ebago (Itang Special Woreda). Through this project, Tree Aid aims to strengthen community resilience, restore ecosystems, and create sustainable livelihood opportunities for local populations.

Project stakeholders/ partners

Although the project does not have implementing partners and is implemented directly by Tree Aid using its field office, other key stakeholders pay a collaborative joint review & monitoring role. The project agreement is signed with the regional finance bureau after its review by the bureau of agriculture. Key stakeholders that have interest and influence on the project include: Gambella National Park, Gambella university, regional bureau of environment, private commercial farms, research organisations, Tree Aid has signed an MoU with Gambella People's National Regional State Bureau of Finance (BoF) and Bureau of Agriculture and Natural Resource Development (BoANRD) where both the bureaus have agreed to extend their assistance and cooperation for the smooth implementation of the project interventions and play an active role in monitoring the progress and impact of the project in the interest of their communities in Gambella.

Project progress

1.1   Progress in carrying out project Activities

Staff hiring and induction:

Tree Aid established its regional office in September 2024 in Gambella town to effectively run and manage the project activities and progress against the set objectives. Tree Aid has recruited a project coordinator and two community facilitators to develop close working relationship with the local target communities and build good working coordination with the local authorities and government departments to ensure smooth and seamless implementation of the project activities. There are other supporting staff including one finance assistant, one office attendant, and two office guards, to facilitate finances and office security. All the project staff were inducted to the project and Tree Aid policies.

Project introduction and launch activities:

Project approved and signed by local government

After being reviewed by relevant Government Bureaus, the final project agreement was signed with the local government. Tree Aid also conducted a launch workshop in November 6, 2024, attended by 25 people of which 4 were women to introduce and explain objectives, approaches and expected results of the project to key local stakeholders. Representatives appreciated the initiative being a pioneer and a breakthrough in aiming to work with the local community to involve them in managing their resources.

Figure 1: Project Launch workshop in Nov 2024.

Sustainable Shea project introduction for local community

The induction of the Sustainable Shea Project EC7 (Supporting Communities, Ecosystems Restoration and Livelihoods Opportunities in Gambella Regional State) was delivered in all project intervention kebeles. The shea tree resource base and distribution, challenges linked to shea tree management, the purpose and objectives of the project, and the target intervention area were the main topics of discussions. During the discussion, the local community was thrilled with the introduction of the project, and understood what the project would do, and what their role and responsibility would be. They recommend immediate implementation to support the processing and marketing of Shea products; active monitoring and supervision as well as intensive engagement during the implementation of activities.

Beneficiary Identification and participatory resource mapping

During this reporting period a total, 320 community members were identified to be part of the forest managment groups. Most of them - 260 (81%) - are women while 19% are men. This identification is based on the list of beneficiaries recorded in the government offices in the local authorities. The project will also target an additional 125 direct beneficiaries who will benefit from other interventions including training, labour work and the collection of shea fruits and nuts. Therefore, the total direct beneficiaries may reach to 445.

Target Kebeles	Beneficiaries	Men	Women
Elia	80	10	70
TERKUDI	80	20	60
EBAGO	80	10	70
PERPENGO	80	20	60
Total	320	60	260

Figure 2: Participatory Community Resource mapping event.

Using a participatory resources and boundary mapping exercise, local communities identified their respective forest areas and discussed patches of areas where the degradation is higher than others. A perimeter survey of these patches still needs to be done to further identify these degraded lands. We used a participatory rural appraisal approach that enabled all members of the community, including children, elders, and women, to actively participate and contribute.

Activity 0.1 – Capital items procurement:

Tree Aid has purchased all the required items and equipment including overhead projector, printer, mobile phones for data collection, computers, office furniture, and motorbikes to ensure the project activities is implemented and the staff have the access to the communities they needed.

Activity 1.1 – Identification and mapping of areas of intervention:

This project is being implemented in two woredas (Districts): Abobo and Itang Special Woreda. Within these woredas, the initiative focuses on four kebeles (villages): Terkudi and Perbongo (Abobo Woreda) and Elia and Ebago (Itang Special Woreda). After being trained on the perimeter/land restoration survey tool, 8 people (including project staff and data collectors from government offices) conducted the land identification and demarcation field work and 15411 hectares of land was demarcated as project intervention area. Details of the Kebeles and the land in hectares for each Kebele is mentioned in the map below and a further detailed report on the process and management of the perimeter survey is attached to this report as an annex (See Annex A). The project will be focusing on this area of land for its plantation, land management, and restoration activities.
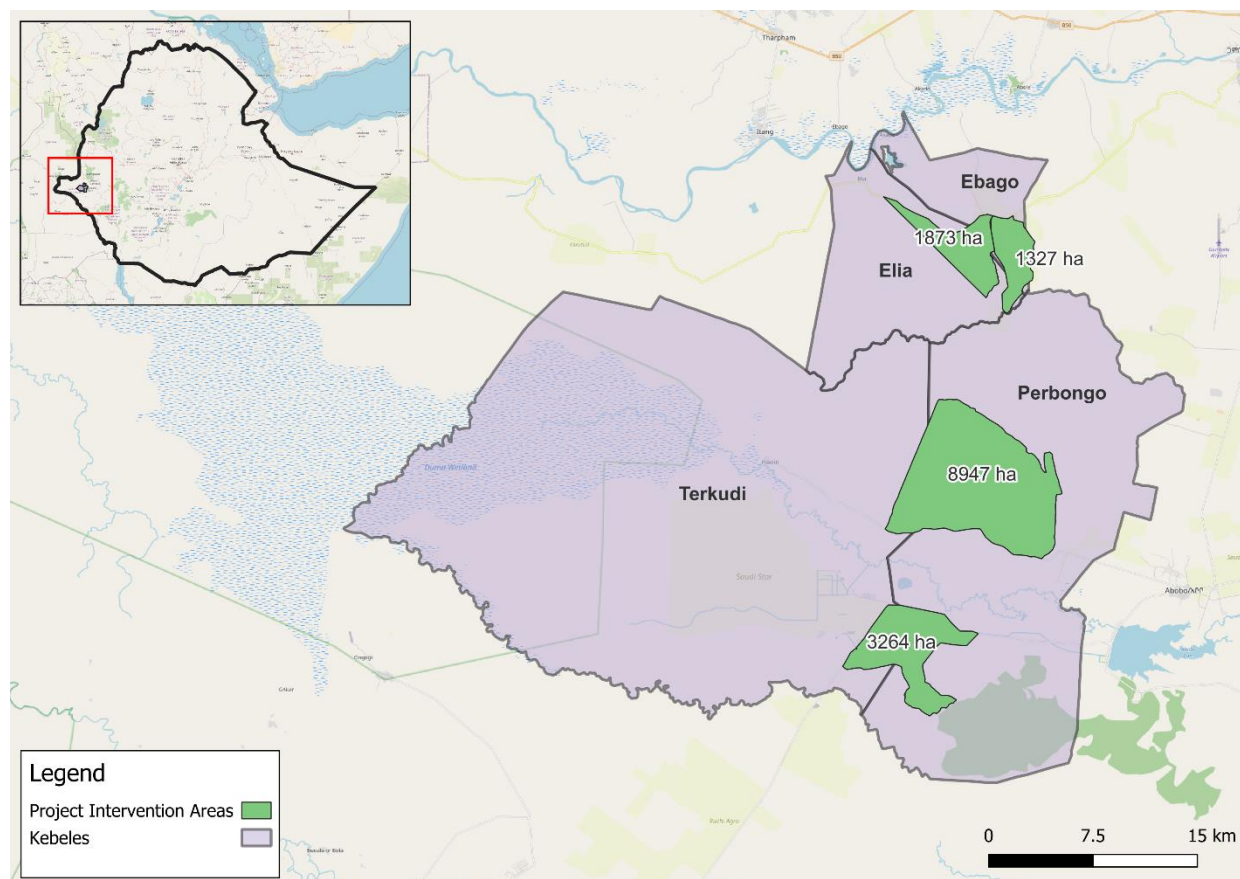

Figure 3: Identified project's 4 Kebeles and the project covered area polygons in green.

