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

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Darwin Initiative Project Information

Scheme (Main or Extra)	
Project reference	31-020
Project title	Sustainable management of palm swamp peatlands by local communities
Country/ies	Peru
Lead Organisation	Center For International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
Project partner(s)	Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental (SPDA) Instituto del Bien Común (IBC) Instituto de Investigaciones de la Amazonía Peruana (IIAP)
Darwin Initiative grant value	£600,000.00
Start/end dates of project	01 Aug 2024 – 31 Jul 2028
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024 – Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	Aug 2024 – Mar 2025 (Annual Report 1)
Project Leader name	Kristell Hergoualc'h
Project website/blog/social media	n/a
Report author(s) and date	Kristell Hergoualc'h, et al. Submitted on 12 May 2025 [This report is jointly developed by project team members of CIFOR, IBC, IIAP, and SPDA]

1. Project summary

Peruvian palm swamp peatlands are being degraded by the harvest of *Mauritia flexuosa* fruit by cutting rather than climbing the palms. These practices - driven by poverty and unclear tenure rights - disrupt biodiversity, exacerbate climate change, and endanger local livelihoods. Research has examined the ineffectiveness of past interventions promoting sustainable *M. flexuosa* harvesting but drivers of management behaviour have not been studied systematically. Using an interdisciplinary and collaborative approach, this project works with communities and policy makers to strengthen local management institutions and property rights, to sustain the livelihoods of palm-dependent communities and refine policies supporting the conservation of peatland swamps.

Biodiversity Challenges Addressed. The project targets the degradation of Peruvian palm swamp peatlands caused primarily by destructive harvesting of the *Mauritia flexuosa* palm. This keystone species is vital for maintaining biodiversity in tropical peatlands, supporting numerous animal species and playing a crucial ecological role. Unsustainable fruit harvesting practices — specifically cutting down female palms rather than climbing to collect fruit — reduce regeneration capacity, alter forest composition, threaten biodiversity, and diminish the carbon sink function of peatlands.

Relevance and Stakeholders. These challenges are highly relevant for:

- Local and Indigenous communities, particularly women, whose livelihoods depend on the sustainable harvest and sale of *M. flexuosa* products.
- Regional and national governments, striving to meet biodiversity conservation and climate mitigation targets under international conventions.
- Global stakeholders, due to the significant carbon stocks stored in peatlands and their role in climate regulation.

Human Development and Wellbeing (Poverty Reduction). The project addresses multi-dimensional poverty by:

- Enhancing livelihoods through sustainable resource use and improved market access.
- Building gender-equitable management institutions.
- Supporting property rights and tenure security for local communities. Women, in particular, benefit from improved participation in value chains and income-generating activities.

Problem Identification. The issues were identified through:

- Long-term CIFOR and partner research.
- Baseline assessments of ecological and socio-economic conditions in Loreto and Ucayali.
- Engagement with local communities and national stakeholders.

Evidence-Based and Scalable Approach. This initiative builds on more than a decade of CIFOR-led research, including the Sustainable Wetlands Adaptation and Mitigation Program (SWAMP). It employs participatory, interdisciplinary methods and draws from lessons of past interventions that lacked supportive frameworks such as tenure rights, capacity-building, and monitoring.

The project is designed for scale through:

- Legal and institutional reform recommendations.
- Dissemination of data and practices via CIFOR's platforms.
- Potential for replication across the Amazon basin.

Project Location. The project is implemented in four palm swamp peatland sites across the Loreto and Ucayali regions of the Peruvian Amazon (Figure 1). These regions are characterized by rich biodiversity and high dependency on forest resources. The selected sites represent various conditions of market access, tenure arrangements, and degradation levels.

