

## Darwin Initiative Capability & Capacity: 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: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**Submit to: [BCF-Reports@niras.com](mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com) including your project ref in the subject line**

### Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	DARCC040
Project title	Forest law enforcement capacity building for biodiversity protection in Cameroon
Country/ies	Cameroon
Lead Organisation	Zoological Society of London
Project partner(s)	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
Darwin Initiative grant value	£199,972
Start/end dates of project	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024 – Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	Apr 2024 – Mar 2025- Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	MBA ARMSTRONG ACHA
Project website/blog/social media	<a href="http://www.zsl.org">www.zsl.org</a>
Report author(s) and date	MBA ARMSTRONG ACHA

### 1. Project summary

Despite Cameroon's commitment to sustainable forest management, there is a lack of capacity to monitor and audit the sector within The Ministry of Forestry (MINFOF) and assessments show that forestry companies are non-compliant with legal requirements which protect biodiversity. This project will analyse forestry compliance with environmental and social requirements. MINFOF staff will be trained on these requirements and better forestry sector auditing, and empowered to run a train-the-trainer approach to strengthen the sustainability of operations in Cameroonian production forests.

About 4 million people depend on these forests for their livelihoods. These forests, along with the communities and wildlife they sustain, are threatened by over-exploitation and inadequate management by forestry companies.

Analysis from MINFOF in 2021 revealed that forestry company operational plans focus largely on timber harvest, overlooking the sustainability requirements of the Standards for Intervention in the Forest Environment (SIFE). ZSL's annual [SPOTT](#) assessments demonstrate companies in Cameroon score poorly in ESG components of the indicator framework which align with sustainability criteria of the SIFE. This aligns with the findings of MINFOF summary assessments. This project will improve the implementation of environmental and social requirements by the forestry sector. Capability and capacity-building of these companies, MINFOF and civil society will ensure biodiversity is better

protected and community participation in forest management is improved, resulting in reduced poverty. A train the-trainer approach ensures longer-term capacity of MINFOF for continued implementation of these requirements.

## **2. Project stakeholders/ partners**

The principal partners involved in this project are the Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife and the Zoological Society of London. Key stakeholders are the Forestry sector, Civil Society Institutions and the learning institutions. All key partners and stakeholders were involved in the conception of the project by insights from the experience in the forestry sector in implementing the SIFE, the observations by civil society organisations from Independent Forest Monitoring and Community Engagements. Throughout 2024 to the present, the project has seen robust collaborative engagement during its implementation. Partners have reached consensus on decisions to revise the SIFE, making them more binding and inclusive to better protect environmental and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) rights, and establishing them as mandatory for the granting of further logging rights.

## **3. Project progress**

### **1.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities**

Since the project commenced in April 2024, we have successfully secured all necessary administrative approvals from the Government of Cameroon and presented the project to key stakeholders, including government, private sector, and civil society representatives. The ZSL Forestry Assessor role became effective on 1 August 2024, enabling us to accelerate implementation. Our achievements to date include the following:

Output 1 - Gaps have been identified in company reporting against SIFE requirements

- 1.1 Kick-off meeting and scoping exercise between ZSL and MINFOF
- 1.2 Literature review on the requirements of SIFE and alignment with ESG indicators of the SPOTT tool done and report available (In French for now)
- 1.3 Expert interviews with stakeholders on SIFE implementation, compliance and requirements improvement conducted.
- 1.4 Partners working session for framing and refining the methodology and the timelines conducted. New workplan available with some additions in activities following the enactment of the new Forestry Law of 24th July 2024.
- 1.5 Conducted desk-based review of 23 (instead of 25) Annual Operational Plans and their corresponding AFIRs for compliance with the SIFE. (as such 23 (not 25 as initially planned) in year 1 and review of same 23 companies in year 2) making a total of 46 and not 50 as initially planned.
- 1.6 Review M&E mechanisms used by MINFOF to identify compliance with the SIFE. The activity has been completed, and report now available report is now available in French version
- 1.7 Produce assessment report on gaps in reported implementation of SIFE by forestry companies and compliance audit improvements by MINFOF. This activity has been carried out and a report is available. It is combined with the report for activity 1.5.
- 1.8 1st Stakeholder consultation to review ZSL assessments, with MINFOF, ZSL and consulted stakeholders. This activity has been carried out and the report is available.