Activity 1.2 - Conduct resource assessment and inventory on 16,700 hectares of forestland
As part of project induction and beneficiary identification process, we facilitated a participatory resource mapping with local community using participatory the rural appraisal methodology. Elders, women, and youth, were involved and contributed to identifying the location, size, and status of natural resources in the respective locality.

Figure 4: Community Resource mapping event

Activity 1.6 - Community awareness on biodiversity conservation and gender equality for 1020 people:
The Tree Aid Ethiopia Gambella field office organized awareness raising events across the four intervention Kebeles by inviting 445 Households (HH) from local communities (111 HH for each Kebele) to educate community members on biodiversity and its crucial services. The awareness events focused on discussing concepts of biodiversity and its significance to agriculture, and local economies, impacts of biodiversity loss and its contribution to climate change, benefits of maintaining biodiversity to improve forest-based commodity and agricultural productivity and help communities adapt to climate change.

These awareness sessions on biodiversity and gender equality were conducted in all four project intervention Kebeles and members from 445 households participated. The majority (nearly 80%) of the participants were women. The awareness events were focused on:
- The concepts of biodiversity and its significance to agriculture, and local economies.
- The impacts of biodiversity loss and its connection to climate change.
- How maintaining biodiversity can improve forest-based commodity and agricultural productivity and help communities adapt to climate change
- Gender equality and inclusion during the implementation of the project
- Main purpose and objectives of the project was introduced to local community

Table 1: Participants of the biodiversity and gender equality awareness sessions

| No | Kebele | Local community Participant | | Total for each Kebele |
		Female	Male	
1	Terkudi	92	20	112
2	Perpengo	90	21	111
3	Ebago	95	16	111
4	Elia	88	23	111
Grand Total		**365**	**80**	**445**

Figure 5: Community session on biodiversity and gender equality awareness.

Activity 2.1 - Identification and mapping of 3,000 hectare of highly degraded forest area:
This activity will be accomplished early next year as access to more remote parts of the forest was difficult due to tall grass, which impedes movement and ground level observation.

Activity 2.2 - Assist nursery groups to establish 2 tree nursery sites:
Two nursey groups composed of 60 youths of which 48 female have been identified and organised. All members attended kebele-level training on nursery establishment and management. The training, conducted by experts from the Agriculture and Natural Resource Development Office, focused on seedbed preparation, watering schedules, pest control, and sustainable nursery operations. Moreover, a comprehensive package of tools and equipment was procured and distributed to support the two nursery groups. These include wheelbarrows, hoes, spades, sickles, polyethylene tubes, water cans, and other essential nursery tools.

S/N	Equipment Name	Unit	Quantity	Condition
1	Wheel Barrow	No	4	New
2	Pick axe	No	8	New
3	Flat Hoe	No	8	New
4	Spade	No	8	New
5	Fork Hoe	No	8	New
6	Rake	No	8	New
7	Water Cane	No	4	New
8	Meter tape(50m)	Meter	4	New
9	Rope(50m)	Meter	2	New
10	Sickle	No	6	New
11	Saw	No	4	New
12	Hammar	No	4	New
13	Macheta	No	6	New
14	Polyethentube (10 diameter, white)	Kg	200	New
15	Polyethentube (10 diameter, black)	Kg	100	New
16	Polyethentube (12 diameter, black)	Kg	200	New
17	Wire	Meter	6	New

Figure 6: delivery of equipment

Activity 3.1 - Identify VTE members and organise 8 shea VTEs and 2 tree seedling producing groups:

A total of 10 VTE groups are established. Each group has 32 members, totalling to 320 beneficiaries (currently identified beneficiaries are 318). 8 groups are Shea nuts and butter processing groups, and the remaining two groups are tree seedling producing groups. Our log-frame target is 300 (for VTE groups) which means we have exceeded in achieving this target. The project is anticipating a further increase in the reach of direct beneficiaries, as due to the long distance of Shea forests from the communities there is need of people who will be benefiting from the project during collection of Shea nuts utilising their donkeys/mules or other transporting means and some will be benefiting from working in the nurseries.

Activity 3.2 - ToT on MA&D for 20 project staff and local government experts:

Fifteen government and project staff attended a practical Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) ToT training. Particants were from project and relevant government offices including Cooperative office: 2 - Environment office:1 - Agriculture office:1 - Women affair office: 2 - Micro and small enterprise office: 2 - Extension agents working in project kebeles

M&E Activities:

M&E 1: Project launch with stakeholders:

The project launch workshop was held on the 6th of November 2024. Heads of regional government offices, representatives from academia, research institutions, district and zonal administrative offices, TA Ethiopia and UK staff, were among the participants of the launching workshop. A total 25 people attended including 4 women.

All the participants appreciated the initiative taken by Tree Aid funded by Darwin Initiative to save the precious forest resources of the region and confirmed their readiness to support and follow up on effective implementation of the project.

In addition, joint project monitoring visits were conducted with stakeholders represented from the regional Bureau of Agriculture and Finance. The monitoring and supporting mission grouped in two team and visited the two project districts and discussed with target communities. The general impression of team members is that accomplishment in a short period is exemplary. We are waiting for their formal feedback. (please see Annex C for the Detailed ToRs for the supportive supervision of the project)

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The project team introduced the locations of the project and type of activities this project is aiming to implement and the objectives it anticipates to be achieving.

Figure 7: Project Launch

M&E 5: Project Baseline RHoMIS:
We conducted baseline Rural Households Mult indicator survey using ODK. Totally 221 beneficiaries participated in the survey. Data already analysed and result is uploaded on tree Aid Dashboard using AKUKO. A PDF file of these results are attached as an annex to this report (Annex B). These findings of the survey will be used as a baseline for the project.
Following is the summary of the results:
- 221 project beneficiaries participated in the survey.
- 47.51% of the participant households reported strong forest governance. While 16% reported that the forest governance is weak.
- The overall average annual income of each household reported is $331.40. Out of which $84.56 is reported to be coming from NTFPs, and the rest is either coming from crops, off-farm or livestock income.
- Considering the total value of activities, the survey inquired about the poverty level of the households. Around 91.40% of the households are living below the poverty line.
- The survey results also show that 94% of households are below 2500kcal per person per day in their daily consumption.
- The question about the household dietary diversity was divided into good season and bad season. Answers to this question, the households showed an average diversity of 6.28 on a scale of 0-12 in a good season, while in a bad season, the diversity opportunity remained at 3.53.
- Further asking about the proportion of the diet made up from non-Timber Forest products (NTFPs). The participating household reported an average of only 7.75%.