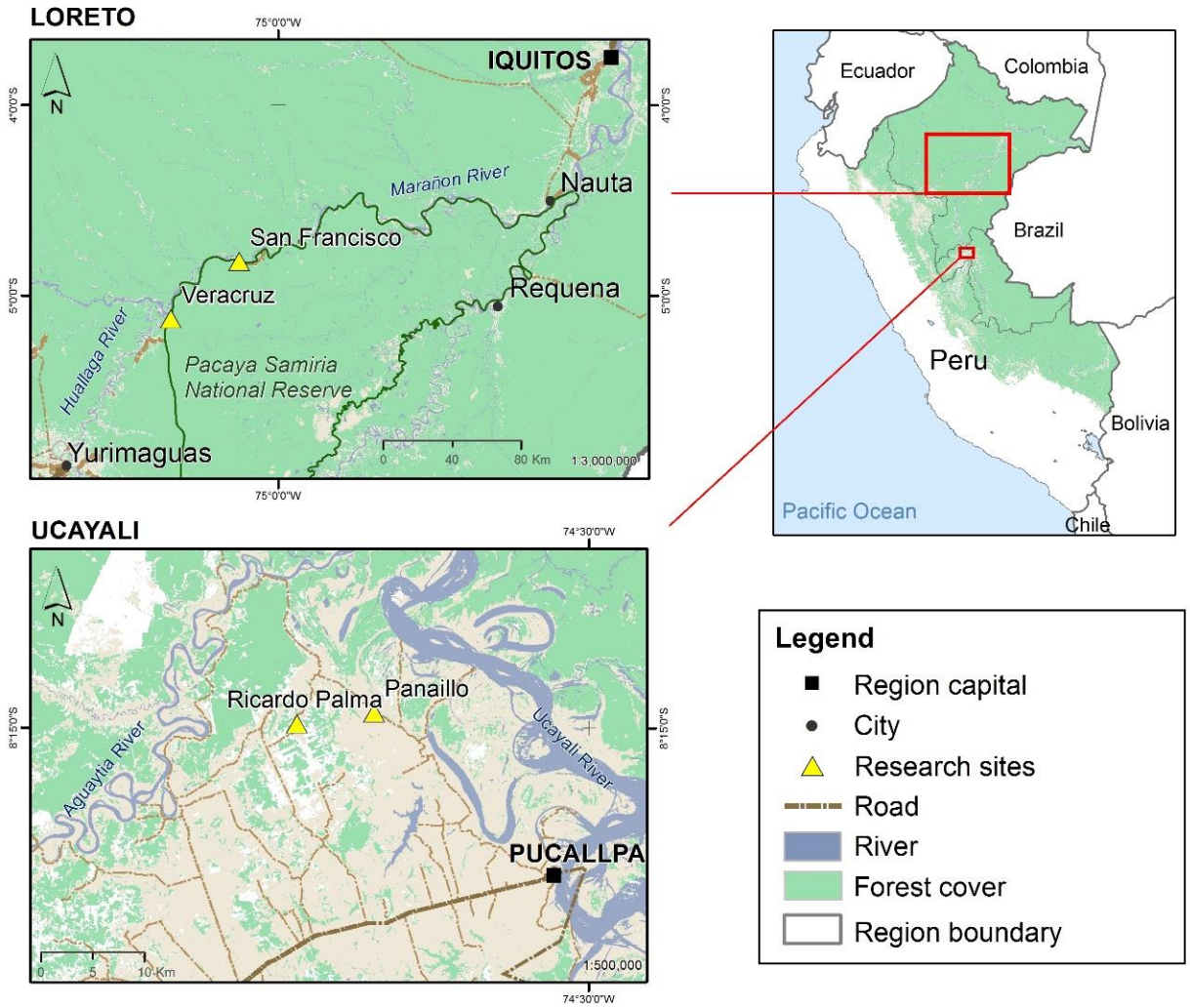


Figure 1 Location of the research sites in the Peruvian Amazonia. The sites of Veracruz and San Francisco in the region of Loreto (top left) are within the nationally protected area of Pacaya Samiria. In the region of Ucayali (bottom left), the sites of Ricardo Palma and Panaillo are adjacent to a same palm swamp peatland complex.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

This project is implemented by four partners – CIFOR (Center for International Forestry Research), IBC (Instituto del Bien Común), IIAP (Instituto de Investigaciones de la Amazonía Peruana), and SPDA (Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental). It is rooted in collaborative, demand-driven partnerships that reflect priorities articulated by both Peruvian communities and government institutions. CIFOR has been requested by SERNANP (Servicio Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas por el Estado) to support the development of Peru's peatland-related NDCs. It also has long-standing engagement with Amazonian communities, focusing on sustainable forest management, tenure rights, and capacity building. CIFOR's role directly supports national priorities in biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable development. IBC works closely with communities on land tenure, governance, and natural resource management. Their participation reflects grassroots demand for secure resource rights, improved livelihoods, and institutional strengthening. IBC brings expertise in community organizing, traditional knowledge, and co-management planning. IIAP is a public Peruvian institution and brings national research expertise in peatland ecology and forest management. It operates in both project regions and supports local capacity building, scientific monitoring, and biodiversity assessments — aligning with community and government needs for technical capacity and localized evidence. SPDA was requested by the GOREL (regional government of Loreto) to review and align local palm swamp policies with national legislation. Their role focuses on policy reform, legal analysis, and stakeholder engagement — supporting regional and national government demand for coherent, implementable regulations that also empower communities.

The project entails four outputs (see Annex 2 - Logframe) deeply linked to each other:
Output 1. Improved management institutions and practices are strengthened through innovative capacity-building programs tailored to the needs of community level stewards of palm swamps.
Output 2. Biodiversity and climate change mitigation benefits of palm swamp peatlands managed by local communities are inventoried and reported.
Output 3. Increased information on NTFP value chains, markets access and community participation secure livelihoods options and enhances equitable benefit distribution.
Output 4. Policy makers have information and tools to govern peatlands and palm swamps through pathways that are sustainable and supportive of local practices and improve livelihoods.

While CIFOR leads the project and contributes to all four outputs, IBC mainly leads Outputs 1 and 3, IIAP leads Output 2, and SPDA Output 4.

CIFOR conducted pre-approval site visits to communities in Ucayali, and IIAP coordinated with SERNANP to engage communities in Loreto. All four selected communities expressed clear interest in participating and identified the need for sustainable resource use and livelihood support.

In addition to core partners, local stakeholders and public institutions have been closely involved over the year. For example, SPDA has coordinated with the GOREL and SERFOR (Servicio Nacional Forestal) to initiate a baseline on the legal and institutional framework on the management of *M. flexuosa* palms by communities. Local civil society organizations have also been engaged through SPDA to develop awareness-raising materials for communities on the process for obtaining non-timber forest product permits (match funding).

Over the past year, all partners participated in regular virtual project planning and coordination meetings organized by CIFOR. While there were delays in some reporting, all national partners contributed substantively to this report and the co-development of activities.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Since project inception in August 2024, CIFOR has coordinated project activities by organizing a pre-inception meeting (May 2024), two Project Management Team (PMT) meetings (September 2024, March 2025), and four additional coordination meetings (November 2024 and three meetings in March 2025). These engagements have ensured clear communication, facilitated collaborative planning, and supported the alignment of research activities across partners. CIFOR also secured all necessary research permits from SERFOR and SERNANP.

As outlined in the first technical half-year technical report, due to the massive fires that took place in the Peruvian Amazonia in September 2024, the inventories led by IIAP (Output 2, activities 2.1 -2.4) had to be rescheduled to November and thereafter to June 2025 due to the prompt arrival of an intense rainy season which led to early flooding of the swamps and prevented fieldwork. The narrow seasonal window for simultaneous fieldwork in Loreto and Ucayali, due to differing rainfall patterns and the prolonged flooding, required adjustments across the workplan. Consequently, linked activities under Outputs 1 and 3 (e.g. activity 1.1 - running theoretical and practical training course on sustainable management of palm swamps for communities) were also deferred.

CIFOR and partners have been preparing for Activity 2.6 (Design and run 1-day workshops) in June 2025 as follows:

Date	Location	Activity
06/06/25	Lima	Meeting with key stakeholders (national government, existing projects)
06/06/25	Iquitos	Field security training for the team
09/06/25	Iquitos	Meeting with key stakeholders (regional government, existing projects)

11/06/25	San Francisco - Loreto	1-day workshop with the community
13/06/25	Veracruz - Loreto	1-day workshop with the community
16/06/25	Pucallpa	Meeting with key stakeholders (regional government, existing projects)
17/06/25	Panaillo - Ucayali	1-day workshop with the community
18/06/25	Ricardo Palma - Ucayali	1-day workshop with the community

CIFOR has also been coordinating the production of a multimedia package during these field activities, with additional co-funding under discussion.