Output 2. 1st Stakeholder consultation to review ZSL assessments, with MINFOF, ZSL and consulted stakeholders.

- 2.1 Develop operational guide for MINFOF for the monitoring and evaluation of SIFE, and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) grids. For this activity to be carried out a slight modification

regarding the review of the SIFE to match requirements of the new forestry law of 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024. A consultant has been hired for this process and has delivered the first drafts of both reviewed SIFE and Operational Guide for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the SIFE

*(Ind 1.1) Gaps identified in Annual Operational Plans and their corresponding AFIRs against compliance with the SIFE for 25 forestry companies by end of Y1Q1 based on CY2023 data and re-assessed by end of Y2Q4 based on CY2024 data leading to an increase in 60,000 hectares of area under improved sustainable management practices.*

[DI-D01] This has been partially met with 23 AOPs and AFIRs assessed against compliance to the SIFE as required in Y1. Concessions involved cover a total area of over 57500Ha for the area covered by the AOPs reviewed.

*(Ind 1.2) Gaps identified in Annual Operational Plans and their corresponding AFIRs against compliance with the SIFE for 25 forestry companies by end of Y1Q1 based on CY2023 data and re-assessed by end of Y2Q4 based on CY2024 data leading to an increase in 5 IPLC groups with strengthened tenure and/or rights*

[DI-B06]- This has been partially met with 23 AOPs and AFIRs assessed against compliance to the SIFE as required in Y1. Consultation of all stakeholders ongoing with incorporation of their views including IPLCs through their advocates.

*(Ind 1.3) At least 10 stakeholders from government, civil society and private sector are consulted and provide suggestions for improvement of AOP Gap Analysis by end of Y1Q2.*

[ZSL], This has been done and stakeholders have provided suggestions to improvement of AOPs and AFIR gap analyses and contained in a report (currently in the French version)

*(Ind 2.1) Guidance for improved assessment of the SIFE requirements is drafted and distributed to >100 stakeholders from government, civil society and private sector by end of Y1Q3.*

Draft 0 of the guidance is currently under development and a plan to test it on the ground has been agreed upon for May 2025.

*(Ind 2.2) At least 10 stakeholders from government, civil society and private sector are consulted and provide suggestions for improvement of operational guidance by end of Y1Q3.*

Draft Operational guidance has been shared with stakeholders from across the government, private sector and civil society organisations for their inputs. Once tested on the ground a validation workshop shall be organised to ensure consensus.

## 1.2 Progress towards project Outputs

*OUTPUT 1: 25 Annual Operation Plans and the corresponding AFIRs are evaluated, and the results of the evaluation are reported to the various stakeholders.*

23 Annual Operational Plans and their Corresponding Annual Forestry Intervention Reports have been evaluated against compliance with the SIFE. The Results have been constituted in a report and have been presented to the stakeholders during workshops. Gaps and non-compliances were identified and discussions followed to uniformise the implementation of the Standards for Intervention in Forest Environments. Several two consultations have so far taken place with two working sessions with stakeholders contributing to the review of the SIFE, the development of the guide is currently ongoing from stakeholder contributions.

*OUTPUT 2: Operational guidance for auditing SIFE requirements has been developed based on the assessments and gaps identified in Output 1.*

Operational Guidance for auditing the SIFE is currently being developed. We are in the process of reviewing the SIFE and Assessing the AOPs and AFIRs against them, the Cameroon Forestry Law was changed with implications onto the project. The new law imposed that the review and assessment processes aligned with it, leading to an updating of the SIFE altogether along side the development of the guide. The Guide pending field testing and official recognition and adoption by the MINFOF is the

product of several consultation and expert inputs. Globally, the project is expected to be delivered with all outputs and objectives met by March 2026 as planned.

### 1.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

#### *Outcome*

Cameroonian forestry companies are effectively implementing environmental and social requirements of SIFE in their operations due to (in large part) this project raising their capabilities and the capabilities of MINFOF.