Other Activities:
Enhanced data gathering and M&E technical capacity
A joint TA-UK and Ethiopia team conducted an induction for field office staff and facilitated M&E training for government and project staff. A total 13 persons were trained including 2 women. The training included understanding and use of the data collection tools and devices. During a two day's session the participants learned how to conduct Tree Aid's perimeter/Land restoration survey and develop a polygon. They also learned how to prepare permanent monitoring plots for tree density and survival checks. The participants were also trained on data collection about the project beneficiaries' registration and listing. The training was supported by practical data gathering exercise in the forest.

Figure 8: training in collection of digital data to map sites

- Preliminary project orientation and introduction organised for project coordinator: a one-day meeting organized at Tree Aid Ethiopia office in Addis with project coordinator to introduce and orient him about the project. #

Share *project ideas*

We participated in a reception to discuss nature and biodiversity in Ethiopia organized by British Embassy in Addis Ababa. We used the opportunity to explain about the project for participants

1.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Strengthen the capacity of 4 communities to sustainably manage 16,700ha of forest land.

Identification and mapping of the intervention area and establishing 10 village tree enterprise groups is completed. These groups include 8 Shea enterprise groups and 2 nurseries development groups. These groups will be strengthened, and their capacity will be built over the course of the project. Currently, total identified direct beneficiaries are 318 including 254 women and 64 men (representing a household). The log-frame target is 320 PFMCs members however, there will be people outside PFMCs who will also be occasionally benefiting from the project including people working nurseries and supporting in Shea nuts collection and transportation from the forest to the communities, therefore we anticipate this number to increase. Community better aware on benefits of biodiversity and their key role in conserving and protection.

The project team has also conducted a perimeter survey to identify and demarcate the land cover that the project aims to restore. The survey team consisted of Tree Aid project staff, Woreda experts, Development Agents, and community members as guides. The total land that was demarcated was 15,411 hectares (see the table below). Data was collected through ODK forms applying geospatial demarcation using GPS coordinates. Details of the perimeter survey report is in Annex A.

Table 1: Total area of Intervention Kebele using GPS track

Intervention area		Total area (ha)	Remark
Itang Special Woreda	Elia	1,873	
	Ebago	1,327	
Abobo Woreda	Terkudi	3,264	
	Perbengo	8,947	
Total		**15,411**	

Output 2: Restore 3,000 ha of degraded forest land through tree planting and assisted natural regeneration (ANR)

The 3,000 ha of the highly degraded land will be further identified within this identified land area of the project where the project intervention will be focussed on more extensive plantation and the use of land management techniques to successfully recover and restore these degraded forest lands. One of the techniques that will be used are the permanent monitoring plots that will be conducted next year.

Output 3: Develop sustainable income generating activities through the development of the shea value chain

During this reporting period, the project has established 10 village tree enterprise (VTE) groups. Eight groups are established as Shea nuts and butter production groups and two are nurseries development groups. Project will facilitate all these groups to work in coordination and share their learning with each other. Project will further strengthen these groups with provision of different trainings on group dynamics, Shea butter processing and marketing and Shea trees protection and plantation.

A TOT on market analysis and development (MA&D) was conducted for 15 project and government staffs who will assist village tree enterprise groups in developing their businesses and preparing their own business plans.

Output 4: Influence and strengthen the regional, multi-actor platform to ensure the sustainable management of the natural forest to support the development of the shea value chain

The project is currently focussing to strengthen the groups and develop businesses at village level. Side by side the project will be working on establishing and strengthening two regional forums to support the smooth implementation of the Gambella Integrated Urban and Rural Land use plan and work to influence the relevant government departments and local communities ensure the enforcement of forest laws. The project will also support in documenting and printing of materials and guidelines to increase awareness about the plan and different forest laws among project beneficiaries and local communities. This work will be started in the next year.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

The project was successfully launched in a workshop conducted for the government officials at woreda and Kebele level as well as represented by community leadership. The project launching workshop was conducted in Gambella and was facilitated by Tree Aid Ethiopia and UK staff in November 2024. Total 25 persons (21 men and 4 women) participated from different regional bureaus and local authorities as well as community representatives from the target Kebeles.

13 government and project staff trained on M&E and data collection. Baseline survey on the socioeconomic, environmental, gender and disability condition of target households conducted using ODK. We used the Rural Households Multi indicator survey (RHoMIS) and data analysed and documented as baseline information for referencing changes against through the project

period. In addition, target forest areas identified and mapped using perimeter survey form. Moreover, a video document is organised on the traditional shea processing.

Tree Aid Ethiopia production _x264_001.*mp4*

1.3   Progress towards the project Outcome

Support community-led management for 16,700ha of protected forest and restoration of 3,000ha of land within the forest to drive ecosystem restoration, improve biodiversity, and develop sustainable livelihood opportunities using shea.

During the first two quarters of the project period, we focused on mapping, organizing and awareness of the target community. Actual field level activities that include restoration and production by the village level enterprises will be accomplished in the coming quarters. However, we have made progress towards setting the baseline for the total land to be targeted and restored by the project. The total land the project has identified and demarcated is 13,490ha. The project will use this a baseline and inside this land the project will also identify the highly degraded patches of land to be more focussed for the enrichment plantation.

For determining the progress on the biomass and biodiversity the project is planning to identify and demarcate permanent monitoring plots that will be closely observed and protected to check how the biomass and the biodiversity is increased due to the project intervention. There will be 4 Participatory Forest Management Cooperatives (PFMCs) that the project is going to establish and build their capacities on forest management, trees protection, and group dynamics. They will also develop their forest management plans (FMPs) that will be implemented, with initial active support and coordination by the project. Similarly, actual plantation will be carried out to contribute to the restoration of the target land.

1.4   Monitoring of assumptions

Outcome: *Support community-led management for 16,700ha of protected forest and restoration of 3,000ha of land within the forest to drive ecosystem restoration, improve biodiversity, and develop sustainable livelihood opportunities using shea.*

Assumption 1: Peace and political stability prevail
Remains valid: No political instability has reported in the region so far.
Assumption 2: Climate conditions do not disrupt activities
Remains valid: Though there has been floods in the region but the project team has reported that the location of the project area was away from the recent floods and was not affected.
Assumption 3: Health pandemic does not disrupt implementation.
Remains valid: No health pandemic reported.
Assumption 4: Communities in the intervention area are willing to participate in the project
Remains valid: The communities seem to be well engaged, demonstrated by their participation in the project introduction meetings and their active membership. This indicates that they see the value of the project.
Assumption 5: No high devaluation of the currency
There has been instances of high devaluation of the local currency before the start of the project. But now there seems to be stable. But we are keeping an eye on the situation.