While direct implementation of Outputs 1, 2, and 3 has not yet commenced, groundwork has been actively laid. For instance, IBC hired a project coordinator and has been working on the methodology for data collection in the selected communities. IIAP has been organizing the logistics for field data collection scheduled for June.

Regarding Output 4, SPDA has made substantial progress, supported by counterpart contributions from the Forest+ Program (USFS International Program). Key milestones achieved between October and December 2024 include:

- October: SPDA submitted a comprehensive proposal for a regional regulation on forest permits regarding palm swamps to the GOREL (see Annex 4.1a-b). A participatory process that involved both public authorities and civil society organizations was designed and implemented to complete the proposal. This regulation facilitates and optimizes the granting of forest permits for the harvesting of fruits and seeds from palm swamps on native community lands. Within the framework of the current national legal system, the regulation introduces the following key improvements: (i) it establishes a clear procedural flow and operational mechanics for the authority to properly fulfil its functions; (ii) adjusts and simplifies requirements to provide clarity to communities; (iii) includes three new templates to facilitate access to information, as well as a guiding document on how to complete the DEMA form; and (iv) eliminates procedures to streamline the permitting process. This is the first regulation at the regional level in Peru that governs the granting of permits for the sustainable use of *M. flexuosa* by native and peasant communities.

- December: SPDA presented a proposal to OSINFOR (Forestry and Wildlife Resources Oversight Agency) for the first course on sustainable harvesting of fruits and seeds from palm swamps, focusing on *M. flexuosa* fruit (see Annex 4.2a-b). This course will be directed to public officers from the national and regional level, with the objective of strengthening the authorities' capacities in legal and institutional matters and improving processes for granting, technical assistance, and oversight. The course is designed to be delivered in the field (in person) for its first version in the Loreto region (but may also be adaptable to other regions) and has been developed with four modules to be implemented over two days. These modules cover topics ranging from the context and value of the fruit, the legal and institutional framework, to best harvesting practices and the sanctioning regime. The course will be hosted on OSINFOR's educational platform.

Furthermore, SPDA also initiated the desk work for Activity 4.1 (Report analysing current regional and national frameworks for the use of peatlands and palm swamps), assessing the applicable legal frameworks for the management of *M. flexuosa* palms by native communities, considering the national, regional, and local levels. In this regard, meetings were held with local organizations in Loreto to identify opportunities for improvement in better disseminating information about the permitting process (match funding), so that communities (outside of national protected areas) understand the requirements they need to meet and have better access to their rights. The evidence of the draft is provided in Annex 4.3.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Due to delayed activities as indicated in the former section, limited progress has been made towards project outputs. Outputs are planned to be achieved starting year 2.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Due to delayed activities as indicated in section 3.1, limited progress has been made towards project outcomes. Outcomes are planned to be achieved starting year 2.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 2.1: Access to palm swamps for their monitoring is granted by local communities.

Comments: Access to palm swamps has been granted by local communities and the monitoring will start in year 2.

Assumption 2.2: Permit for using a drone is granted by local authorities.

Comments: Permit for using a drone has been granted by local authorities and the monitoring will start in year 2.

Assumption 4.1: There will be political will to develop new policy mechanisms for palm swamps or to revisit existing policy to consider reform.

Comments: As noted in Section 3.1, the Regional Government of Loreto (GOREL) has approved a regulation that enhances the permitting process for native communities to manage *Mauritia flexuosa*. This development strengthens forest governance in the region, facilitates improved access to resources for local populations, and establishes a valuable precedent for other regional and national authorities to adapt their legal frameworks to better support sustainable *M. flexuosa* management.

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

The impact in our original application form was “Maintained biodiversity and climate change mitigation contribution of palm swamp peatlands and improved contribution to poverty reduction through sustainable and inclusive community management and enhanced policies in Peru.”.

Due to delayed activities as indicated in section 3.1, limited progress has been made towards the higher-level impacts on biodiversity conservation and improved contribution to poverty reduction.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

Our project has not yet contributed to national policies and reporting, and to international biodiversity and development conventions, treaties and agreements that the country is signatory of. It has not submitted any reports to or had any interaction with any host country convention focal points.

5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

This project is designed to improve contribution to poverty reduction in Peru and will generate evidence to: 1) promote sustainable management practices; 2) develop strategies for livelihoods based on sustainably managed *M. flexuosa* palm swamps; and 3) stimulate policy reforms (tenure rights, management regulations, market incentives) with regional and national governments.

The project specifically targets communities reliant on palm swamp peatlands. These communities face economic challenges due to the degradation of the palm swamps, which affects the availability of resources like *M. flexuosa* fruits, a key source of income.

The project involves direct engagement with local communities to ensure that project benefits align with their needs. This engagement includes:

- conducting household surveys to understand the communities' use of the swamps and their perceptions of sustainability.
- Encouraging the formation of management committees to develop and implement management plans.
- Providing training on sustainable management practices.
- Analysing value chains to identify opportunities for income improvement.

The project anticipates direct poverty impacts, primarily through the maintenance of forest resources and the stabilization of local incomes. By promoting sustainable harvesting and management of *M. flexuosa*, the project aims to ensure the long-term availability of this resource, which is crucial for the economic well-being of these communities.

In the long term, the project expects to contribute to poverty reduction by improving ecosystem services and strengthening community governance. Improved governance and management of the peatlands will lead to more secure and stable livelihoods, offering a pathway out of poverty for the involved communities.

As the project is in its early stage, there has been no notable achievement this year.

6. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

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

Our project is committed to a gender-empowering approach across all four outputs. Currently planning and methodological design for the project's initial set of workshops with communities (set for June 2025) has been carried out in collaboration with Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) specialists at CIFOR to ensure that the approach is inclusive and that there is ample opportunities for women to participate in meetings and to be informed of planned activities. Workshop participants at those workshops will include a representative sample of community members, including by gender and roles in local governance institutions. Discussions with the leadership in each community will emphasise the importance of effective participation by women to ensure that their roles in household and community production are represented. The project will encourage the participation of youth and will work with community leaders to identify future managers of the peatland areas where the project works. Workshops will be culturally relevant, putting less emphasis on texts and more on discussions and visual representations of activities, including collective mapping exercises. Meetings will be scheduled at times that enable women's

participation and in locations easily accessible to women. Where necessary, gender disaggregated discussion groups will be organized and facilitated by project staff.

The content and facilitation of those workshops will be informed by CIFOR's toolkit for inclusive dialogues and designed to address the broader context in which our activities will be implemented. This includes the differentiated, gendered access to legal and customary rights that is common to the Peruvian Amazon, including access and control to land and resources, which tends to be concentrated with men; socio-cultural practices and institutions that structure gendered identities, including the division of labour and challenges to women's access to participation and decision-making power; and the differentiated experiences of the environment and its impacts by gender.

Although we have no lessons learned on GESI over the past 12 months, experiences over the same time frame in similar areas of the Peruvian Amazon confirm the challenges to gendered access to land and resources in the context of forest fires and the faster arrival of floods. In general, the design of the project's gender-empowering methods will include tools to collect gender-disaggregated data to inform key project outputs. Discussions with external actors present in the same landscapes, for example State agency representatives and intermediaries in *M. flexuosa* value chains, will adopt a gendered lens to understand how their behaviour purposely or inadvertently influences participation or marginalizes women's access to benefits or decision making power in the management of these landscapes so that strategies and actions can be adopted to avoid negative outcomes and promote more equitable and sustainable peatlands management.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

Since significant activity development has not yet taken place, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) during this period have been conducted through monthly follow-up meetings and preparatory work for the implementation of activities.

The project employs a results-based M&E approach, referencing qualitative and quantitative indicators from the project logframe to demonstrate how activities and outputs contribute to the achievement of project's outcome. CIFOR Quality for Impact (Q4I) team, leads key monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) activities, in close collaboration with the project's local partners.

These activities include the development of a MEL calendar focused on outcome-level measurement, the design of evaluation instruments and tools to enable systematic and effective data collection for monitoring, learning, and evaluation purposes. This supports evaluations of events, workshops and training sessions, as well as after-action reviews, learning events, and the final external evaluation (depending on budget availability). The Q4I team also collaborates on output-level monitoring, semester reports, and the annual progress report.

During this reporting period, M&E efforts focused on familiarizing the project team and partners on key MEL modalities and strategies and on preparatory activities in anticipation of full project implementation. The CIFOR team has led project coordination by convening monthly follow-up meetings with partners and facilitated planning sessions to align with SMART logframe indicators and targets. These efforts have ensured effective communication among implementing partners (IIAP, IBC, SPDA), joint decision-making, and alignment of early groundwork with intended outputs. For example, SPDA's draft legal framework analysis (Annex 4.3) contributes to building a participatory, evidence-based baseline. Key processes such as securing research permits, developing training modules, regulatory proposals, and organizing fieldwork logistics are being tracked against the workplan, ensuring that initial steps support measurable progress towards Year 2 outputs and outcome.

8. Lessons learnt

Management and logistics

Over the past year, one key lesson has been the importance of strengthening internal coordination among project partners. It is key to align partner activities to optimize the multidisciplinary potential of our approach. In future phases, we will ensure that activity planning includes dedicated time and mechanisms for alignment across all partners from the outset.

We also learned that delays in fieldwork, partly due to unforeseen logistical challenges, hindered the timely implementation of interdependent activities. This highlighted the importance of designing workplans where tasks, while complementary, are not overly reliant on one another to progress. In future planning, we will structure activities more flexibly to allow continued progress even if certain field components are delayed.

On the logistical front, fieldwork in remote communities presented seasonal access challenges, many of which are exacerbated by climate change. These included issues related to forest fires, droughts and fluctuating river levels. For others working in similar regions, we recommend incorporating detailed environmental calendars into logistical planning and building in buffer periods for potential disruptions.

Additionally, we recognized the critical importance of conducting field activities in partnership with key stakeholders such as Regional Governments and other local authorities. Their involvement is essential in establishing trust, gaining community acceptance, and facilitating smoother implementation. Going forward, we will formally integrate these actors into fieldwork planning sessions to ensure continuous engagement and relationship building.

As a result of these lessons, we will adjust our implementation plan for the coming year, but we do not anticipate needing to submit a formal Change Request. We will continue to monitor progress closely and remain open to adaptive adjustments if needed.

Relationship with GOREL

It is important to consider that the management of forest resources handled by native communities involves both the Sub-Directorate of Forest Management and the Functional Unit for Community Forest Management, both at Loreto´s Regional Government (GOREL). Both belong to the Regional Management of Forest Development and Wildlife (GERFOR), and therefore, activity planning, decision-making, and advocacy must be coordinated with both entities to align perspectives, leadership, and optimize institutional results. Additionally, it is crucial that progress made within the framework of GOREL's functions is communicated to and validated by key civil society actors in the region, as well as by national stakeholders, to build processes that are as participatory as possible. We also expect the need to standardize procedures with the harvest inside Natural Protected Areas like Pacaya Samiria National Reserve. There are different regimes, but a need for adequate formalization systems applied in both regimes.

Relationship with OSINFOR

OSINFOR is a key actor that must be strengthened to ensure that communities view it not as a sanctioning institution but as an ally capable of guiding and promoting good practices in *M. flexuosa* management and harvesting. To achieve this, OSINFOR should be included in strategic processes aimed at improving the institutional framework, and its capacities in *M. flexuosa*-related matters should be strengthened. This would enable the implementation of supervisory processes that are both guiding and aligned with the realities of the communities.

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

This is the 1st annual report of this project therefore we have no comments on previous reviews.

10. Risk Management

After the change request made in December 2024, we submitted an updated risk register document that includes extreme weather. As mentioned in section 3.1, fires followed by an early rainy season compromised field work and associated activities. We resend this document together with the annual report.