So far there has been a remarkable participation from the forestry companies in the process. Their contributions in strengthening and closing environmental and social gaps is a good indicator that they adhere to the process. They have always been collaborative in granting access to their concessions and facilitating contact with communities around their concessions for the project team. MINFOF staff participating the process are equally learning and gaining acquaintance with the SIFE and forestry legislation as they view the interpretation of the law from expert perspective and diverse views. Increasingly, more actors from the Government, Private sector and Civil Society will by the moment trainings are rolled out (a consultant has been hired to develop training materials and train stakeholders in a train the trainer approach).

### 1.4 Monitoring of assumptions

There have been no changes to assumptions made during the conception of this project. The same assumptions continue to hold.

### 1.5 Achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and multidimensional poverty reduction

The Sustainable Forestry and Environmental Framework (SIFE) is a national legal instrument with significant implications for the management of forest resources across both permanent and non-permanent forest estates. Its purpose is to enhance the quality of forestry operations by minimising environmental and social impacts at local and global levels. At least 120 individuals from civil society, private sector, and government stakeholders will directly benefit from training related to this initiative. Indirectly, communities—particularly Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs)—will gain from improved consideration and clearer directives to protect their rights, as enshrined in the guidance currently under development. An IPLC consultant has been appointed to investigate legal and supra-legal frameworks for IPLC participation and protection within the forestry sector, with their recommendations to be integrated into the guidance and revised SIFE. Enhanced biodiversity and rights protection will foster a stronger societal perception of a just society, with forests delivering greater ecosystem services, ultimately contributing to poverty reduction.

## 4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

Forest exploitation in Cameroon is governed by the Sustainable Forestry and Environmental Framework (SIFE), established under Decision No. 108/D/MINEF/CAB of 9 February 1998. The SIFE aligns with regional and international standards, including the FAO Code on Low-Impact Logging in the Humid Tropical Forests of Central and West Africa. This framework promotes sustainable forest management, conservation of forest cover, and protection of wildlife populations, contributing significantly to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG12 (responsible consumption and production) and SDG 15 (life on land). Forestry and agriculture are priority areas for Cameroon's emission reduction commitments in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and serve as key drivers for development, as articulated in the 2030 National Development Strategy (SND30) and the 2021-2024 New Economic Programme. Afforestation, re-afforestation, and sustainable forest management are the pathways for Cameroon for reducing emissions in the forestry sector, contributing to SDG 13 (climate action) and the UNFCCC.

The forestry sector's compliance with SIFE requirements also feeds into Cameroon's NBSAP II goals for biodiversity as it aims to reduce impact on wildlife through reduced impact logging practices, improved infrastructure planning, restrictions for chemical use and riparian buffer zones, contributing to the goals of the CBD.

The SIFE includes requirements on wildlife protection, including controlling public access to concessions to avoid exploitation, and prohibition of hunting. Improved forest management will help maintain habitats for CITES species such as the African Grey Parrot (*Psittacus Erithacus*).

In building the capability and capacity stakeholders responsible for implementing the SIFE, the forestry sector's contribution to achieving national and international climate and biodiversity targets, to which Cameroon is committed, will be significantly strengthened.

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 Empowering. It aims to prevent the creation or promotion of any forms of inequality; the forestry sector in Cameroon has traditionally been male-dominated, with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) frequently lacking a platform to voice their perspectives. Through its consultation process, ZSL has actively engaged women and IPLCs to incorporate their perspectives and priorities into the development of the Operational guide and the review of the SIFE ensuring that the interests of Women and IPLC are adequately addressed. Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), traditionally a field where women have played a central role, are given specific focus. A dedicated chapter in the revised SIFE and operational guide outlines the management of NTFPs within concessions to ensure the sustainability of resources that Women primarily rely on for income generation. Additionally, an IPLC consultant was appointed to ensure that specific issues related to IPLC rights are integrated in the Operational guide and revised SIFE.

## 5. Monitoring and evaluation

We conduct regular in-house progress reporting meetings and maintain detailed minutes of discussions held with partners. Our approach to project implementation is adaptive while remaining structured. Reports from all consultations and field visits have been drafted and shared with stakeholders.