Output level assumptions:
Outputs: 1. *Strengthen the capacity of 4 communities to sustainably manage 16,700ha of forest land*

Assumption 1: Legislation and decentralisation of natural resource management remains favourable.
Remains valid: The regional government and the local authorities have signed an MoU with the project and are aware of the project interventions and objectives. They are extending their support.

Assumption 2: Training is effective in building the natural resource management capacity and knowledge of biodiversity of the communities and local authorities
Training activities are not started yet.

Assumption 3: Tree Aid and the partner are able to effectively engage the local communities in the management of their local resources
Remains valid: The project team has had a good start with the project introduction, awareness sessions on biodiveristy and gender equality, and community membership registration. Which means the project team is effectively engaging with the communities as well as the local authorities.

Output 2. *Restore 3,000 ha of degraded forest land through tree planting and assisted natural regeneration (ANR)*
Assumption 1: Tree Aid staff are able to effectively engage the local communities in the management of their local resources
Remains valid: The project team has had a good start with the project introduction, awareness sessions on biodiversity and gender equality, and community membership registration. Which means the project team is effectively engaging with the communities as well as the local authorities.

Assumption 2: No extreme weather event affecting survival of tree seedlings
The project hasn't started this activity yet.

Output 3. *Develop sustainable income generating activities through the development of the shea value chain*
Assumption 1: Climatic conditions continue to favour the products value chains of selected by the VTEs
Remains valid: Climate remains favourable. Communities have been practicing collecting Shea nuts and processing before the project intervention as well.

Assumption 2: Households and communities allow women to engage in VTEs
Remains valid: women participation in the VTE groups is encouraging. 80% of the VTE members are women.

Output 4: *Influence and strengthen the regional, multi-actor platform to ensure the sustainable management of the natural forest to support the development of the shea value chain*

Assumption 1: Availability of local and regional government support for the program
Remains valid: The regional government and the local authorities have signed an MoU with the project and are aware of the project interventions and objectives. They are extending their support.

Assumption 2: Strengthened understanding of the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation will incentivise both short- and longer-term behavioural change
This will still wait to see but the project is moving in the right direction so far.

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

Main focus of the project is on reduction of biodiversity loss and restoration of natural forests. In particular tree species that are indigenous and unique to the region such as Shea Tree. The strategy is conservation of the forest land as well as safe and sustainable use of the resources. When the local people are aware of the importance of their forests and agroforestry resources and the additional income these trees can bring to their livelihoods and they learn the skills to produce the products locally and learn how to apply packaging and marketing techniques to improve on value addition of the Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), they will give more attention and care to these trees.

Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

Between September 2024 and March 2025, the project contributed to several national policies and international frameworks. At the national level, it supports Ethiopia's National Forest Law (2007, revised in 2018), which aims to restore 22 million hectares of degraded land and forests by 2030. During the reporting period, the project surveyed and geospatially demarcated 13,490 hectares of land for restoration, with 3,000 hectares of highly degraded land targeted for rehabilitation through plantations and land management techniques.

The project also contributed to the Ethiopian Government's Ten-Year Perspective Plan (TYPP) from 2013–2023, which aims to protect and rehabilitate forests for economic and ecosystem benefits, in line with the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy. It promoted the beneficial relationship between protected ecosystems and diversified rural livelihoods, by strengthening community awareness and participation in environmental governance. Participatory land and resource mapping exercises were conducted, ensuring inclusive engagement of women, elders, and youth. In addition, awareness-raising sessions to educate community members on biodiversity were held in four kebeles, reaching 445 households (80% women), increasing understanding of biodiversity's importance to local economies, agriculture, and climate resilience.

The project further supported international biodiversity and development commitments, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). In particular, it contributed to Target 22 — ensuring participation in biodiversity decision-making — by engaging local communities in project activities and promoting inclusive participation. A total of 318 community members have been identified as direct beneficiaries, with 81% being women.

The project also contributed to SDG 1 – No Poverty and SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth by establishing 10 Village Tree Enterprise (VTEs) groups (8 focused on shea nuts and butter processing, and 2 on nursery and seedling production), with 318 direct beneficiaries identified so far. VTEs are designed to create sustainable livelihood opportunities and promote inclusive, environmentally sound economic development. Additionally, a training of trainers on Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) was delivered to 20 project and government staff to support VTEs in business development and planning going forward.

Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The project aims to reduce poverty by increasing household income by 50% for 300 community members and their households in four communities across Itang, Abobo, and Gambella Zuria districts in the Gambella region (Outcome indicator 3). This will be achieved by improving access to sustainable livelihoods through the promotion and marketing of non-timber forest products (NTFPs), particularly shea.

Although it is too early in the implementation process to measure the project's impact on reducing poverty, our baseline data collected from January to March 2025 shows an average household income of $331.40, with $84.56 coming from NTFPs. The aim is to increase household income by 50% to 497.1US$ (Outcome indicator 3) and NTFP income by 100% to 169.12US$ by project end (Output indicator 3.2).

To achieve this, 10 Village Tree Enterprise (VTE) groups have been established in the first six months of the project, including 8 shea-processing groups and 2 tree nursery/seedling production groups, with 318 direct beneficiaries (81% women). These groups will receive training in enterprise development, market analysis, and production skills, and will be supported to develop their Enterprise Development Plans to be implemented by year 2 (Output indicator 3.1). The resulting increase in income will enable households to better meet basic needs like food, healthcare, and education, while also building capacity for future income diversification and enterprise growth.

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	
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

Tree Aid has taken a context-driven and intersectional approach to gender equality and social inclusion in the design and implementation of this project, grounded in a strong understanding of the legal, cultural, and environmental realities of Ethiopia. Rural women in Ethiopia are often excluded from income-generating activities and leadership roles due to traditional norms. To address this, the project actively involves women, people with disabilities, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the design, implementation, and monitoring of interventions.

Rights & Practice: Legal and customary practices in Ethiopia often limit women's rights to land and forest resources. In response, Tree Aid has embedded gender and social inclusion (GESI) throughout project planning and implementation. Community awareness sessions conducted in four Kebeles reached 445 households (80% women), and provided education on biodiversity, the importance of gender equality, and inclusive forest governance.

Environment: The project recognises that women and marginalised groups are particularly vulnerable to environmental degradation and climate stressors. Income diversification through the sustainable use of non-timber forest products (NTFPs)—especially shea—is key to strengthening their resilience. To date, 10 Village Tree Enterprise (VTE) groups have been established, with 81% female membership (254 women out of 318 total members), providing new opportunities for income generation and empowerment.

Roles and Responsibilities: Understanding traditional gender roles in shea collection and processing (primarily women's work), the project designed livelihood activities that are both culturally appropriate and empowering. Activities are scheduled to accommodate women's workloads and domestic responsibilities, and facilitators use local languages and visual tools to support participation, particularly for those with limited literacy.