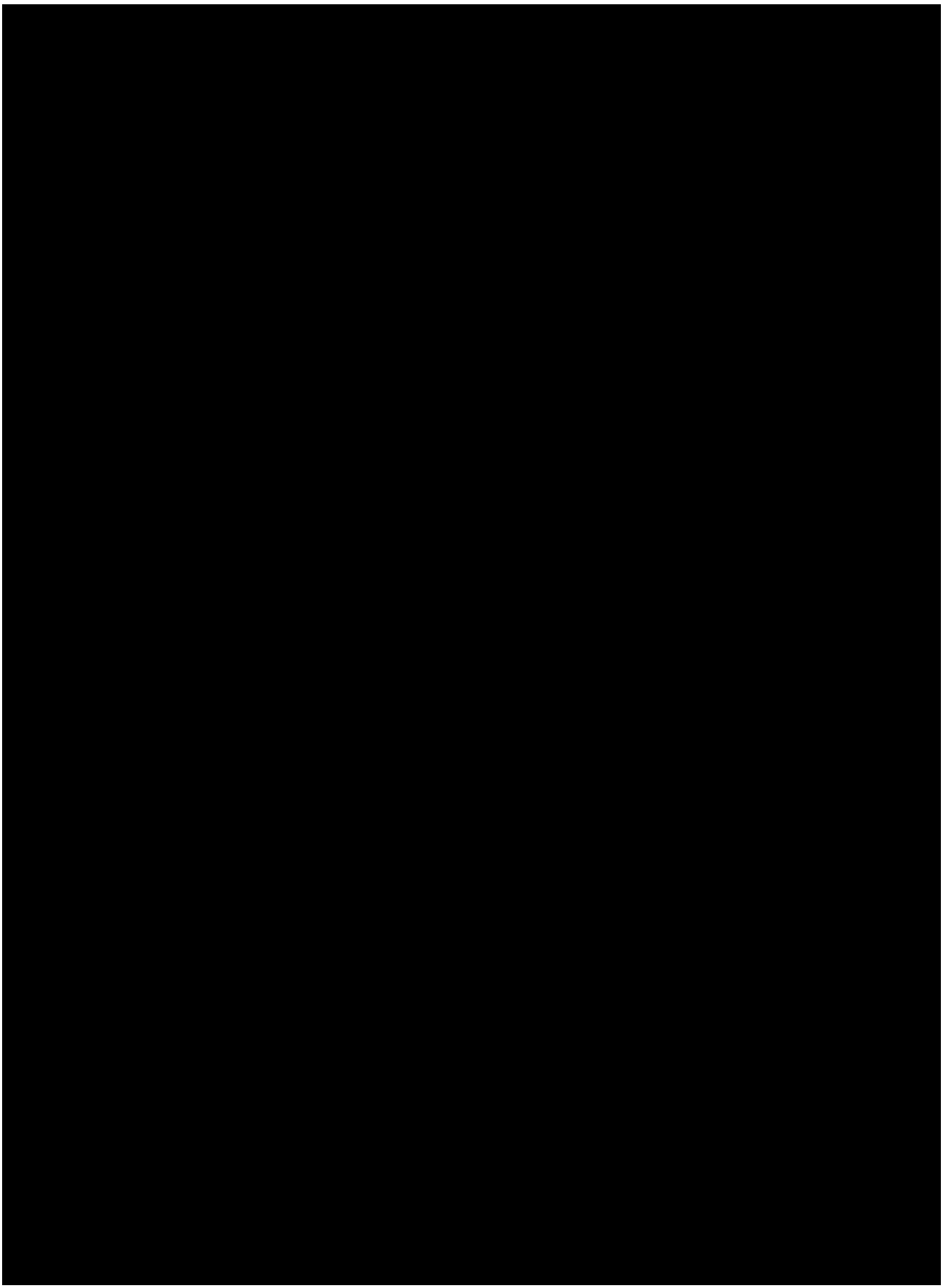
11. Scalability and durability

Given that the project is in its early stage, there is to date no evidence for scalability and durability.

12. Darwin Initiative identity

To date there has been limited promotion of the project (and of the Darwin initiative) given its recent start. A project webpage has been created on the CIFOR-ICRAF website.

13. Safeguarding



14. 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	£55,213			

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

15. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

There are no further comments.

16. 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 Maintained biodiversity and climate change mitigation contribution of palm swamp peatlands and improved contribution to poverty reduction through sustainable and inclusive community management and enhanced policies in Peru.	No progress to report as the project is its early phase	
Outcome Palm swamp peatlands' biodiversity and contribution to climate change mitigation are maintained, livelihoods opportunities of local communities are improved, and peatlands/palm swamps-related policies are adapted to local context and elaborated.		
Outcome indicator 0.1 *M. flexuosa* population in palm swamps peatlands within the project area (2,000 ha) is stabilised (baseline of absolute and relative abundance to be established in the second year, Project target no change in year 5) [DI-D04].	No progress to report as the first inventories will be conducted in year 2.	Inventories setting the baseline will be conducted in year 2.
Outcome indicator 0.2 Carbon stocks in palm swamps peatlands within the project area are stabilised (baseline of C stocks to be established in the second year, Project target no change in year 5).	No progress to report as the first inventories will be conducted in year 2.	Inventories setting the baseline will be conducted in year 2.
Outcome indicator 0.3a Community management associations are formed (Project target 4 associations in year 3, with at least 30% female membership) [DI-B04].	No progress to report as community management associations are planned to be formed in year 3.	Activities related to community management associations will start in year 2.
Outcome indicator 0.3b Community management plans are developed and approved (Project target 4 plans approved by the associations in year 5) [DI-B04].	No progress to report as community management plans are planned to be approved in year 5.	Activities related to community management plans will start in year 2.