Representation & Resources: The project is increasing women's participation in forest governance by supporting them to join Participatory Forest Management Committees (PFMC), aiming for at least 15% female representation by the end of the project. Women are also being encouraged to take leadership positions in community structures. Project tools such as the RHoMIS socio-economic survey and the Voice, Choice and Control (VCC) tool help monitor gender-differentiated access to and control over forest resources and household income.

Inclusion & Participation: Tree Aid ensures that the project is inclusive of all social groups by using a participatory beneficiary identification process that considers gender, disability, and displacement status. Activities such as participatory boundary and resource mapping, conducted

in this reporting period, have actively involved women, elders, youth, and people with disabilities, helping to shift social norms around participation and resource stewardship.

<u>Lessons Learnt and Challenges:</u> One key learning has been that a gender-sensitive approach, while necessary, is not sufficient for transformation. Participation remains low among some marginalised groups due to social stigma, competing responsibilities, and low confidence. In response, Tree Aid is considering to develop a gender strategy that is applicable to the local context and is acceptable to the local communities.

Monitoring and evaluation

Tree Aid Ethiopia has a dedicated M&E officer role at country level who regularly supports this project and is paying frequent visits when needed. The team is also supported by our M&E technical adviser and his team in the UK on building capacity of the staff and data collectors on the use of different data collection tools including beneficiaries registration form, (Rural Household level multi-indicator survey (RHoMIS), Perimeter and land restoration survey, permanent monitoring plots (PMPs) survey and the use of the data collection devices including smart mobile phones and tablets.

The Tree Aid M&E technical adviser and UK programme Officer visited the project location in November last year to support the Tree Aid Ethiopia team in the launch of the project and induction of the project team on the project objectives and implementation strategy. During this visit the project team and other data collectors were trained on the data collection tools including the beneficiary registration form, Perimeter and land restoration survey and PMPs survey. The training included both the classroom learning and practical application of the tools in the field.

The project team has now identified the project area of land using the perimeter survey. They have also used the beneficiaries' registration form to register the beneficiaries.

Tree Aid is, therefore, applying different M&E tools and frameworks to monitor the progress and achievement of the project outcomes and outputs. With Tree Aid's RHoMIS survey we have established the baseline for the project outcomes and outputs including the poverty level of the local households, their dietary requirements and the proportion of their diets that is currently coming from the NTFPs. The project will keep these baselines in view while implementing its different activities and will be checking from time to time how it is achieving its objectives. Similarly, the perimeter survey and identification and demarcation of the project intervention area is another step forward to systematically measure the restoration of land this project will be supporting. For the institutional development and capacity building of the local communities the project has identified the target beneficiaries through ODK forms and has established VTE groups. Project will work with these VTEs to build their capacity and improve their skills to fully engage them in making their part of livelihoods from the Shea products and other potential NTFP products.

Lessons learnt

In Ghana, shea trees are commonly found close to homesteads because farmers have semi-domesticated them—actively protecting and nurturing shea trees within their farmland. This long-standing practice has ensured the preservation of shea trees over generations, driven by the high value of their non-timber forest products (NTFPs), particularly shea butter. As a result, women can easily access and collect shea fruits and nuts when they are ripe, without needing to travel far.

In contrast, in Ethiopia—particularly in Gambella—the strong market potential of shea has yet to be realized. Shea forest stands remain in the wild and are found much farther from communities. Collecting shea fruits in this context requires significant effort and coordination. Women often need to travel long distances, typically accompanied by men for safety, and use donkeys or mules to transport the fruits and nuts in bulk.

The situation is further complicated by extensive deforestation in project intervention areas, driven by government policies of promoting commercial agriculture due to the region's low population density and fertile land. Nevertheless, there is significant potential for integrating agroforestry approaches that support the development of shea production in a more sustainable and accessible way.

To address these challenges, the project will work to ensure that shea can be successfully multiplied and planted, with the long-term goal of bringing shea trees closer to homesteads. This

will help enhance local access, promote sustainable use, and support the livelihoods of women groups that will try and develop shea value chains. An exchange visit is planned for staff from Ethiopia to Ghana.

Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

Not applicable during this reporting period

Risk Management

Updated risk register of the project is included with the reporting documents (See Annex D). Apart from the risks of deforestation to clean the land for agriculture use and flooding in the region which were already included in the risk register during the design of the project, another risk that was identified during the start of the project implementation is the proximity challenge. Due to huge deforestation of all the trees including Shea trees, the remaining Shea forests is now quite a long distance from the local residential area. Which means the frequency of visits to the forests to collect Shea fruits and nuts can be adversely affected and scalability of the Shea products at commercial level may be a challenge. The project team has decided to consider provision of transportation facilities as well as safe longer stay facilities for women as traditionally, women have major responsibility to collect Shea fruits and nuts.

Scalability and durability

This project is the first of its kind in Ethiopia's Gambella region, designed through a bottom-up, community-led approach that addresses locally identified needs. From the outset, Tree Aid has engaged key stakeholders—government officials, community leaders, and local households—through participatory design processes, ensuring they are not only informed but invested in the project's goals. At the official launch workshop held on 6th November 2024 in Gambella, Tree Aid Ethiopia and UK teams outlined the project's objectives, methodologies, and expected outcomes. Attendees, including regional government and community representatives, expressed strong support for the initiative, appreciating its pioneering nature and the UK Government's role in enabling communities to manage their natural resources and diversify their incomes.

The project addresses the underutilisation of Shea nuts in Gambella, which are currently used mostly for household consumption. Through initial assessments and stakeholder consultations, the project identified a strong potential for scaling Shea production to commercial levels, thereby offering a clear value proposition for project beneficiaries and stakeholders. In this reporting period, 10 Village Tree Enterprise (VTE) groups have already been established (8 VTEs focused on Shea nut and butter processing and 2 on nursery/seedling production), benefiting 318 individuals. These groups serve as entry points for wider adoption and replication across the region. To support this, a Training of Trainers (ToT) on Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) was delivered to 20 project and government staff to enhance their capacity to guide VTEs in business planning and market development going forward.

The project is also increasing local ownership of forest resources through the Participatory Forest Management Committees (PFMC). Using a participatory rural appraisal method, community members — including women, elders, youth, and children — actively engaged in resource and boundary mapping exercises. These activities enabled communities to identify key forest areas and highlight zones with high levels of degradation, deepening local understanding of biodiversity's value, helping shift attitudes and norms around forest stewardship and laying the foundation for lasting behaviour change. In parallel, awareness sessions on biodiversity and gender equality conducted by the project in four kebeles reached 445 households (80% women), highlighting the role of biodiversity in agriculture, local economies, and climate resilience.

These efforts are complemented by the project's broader advocacy goals: preparing the ground for two regional multi-stakeholder forums to be launched next year. These forums aim to support land-use planning, improve forest law enforcement, and foster coordinated natural resource governance—laying the institutional foundation for sustainability and scale.
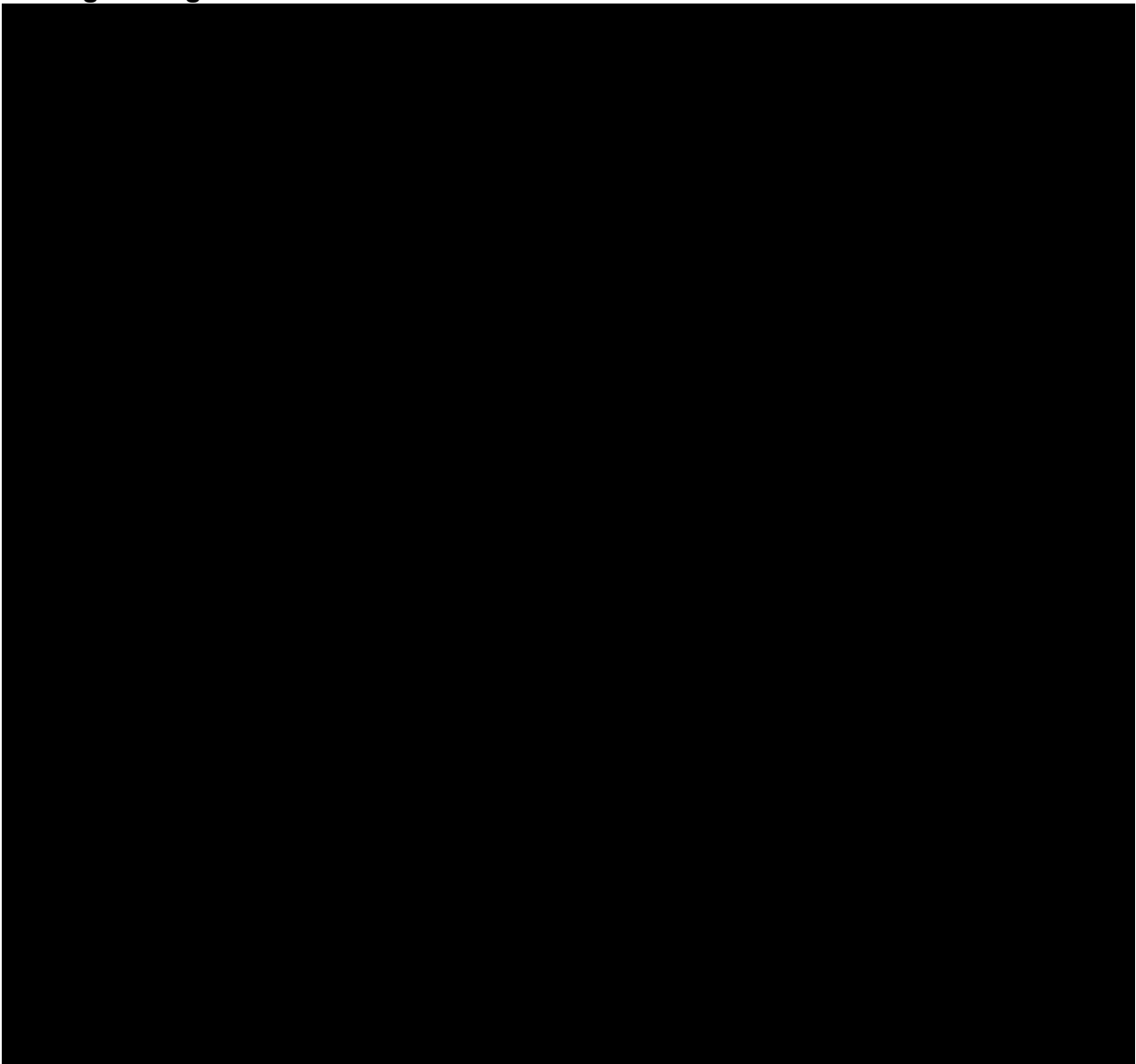
Darwin Initiative identity

The project has a dedicated page on Tree Aid's website, launched on 4th November 2024, which includes the Darwin Initiative logo and acknowledges the initiative as a funder: https://www.treeaid.org/projects/ethiopia/sustainable-shea/. From its launch to the end of March 2025, the page recorded 103 visits.
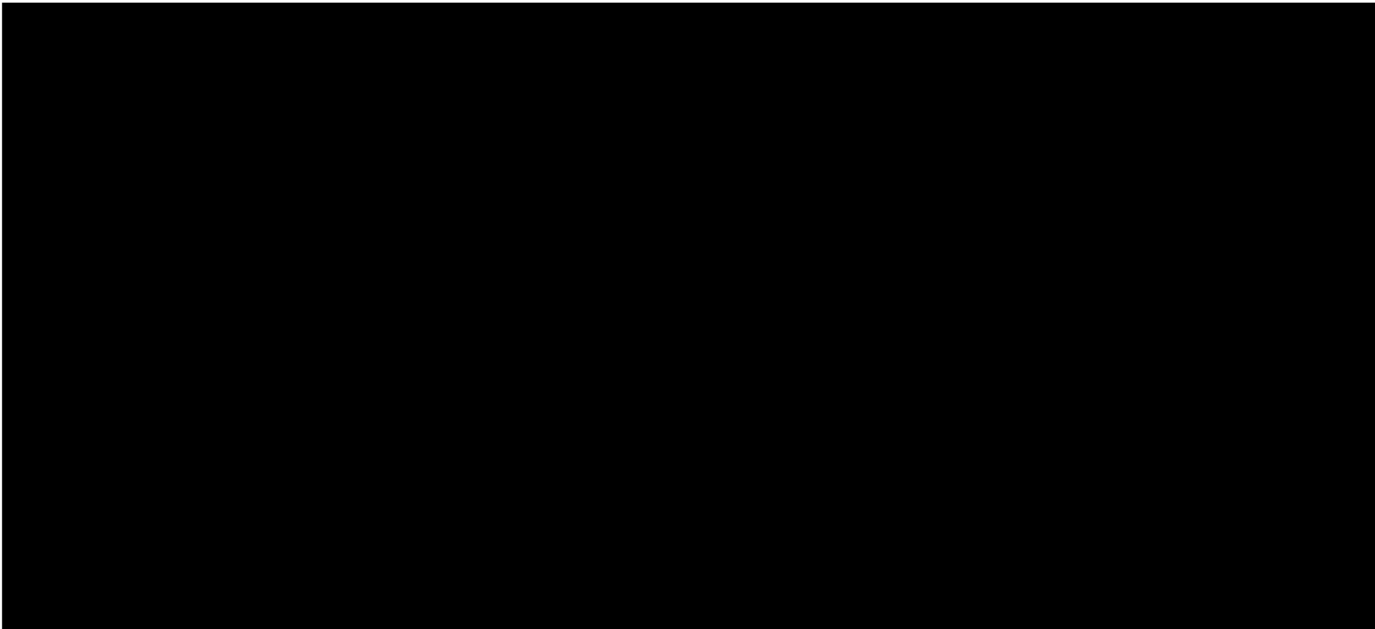
The Darwin Initiative has been prominently featured across all project materials and is consistently referenced in community engagements to ensure visibility and recognition.