Outcome indicator 0.4 Policymakers participate in project policy workshops and provide feedback on policy proposals (Project target 20 policy makers participating in year 2-4).	(See section 3.1) SPDA has initiated the desk work for Activity 4.1 (Write a report analysing current regional and national frameworks for the use of peatlands and palm swamps), assessing the applicable legal frameworks for the management of *M. flexuosa* palms by native communities.	As next steps, we will collect information on the gaps identified by the communities during the workshops scheduled for the next period, along with key inputs from the relevant authorities. This process will strengthen the construction of a solid, participatory baseline, which will serve as a foundation for evidence-based recommendations and for driving the development of the report.
Output 1 Improved management institutions and practices strengthened through innovative capacity-building programs tailored to the needs of community level stewards of palm swamps.		
Output indicator 1.1 Community members participate in theoretical and practical trainings on sustainable management of palm swamps (Project target 100 people trained in year 2, with 30% of women and/or youth) [DI-A01].	Output indicator will be achieved in year 2.	Activities related to this output indicator will start in year 2.
Output indicator 1.2 50% of trained community members report implementing learnt technical knowledge for managing palm swamps sustainably by project end (Project target 50 people in year 5, with 30% of women and/or youth) [DI-A04].	Output indicator will be achieved in year 5.	Activities related to this output indicator will start in year 2.
Output indicator 1.3 Management associations are formed and approved (Project target 4 associations in year 5).	Output indicator will be achieved in year 5.	Activities related to this output indicator will start in year 2.
Output indicator 1.4 People participate in association meetings (Project target 40 people in year 5, with 30% of women and/or youth) [DI-B07].	Output indicator will be achieved in year 5.	Activities related to this output indicator will start in year 2.

Output indicator 1.5 Community management plans are co-designed with and approved by management associations (Project target 4 palm swamp management plans in year 5) [DI-B03].	Output indicator will be achieved in year 5.	Activities related to this output indicator will start in year 2.
Output indicator 1.6 Community members co-design, approve and implement monitoring plans for palm swamp peatlands management (Project target 60 participants in year 5, with 30% of women and/or youth) [DI-B07].	Output indicator will be achieved in year 5.	Activities related to this output indicator will start in year 2.
Output indicator 1.7 Schools and children use educational campaign materials (Project target 20 schools and at least 200 children in year 5, with 30% of girls).	Output indicator will be achieved in year 5.	Activities related to this output indicator will start in year 3.
Output 2. Biodiversity and climate change mitigation benefits of palm swamp peatlands managed by local communities are inventoried and reported.		
Output indicator 2.1. Tree species inventories carried out in permanent 1-ha plots in the project area (Project target 4 in the second year, 4 in the fourth year).	Output indicator will be achieved in years 2 and 4.	Activities related to this output indicator will start in year 2.
Output indicator 2.2. Forest-scale *M. flexuosa* density inventories conducted by drone in the project area (Project target 4 in the second year, 4 in the fourth year).	Output indicator will be achieved in years 2 and 4.	Activities related to this output indicator will start in year 2.
Output indicator 2.3. Ecosystem carbon stock inventories carried out in permanent 1-ha plots in the project area (Project target 4 in the second year, 4 in the fourth year).	Output indicator will be achieved in years 2 and 4.	Activities related to this output indicator will start in year 2.
Output indicator 2.4. Forest-scale biomass carbon stock inventories conducted by drone in the project area (Project target 4 in the second year, 4 in the fourth year)	Output indicator will be achieved in years 2 and 4.	Activities related to this output indicator will start in year 2.
Output indicator 2.5.		

Peatlands inventories to assist Peru to implement the RAMSAR Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Project target 4 in the last year) [DI-C05].	Output indicator will be achieved in year 5.	Activities related to this output indicator will start in year 2.
Output 3. Increased information on NTFP value chains, markets access and community participation secure livelihoods options and enhances equitable benefit distribution.		
Output indicator 3.1. *M. flexuosa* supply chain stakeholder maps are conducted at regional scale (Project target 1 analysis per region in year 2-3).	Output indicator will be achieved in years 2-3.	Activities related to this output indicator will start in year 2.
Output indicator 3.2. Value chain survey for regional markets (Project target 1 analysis per regional urban markets (Iquitos and Pucallpa) in year 3).	Output indicator will be achieved in year 3.	Activities related to this output indicator will start in year 2.
Output indicator 3.3. Community members participate in capacity building training to improve market skills and knowledge (Project target 100 people, with 30% of women and/or youth, in year 3) [DI-A01].	Output indicator will be achieved in year 3.	Activities related to this output indicator will start in year 3.
Output 4. Policy makers have information and tools to govern peatlands and palm swamps through pathways that are sustainable and supportive of local practices and improve livelihoods.		
Output indicator 4.1. National and subnational laws, policies and incentives for peatlands and palm swamps are reviewed (Project target 1 report in year 2) [DI-C05].	Output indicator will be achieved in year 2, all relevant progress to date is reflected in the progress of the outcome indicator 0.4.	See actions in outcome indicator 0.4.
Output indicator 4.2. Legal pathways for recognizing land use rights and sustainable use of palm swamps are defined for policymakers (Project target 1 policy brief in year 4).	Output indicator will be achieved in year 4, all relevant progress to date is reflected in the progress of the outcome indicator 0.4.	See actions in outcome indicator 0.4.
Output indicator 4.3. Improved regulations are proposed for granting management permits, that consider community-validated management plans (Project target 1 regional regulation in year 4)	Output indicator will be achieved in year 4, all relevant progress to date is reflected in the progress of the outcome indicator 0.4.	See actions in outcome indicator 0.4.

Output indicator 4.4. Workshops involving targeted policy makers responsible for validating the project's legal proposal are organised (Project target 3 workshops in year 2-4).	Output indicator will be achieved in year 2-4, all relevant progress to date is reflected in the progress of the outcome indicator 0.4.	See actions in outcome indicator 0.4.
Output indicator 4.5. Government institutions are aware and understand biodiversity and associated poverty issues in peatlands and palm swamps (Project target 6 institutions in year 5) [DI-A07].	Output indicator will be achieved in year 5, all relevant progress to date is reflected in the progress of the outcome indicator 0.4. Nevertheless, collaboration with 2 government institutions (GOREL, OSINFOR) were initiated (See Annex 4.1a-b and 4.2a-b).	See actions in outcome indicator 0.4.