The project was officially launched on 6th November 2024 in Gambella through a workshop organised by Tree Aid Ethiopia and UK staff, attended by government and community representatives. The Darwin Initiative was widely publicised during the event, where participants praised the project as a pioneering effort to empower local communities in managing their forest and wildlife resources, and expressed their appreciation to the UK government for its support.

The Darwin Initiative is further acknowledged in Tree Aid's annual report. In addition, Tree Aid uses its social media platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram) to raise public awareness of the project and its impact in the Gambella region by sharing stories from project participants. A dedicated post about the project is planned for the next six months, and engagement data will be included in the following report.

Safeguarding

Project expenditure

Please expand and complete Table 1. If all receipts have not yet been received, please provide indicative figures and clearly mark them as Draft. The Actual claim form will be taken as the final accounting for funds.

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

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2024-2025 grant per budget (£)	2024-2025 Total 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)			
Audit costs			
Exchange rate gain			
TOTAL	£74,017	£74,017	100%

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 (£)	The Roger Raymond Charitable Trust ▮▮▮▮		
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			

Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

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)
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No

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 Contribute to ecosystem restoration and improved living conditions for rural households in 4 communities of Gambella Regional State, Ethiopia		
Outcome (Support community-led management for 16,700ha of forest and restoration of 3,000ha within the forest to drive ecosystem restoration, improve biodiversity, develop sustainable livelihood opportunities, and strengthen the shea value chain.		
Outcome indicator 0.1 16,700ha of forest land benefiting under sustainable management plans by the end of the project (Ha) (DI-D01)	The project intervention land area has been identified and demarcated through the perimeter land survey. Total area of the land identified so far is15,411 hectares.	Further survey including PMP survey will be conducted to identify and demarcate 3000 ha of highly degraded land.
Outcome indicator 0.2, Increase in forest biomass and biodiversity of 10% of the baseline by the end of the project (DI-D04)	No progress yet.	
Outcome indicator 0.3 Household income increased by 50% at the end of the project as measured from project baseline ($/year) (DI-D16)	Baseline RHoMIS Survey completed and analysed. Average Beneficiary Household Income: $331.40	
Output 1 *Strengthen the capacity of 4 communities to sustainably manage 16,700ha of forest land*		
Output indicator 1.1 4 Participatory Forest Management (PFM) cooperatives established by year 1 and fully all are functional by the end of the project (#) (DI-B05)	4 PFMC croups established. 1 PFMC per Kebele. (refer further details in section 1.1 and 1.2	
Output indicator 1.2 4 participatory management plan developed covering 16,700ha of forestland by year 1.	Not yet developed. Will be developed next year.	PM plans are planned to be developed next year.

Output indicator 1.3, Women hold 15% of PFM management positions by end of the project (%) (DI-B07)	Not reported during this reporting period.	This indicator will be measured later next year when the PFMCs are trained.
Output indicator 1.4, 60% of community members, as calculated from baseline, with (a) access to, and (b) control over forest resources including NTFPs (disaggregated by gender) by the end of the project Year 2: 40% Year 3: 60%	47.5% of beneficiary households report 'good' local forest governance (indicating 60% of more in the Forest Governance composite indicator, which relates to both access and control of forest resources)	
Output 2. *Restore 3,000 ha of degraded forest land through tree planting and assisted natural regeneration (ANR)* [1]		
Output indicator 2.1, 3,000 hectare of highly degraded forest land mapped and benefiting from restoration activities by end of the project (ha)(DI C08)	The Land Restoration survey will be done in 2025 on all areas of land which have benefited from restoration activities.	Mapping of the highly degraded land will be done next year.
Output indicator 2.2, 30,000 shea trees (*Vitellaria paradoxa* subsp. *nilotica*) and 99,000 other threatened indigenous tree species seedlings planted on degraded forest land by end of the project (#) (DI-D12) Year 2: 35,000 Year 3: 94,000	Tree planting to take place in Year 2 and 3.	Planning for seeding and seedling will start next year.
Output indicator 2.3 87,000 of regenerated seedlings through FMNR by end of the project (#)	The regenerated trees will be estimated based on the data collected from the permanent monitoring plots (PMPs) that are planned to be established next year.	Next year
Output 3. Develop sustainable income generating activities through the development of the non-timber forest product shea value chain and enhanced business skills		
Output indicator 3.1. 10 VTE groups of 30 members per group where 75% are women established by year 1 and functional by year 2 (#) (DI-A10)	10 VTE groups established. There are 254 women members out of the total of 318 members. Making women's membership 80%.	
Output indicator 3.2. 10 VTE groups have Enterprise Development Plans (EDPs) in place by the end of the project (#)	Not developed yet	Plans will be developed early next year.
Output indicator 3.3, Amount of household income sourced from NTFP at the end of the project compared to project baseline increased by 100% by the end of the project ($/year)	RHoMIS survey conducted as a baseline shows average annual household income as sourced from Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) is $84.56	
Output 4. *Develop sustainable income generating activities through the development of the shea value chain*		

Output indicator 4.1, 1 assessment on shea value chain report produced to be shared with local stakeholders by the end of year 1 (#)		
Output indicator 4.2, Organise 2 regional forums for the implementation of Gambella Integrated Urban and Rural Land use Plan and enforcement on forest law Year 1: 1 Year 2: 1	Not started	Both these forums will now be established in year two.
Output indicator 4.3, 1500 copies of IEC materials distributed by end of the project (#)	N/A for this reporting period	
Output indicator 4.4, 1 reference manual on Shea tree management and basic Shea butter production, processing and marketing in Gambella produced and shared by the end of the project (#)	N/A for this reporting period	

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: Contribute to ecosystem restoration and improved living conditions for rural households in 4 communities through effective natural resource management, land restoration, and sustainable livelihood opportunities in Gambella Regional State, Ethiopia. (Max 30 words)			
Outcome: Support community-led management for 16,700ha of forest and restoration of 3,000ha within the forest to drive ecosystem restoration, improve biodiversity, develop sustainable livelihood opportunities, and strengthen the shea value chain. (Max 30 words)	0.1. 16,700ha of forest land benefiting under sustainable management plans by the end of the project (Ha) (DI-D01) 0.2. Increase in forest biomass and biodiversity of 10% of the baseline by the end of the project (DI-D04) 0.3 Household income increased by 50% at the end of the project as measured from project baseline ($/year) (DI-D16)	0.1. Management Plans, local bylaws; Project records, Perimeter & Land Use Survey (ODK); final evaluation. 0.2 Annual Land Restoration Survey (ODK); Project records; Field visits, ecological/ forest inventory surveys and final evaluation 0.3 RHoMIS (ODK), which includes surveys on forest governance and voice, choice and control	Peace and political stability prevail Climate conditions do not disrupt activities Health pandemic does not disrupt implementation. Communities in the intervention area are willing to participate in the project No high devaluation of the currency
Outputs: 1. Strengthen the capacity of 4 communities to sustainably manage 16,700ha of forest land	1.1. 4 Participatory Forest Management (PFM) cooperatives established by year 1 and fully all are functional by the end of the	1.1 Tree Aid and partner field monitoring, observation, photos, Annual Land Restoration Survey (ODK),	Legislation and decentralisation of natural resource management remains favourable Training is effective in building the natural resource management capacity and knowledge of