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: Maintained biodiversity and climate change mitigation contribution of palm swamp peatlands and improved contribution to poverty reduction through sustainable and inclusive community management and enhanced policies in Peru.			
Outcome: Palm swamp peatlands' biodiversity and contribution to climate change mitigation are maintained, livelihoods opportunities of local communities are improved, and peatlands/palm swamps-related policies are adapted to local context and elaborated.	0.1 *M. flexuosa* population in palm swamps peatlands within the project area (2,000 ha) is stabilised (baseline of absolute and relative abundance to be established in the second year, Project target no change in year 5) [DI-D04]. 0.2 Carbon stocks in palm swamps peatlands within the project area are stabilised (baseline of C stocks to be established in the second year, Project target no change in year 5). 0.3a Community management associations are formed (Project target 4 associations in year 3, with at least 30% female membership) [DI-B04]. 0.3b Community management plans are developed and approved (Project target 4 plans approved by the associations in year 5) [DI-B04]. 0.4 Policymakers participate in project policy workshops and provide feedback on policy proposals (Project target 20 policy makers participating in year 2-4).	0.1 Report comparing plot-scale and forest scale inventories of tree diversity and *M. flexuosa* density conducted in the second and last year of the project. 0.2 Report comparing plot-scale and forest scale carbon stock inventories conducted in the second and last year of the project. 0.3 Association by-laws, meeting minutes and reports documenting association actions and decisions, with participation disaggregated by gender and age group. 0.4a Reports presenting the evidence and proposed legal pathways to improve local NTFP based livelihoods, based on project activities. 0.4b Reports of policy workshops where project's outputs (e.g. on relevant legal framework to propose	0.1 Impacts of sustainable practices on biodiversity and climate change mitigation services are measurable over the timeframe of the project. 0.2 Formation of community management institutions and access rights will allow community managers to exclude interventions by non-members. 0.3 Improved management of *M. flexuosa* and access to markets will increase and sustain incomes to reduce poverty of participating community members. 0.4 Regional governments will collaborate to develop administrative instructions to recognize management institutions and support *M. flexuosa* value chains.

		a pathway for improved tenure regime for palm swamp stewards) will be presented and discussed.	
Output 1 Improved management institutions and practices are strengthened through innovative capacity-building programs tailored to the needs of community level stewards of palm swamps.	1.1 Community members participate in theoretical and practical trainings on sustainable management of palm swamps (Project target 100 people trained in year 2, with 30% of women and/or youth) [DI-A01].	1.1 Training course attendance certificates, disaggregated by gender and age group, and post course feedback.	1.1 Community members can attend training courses and potential barriers to implementing learnt technical knowledge can be addressed.
	1.2 50% of trained community members report implementing learnt technical knowledge for managing palm swamps sustainably by project end (Project target 50 people in year 5, with 30% of women and/or youth) [DI-A04].	1.2 Report on household survey results (and database) describing socio-economic context and local perceptions of sustainable management of palm swamps, disaggregated by gender and age group.	1.2 It will be possible to identify and delineate clear community stewards responsible for specific palm swamps.
	1.3 Management associations are formed and approved (Project target 4 associations in year 5).	1.3 Approved management association by-laws.	1.3 It will be possible to mediate conflicts and contested access to palm swamps.
	1.4 People participate in association meetings (Project target 40 people in year 5, with 30% of women and/or youth) [DI-B07].	1.4 Association meeting minutes, survey report, disaggregated by gender and age group.	1.4 Regional schools will be open to receive educational materials/participate in educational campaigns.
	1.5 Community management plans are co-designed with and approved by management associations (Project target 4 palm swamp management plans in year 5) [DI-B03].	1.5 Approved community management plans of palm swamps based on customary access rules adopted by community associations.	
	1.6 Community members co-design, approve and implement monitoring plans for palm swamp peatlands	1.6 Community generated monitoring data on harvests, sales and benefit distribution. Participants	

	management (Project target 60 participants in year 5, with 30% of women and/or youth) [DI-B07]. 1.7 Schools and children use educational campaign materials (Project target 20 schools and at least 200 children in year 5, with 30% of girls).	lists, minutes of meetings, monitoring plans signed by all members. 1.7 Log of received materials and feedback survey of school authorities.	
Output 2 Biodiversity and climate change mitigation benefits of palm swamp peatlands managed by local communities are inventoried and reported.	2.1 Tree species inventories carried out in permanent 1-ha plots in the project area (Project target 4 in the second year, 4 in the fourth year). 2.2 Forest-scale *M. flexuosa* density inventories conducted by drone in the project area (Project target 4 in the second year, 4 in the fourth year). 2.3 Ecosystem carbon stock inventories carried out in permanent 1-ha plots in the project area (Project target 4 in the second year, 4 in the fourth year). 2.4 Forest-scale biomass carbon stock inventories conducted by drone in the project area (Project target 4 in the second year, 4 in the fourth year) 2.5 Peatlands inventories to assist Peru to implement the RAMSAR Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Project target 4 in the last year) [DI-C05].	2.1 Report on plot-scale tree species diversity in the second year and fourth year. 2.2 Report on forest-scale *M. flexuosa* density in the second year and fourth year. 2.3 Report on plot-scale ecosystem carbon stock in the second year and fourth year. 2.4 Report on forest-scale biomass carbon stock in the second year and fourth year. 2.5 Synthesis report summarizing inventories conducted in the second year and fourth year, and associated databases.	2.1 Access to palm swamps for their monitoring is granted by local communities. 2.2 Permit for using a drone is granted by local authorities.

Output 3 Increased information on NTFP value chains, markets access and community participation secure livelihoods options and enhances equitable benefit distribution.	3.1 *M. flexuosa* supply chain stakeholder maps are conducted at regional scale (Project target 1 analysis per region in year 2-3). 3.2 Value chain survey for regional markets (Project target 1 analysis per regional urban markets (Iquitos and Pucallpa) in year 3). 3.3 Community members participate in capacity building training to improve market skills and knowledge (Project target 100 people, with 30% of women and/or youth, in year 3) [DI-A01].	3.1 Supply chain stakeholder maps that identify the actors and illustrate the processes, roles and logic involved in the production, transportation and commercialization of *M. flexuosa*. 3.2 Report of value chain survey conducted with selected producers, intermediaries, processors and consumers that documents socio-economic characteristics, cost and benefit distribution and identify opportunities to enhance local incomes related to *M. flexuosa*. 3.3 Community workshop reports including participation list disaggregated by gender and age group.	3.1 There is a potential margin for improvement of value captured by local resource managers. 3.2 Existing stakeholders in value chains will be willing to renegotiate relations and positions within value chains. 3.3 Women and youth that are not already involved in management and commercialization on *M. flexuosa* will be willing and able to increase their participation. 3.4 There is an untapped market for sustainably managed *M. flexuosa* fruit and consumers will distinguish between sustainably and unsustainably managed *M. flexuosa* fruit.
Output 4 Policy makers have information and tools to govern peatlands and palm swamps through pathways that are sustainable and supportive of local practices and improve livelihoods.	4.1 National and subnational laws, policies and incentives for peatlands and palm swamps are reviewed (Project target 1 report in year 2) [DI-C05]. 4.2 Legal pathways for recognizing land use rights and sustainable use of palm swamps are defined for	4.1. Report for regional and national authorities analysing current framework and regulations for peatlands and palm swamps, providing recommendations. 4.2. Policy brief on institutional and legal framework with pathways to achieve reforms to govern peatlands	4.1 There will be political will to develop new policy mechanisms for palm swamps or to revisit existing policy to consider reform. 4.2 Policy makers will recognize the legitimacy of local knowledge for shaping policy tools.

	policymakers (Project target 1 policy brief in year 4). 4.3 Improved regulations are proposed for granting management permits, that consider community-validated management plans (Project target 1 regional regulation in year 4) 4.4 Workshops involving targeted policy makers responsible for validating the project's legal proposal are organised (Project target 3 workshops in year 2-4). 4.5 Government institutions are aware and understand biodiversity and associated poverty issues in peatlands and palm swamps (Project target 6 institutions in year 5) [DI-A07].	and palm swamps and improve livelihoods. 4.3 Reports from workshops with government authorities on policies, laws and regulations issues related to peatlands and palm swamps and community-approved management plans. 4.4 List of participants, minutes of meetings, feedback surveys with participants. 4.5. Semi-structured interviews with key members from relevant government institutions. Workshops feedback survey reports and participants lists.	4.3 Policy makers will recognize the importance of clear legal tenure rights for local stewards.

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)

1.1 Design and run 2-day theoretical and practical training course (×4) on sustainable management of palm swamps for communities (100 people; year 2)

1.2 Develop and conduct surveys for household socio-economic characterization, and documentation of *M. flexuosa* use and palm swamp management practices (year 2)

1.3 Support formation of management associations for *M. flexuosa* palm management (2 in Loreto and 2 in Ucayali)

1.4 Run community-level workshops (×4) to assess existing community organizations, co-design palm swamp management association, and facilitate the formalization and adoption of management associations (4 associations; year 2-3)

1.5 Run management workshops at association-level (×4) to co-design palm swamp management plans (focused on organizational practices and resource use) for approval by community associations and submission to regional government (year 2-4)

1.6 Co-design participatory monitoring practices to evaluate management plans by community associations (4 management plans; year 2-3)

1.7 Support testing of participatory monitoring practices through (bi)monthly visits to facilitate community evaluation of palm swamp management plans and participatory monitoring results (year 1-4)

1.8 Develop and disseminate educational material on palm swamps and their sustainable use in regional schools (20 schools and at least 200 children; year 3-4)

2.1 Design and conduct tree species inventories in permanent 1-ha sample plots (4 inventories in year 2, 4 inventories in year 4)

2.2 Design and conduct forest-scale *M. flexuosa* density inventories using drone (UAV) (4 inventories in year 2, 4 inventories in year 4)

2.3 Design and conduct ecosystem carbon stock inventories in permanent 1-ha sample plots (4 inventories in year 2, 4 inventories in year 4)

2.4 Design and conduct forest-scale biomass carbon stock inventories using drone (UAV) (4 inventories in year 2, 4 inventories in year 4)

2.5 Produce peatlands inventories to assist Peru to implement the RAMSAR Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (4 inventories, year 2-4)

2.6 Design and run 1-day workshops for presenting the methods (×4) and the results (×4) in collaboration with other Outputs (100 people in year 2, 100 people in year 4)

3.1 Review the literature and secondary data on NTFP regional markets with emphasis on *M. flexuosa* (year 2)

3.2 Conduct fieldwork to gather data on commercial networks related to *M. flexuosa*, stakeholder analysis and marketing practices (year 2-3)

3.3 Based on 3.1 and 3.2 produce a value chain analysis for regional markets highlighting opportunities to enhance local incomes (year 2-3)

3.4 Design and run capacity building workshops (×4) to improve market skills and knowledge based on observed needs and findings from value chain study (year 3)

4.1 Write a report analysing current regional and national frameworks for the use of peatlands and palm swamps (1 report; year 1-2)

4.2 Write a peatlands and palm swamps-focused policy brief on linkages between community land tenure types, NTFP use and improved livelihoods (1 policy brief; year 3-4)

4.3 Organize regular meetings with the regional government of Ucayali & SERNANP to co-evaluate granting of harvesting permits in the communities (year 1-4)

4.4 Develop regional regulatory proposals for improving granting of management permits, including community-validated management plans (based on Activity 1.6) (year 3-4)

4.5 Run workshops with national and regional authorities for data collection, and results socialization (1 national workshop, 2 regional workshops; years 2-4)

4.6 Write reports for decision-makers on policies, laws and regulations issues related to peatlands and palm swamps (1 report in year 2, 1 report in year 2-3)

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?	Yes
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	Yes
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please consider the best way to submit. One zipped file, or a download option, is recommended. We can work with most online options and will be in touch if we have a problem accessing material. If unsure, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	No
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, last update 18/12/24
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see Section 16)?	No
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	