	project (#) (DI-B05) 1.2 4 participatory management plan developed covering 16,700ha of forestland by year 1 (DI-B03) 1.3 Women hold 15% of PFM management positions by the of project (%) (DI-B07) 1.4 60% of community members, as calculated from baseline, with (a) access to, and (b) control over forest resources including NTFPs (disaggregated by gender) by the end of the project Year 2: 40% Year 3: 60%	1.2 Organisational Capacity Assessment (ODK), Project records 1.3 Forest Governance and voice, choice and control survey 1.4 Forest Governance survey	biodiversity of the communities and local authorities Tree Aid and the partner are able to effectively engage the local communities in the management of their local resources
2. Restore 3,000 ha of degraded forest land through tree planting and assisted natural regeneration (ANR) [1]	2.1. 3,000 hectare of highly degraded forest land mapped and restored by end of the project(ha)(DI C08) 2.2. 30,000 shea trees (*Vitellaria paradoxa* subsp. *nilotica*) and 99,000 other threatened indigenous tree species seedlings planted on degraded forest land by end of the project (#) (DI-D12)	2.1 Project Records, Field Monitoring Visits, External Evaluation 2.2 Project records, field monitoring visits, external evaluation	Tree Aid staff are able to effectively engage the local communities in the management of their local resources No extreme weather event affecting survival of tree seedlings

	Year 2: 35,000 Year 3: 94,000 2.3. 87,000 of regenerated seedlings through FMNR by end of the project (#)	2.3 Land Restoration Survey (ODK), Field monitoring visits	
3. Develop sustainable income generating activities through the development of the non-timber forest product shea value chain and enhanced business skills	3.1. 10 VTE groups of 30 members per group where 75% are women established by year 1 and functional by year 2 (#) (DI-A10) 3.2 10 VTE groups have Enterprise Development Plans (EDPs) in place by the end of the project (#) 3.3. Amount of household income sourced from NTFP the end of the project compared to project baseline increased by 100% be the end of the project ($/year)	3.1 Project Records, Organisational Capacity Assessments (ODK), Tree Aid field monitoring 3.2 Organisational Capacity Assessment (ODK) 3.3 Organisational Capacity Assessment (ODK)	Climatic conditions continue to favour the products value chains of selected by the VTEs Households and communities allow women to engage in Village Tree Enterprises (VTEs
Output 4: Influence and strengthen the regional, multi-actor platform to ensure the sustainable management of the natural forest	4.1 1 assessment on shea value chain report produced to be shared with local stakeholders by the end of year 1 (#)	4.1 Technical document 4.2 Project records	Availability of local and regional government support for the program

| to support the development of the shea value chain | 4.2 Organise 2 regional forums for the implementation of Gambella Integrated Urban and Rural Land use Plan and enforcement on forest law

Year 1: 1
Year 2: 1

4.2 1500 copies of IEC materials distributed by end of the project (#)

4.3. 1 reference manual on Shea tree management and basic Shea butter production, processing and marketing in Gambella produced and shared by the end of the project (#) | 4.3 Technical document; teaching

materials, pamphlets and brochures

4.4. Technical document; teaching

materials, pamphlets and brochures | Strengthened understanding of the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation will incentivise both short- and longer-term behavioural change |

Activities:

Activity 1.1 - Identification and mapping of areas of intervention.

Activity 1.2 - Conduct resource assessment and inventory on 16,700 hectares of forestland

Activity 1.3 - ToT for 20 project and government staff on sustainable resource, conflict management and group dynamics

Activity 1.4 - Training on sustainable resource, cooperative and conflict managements for 320 PFMCs members

Activity 1.5 - Support participatory management plan development of 4 PFMCs

Activity 1.6 - Community awareness on biodiversity conservation and gender equality for 1020 people

Activity 2.1 - Identification and mapping of 3,000 hectare of highly degraded forest area

Activity 2.2 - Assist nursery groups to establish 2 tree nursery sites

Activity 2.3 - Provision of tree seeds, nursery equipment for 2 VTEs

Activity 2.4 - Training on tree nursery management for 60 VTE members

Activity 2.5 - Seedlings purchase and transport for plantation of trees

Activity 2.6 - Plantation of 140,000 seedlings (40,000 shea and 100,000 other species) for communitymembers planting

Activity 2.7 - Nurture the growth of 87,000 naturally regenerated Shea tree seedlings through FMNR

Activity 3.1 - Identify VTE members and organise 8 shea VTEs and 2 tree seedling producing groups

Activity 3.2 - ToT on MA&D for 20 project staff and local government experts

Activity 3.3 - Training on MA&D, group development, group dynamics and conflict management, and financial management for all 300 VTE members

Activity 3.4 - Support 10 VTEs to develop and implement Enterprise Development Plans (EDPs)

Activity 3.5 - Provision of 2 Shea oil/butter extractor (automatic or manual) for 8 VTES (240 members) and assembling

Activity 3.6 - Construction of 2 stores for processing and storage for the Shea cooperatives

Activity 3.7 - Training on warehouse management, marketing, aggregation, and packing for the 2 cooperatives

Activity 3.8 - Facilitate market linkage and supply agreements with Ecopia

Activity 3.9 - Facilitate particiaption in fares for VTEs to sell their products

Activity 3.10 - Construction of kiosk for NTFP sales

Activity 4.1 - Organise 2 regional forums for the implementation of Gambella Integrated Urban and Rural Land use Plan and enforcement on forest law

Activity 4.2 - Prepare 1 technical guideline on Shea tree management, butter production, processing and marketing

Activity 4.3 - Produce 1500 copies of IEC materials on restoration and VTEs

Activity 4.4 - Conduct in-depth assessment of the value chain of shea nut and the shea butter marketing at local and national level

M&E 1: Project launch with stakeholders @4,000birr per participants

M&E 2: Establish Permanent Monitoring Plots (PMPs)

M&E 3: Establish trial plots

M&E 4: Data collection from PMPs and trial plots

M&E 5: Project baseline RHoMIS

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

Table 1   Project Standard Indicators

Please see the Standard Indicator guidance for more information on how to report in this section, including appropriate disaggregation.

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	If this links directly to a project indicator(s), please note the indicator number here	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-A10	10 VTE groups of 30 members per group where 75% are women established by year 1 and functional by year 2 (#) (DI-A10)	3.1	People	Men	64			64	75
DI-A10	10 VTE groups of 30 members per group where 75% are women established by year 1 and functional by year 2 (#) (DI-A10)	3.1	People	Women	254			254	225
DI-B05	4 Participatory Forest Management (PFM) cooperatives established by year 1 and fully all are functional by the end of the project (#)	1.1	4		4			4	4

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the **correct template** (checking fund, scheme, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and **deleted the blue guidance text** before submission?	Yes
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	
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.	Yes
Have you provided an updated risk register? If you have an existing risk register you should provide an updated version alongside your report. If your project was funded prior to this being a requirement, you are encouraged to develop a risk register.	Yes
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see Section 16)?	N/A
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	N/A
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	