*(Ind 1.1) Gaps identified in Annual Operational Plans and their corresponding AFIRs against compliance with the SIFE for 25 forestry companies by end of Y1Q1 based on CY2023 data and re-assessed by end of Y2Q4 based on CY2024 data leading to an increase in 60,000 hectares of area under improved sustainable management practices.*

[DI-D01] This has been partially met with 23 AOPs and AFIRs assessed against compliance to the SIFE as required in Y1. Concessions involved cover a total area of over 57500Ha for the area covered by the AOPs reviewed.

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*(Ind 1.3) At least 10 stakeholders from government, civil society and private sector are consulted and provide suggestions for improvement of AOP Gap Analysis by end of Y1Q2. [ZSL],*

This has been done and stakeholders have provided suggestions to improvement of AOPs and AFIR gap analyses and contained in a report (currently in the French version)

*(Ind 2.1) Guidance for improved assessment of the SIFE requirements is drafted and distributed to >100 stakeholders from government, civil society and private sector by end of Y1Q3.*

Draft 0 of the guidance is currently under development and a plan to test it on the ground has been agreed for May 2025.

*(Ind 2.2) At least 10 stakeholders from government, civil society and private sector are consulted and provide suggestions for improvement of operational guidance by end of Y1Q3.*

Draft Operational guidance has been shared with stakeholders from government, private sector, and civil society organisations for their feedback. Following field testing, a validation workshop will be held to ensure consensus.

## **6. Lessons learnt**

Several key lessons were learned during the first year of the project.

- 1) The projects launch was significantly delayed due to staff transitions within the Ministry of forestry and wildlife, with handovers between outgoing and incoming personnel causing setbacks.
- 2) Changes to Cameroon's forestry legislation rendered the SIFE partially outdated. This necessitated a strategic revision to align the SIFE with the new law, ensuring the Operational guide reflected the updated legal framework.
- 3) This consultative process, designed to be inclusive and participatory, faced challenges in coordinating stakeholders' availability. To address this, we planned activities in advance and invited stakeholders to propose suitable dates, resulting in a mutually agreed project calendar that improved efficiency.
- 4) Numerous unplanned sub activities during the implementation of planned tasks. Adaptive management approaches were used to integrate the sub activities into existing ones, reducing costs and saving time.

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

Non-Applicable

## 8. Risk Management

The socio-political situation could impact project delivery with elections scheduled for October 2025 approaching. A potential ministerial reshuffle during this period could cause delays to the project.

## 9. Scalability and durability

Stakeholders from all sectors—government, private sector, and civil society—have been actively engaged throughout the project’s lifecycle, from its design and initiation to its reframing and ongoing implementation. This participatory, inclusive, and deliberative process is built on consensus, with all parties endorsing the development of the Operational Guidance and the review of the Sustainable Forestry and Environmental Framework (SIFE) to incorporate enhanced social and environmental safeguards. Attendance records confirm robust participation across sectors.

The methodology involved stakeholder groups deliberating before presenting their contributions to the general group for discussions and adoption. Stakeholders agree that the Operational Guidance, based on the revised SIFE, provides greater clarity and enhances user-friendliness in implementing the framework. The project was co-designed with input from stakeholders, many of whom provided letters of support from government, private sector, and civil society. The reframing of the project was conducted collaboratively to ensure alignment with stakeholders’ original intentions. All stakeholder groups have actively participated and made contributions into every stage of the project.

This project has facilitated the revision of SIFE, embedding social and environmental safeguards that support the government’s, mandatory public timber certification programme. The revision ensures compliance with the new forestry law and relevant ministerial orders.

Although formal training is yet to commence, significant learning has occurred through the SIFE review and the development of the draft Operational Guidance. Stakeholders have gained a deeper understanding of legal instruments, their interpretation, and the need to align with current biodiversity, rights, and climate imperatives, as reflected in the revised SIFE and draft guidance. Government officials have shown increased openness to recognising Indigenous Peoples’ rights and adopting Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) as a consultation and consent mechanism.

The Original exit strategy, involving a Training of Trainers programme to ensure uptake by government, private sector and academic institutions, remains in place. The development training plan includes representatives from academia, government, and the private sector, as evidenced by attendance lists. A consultant has been engaged to develop training modules which will be distributed to trained trainers.

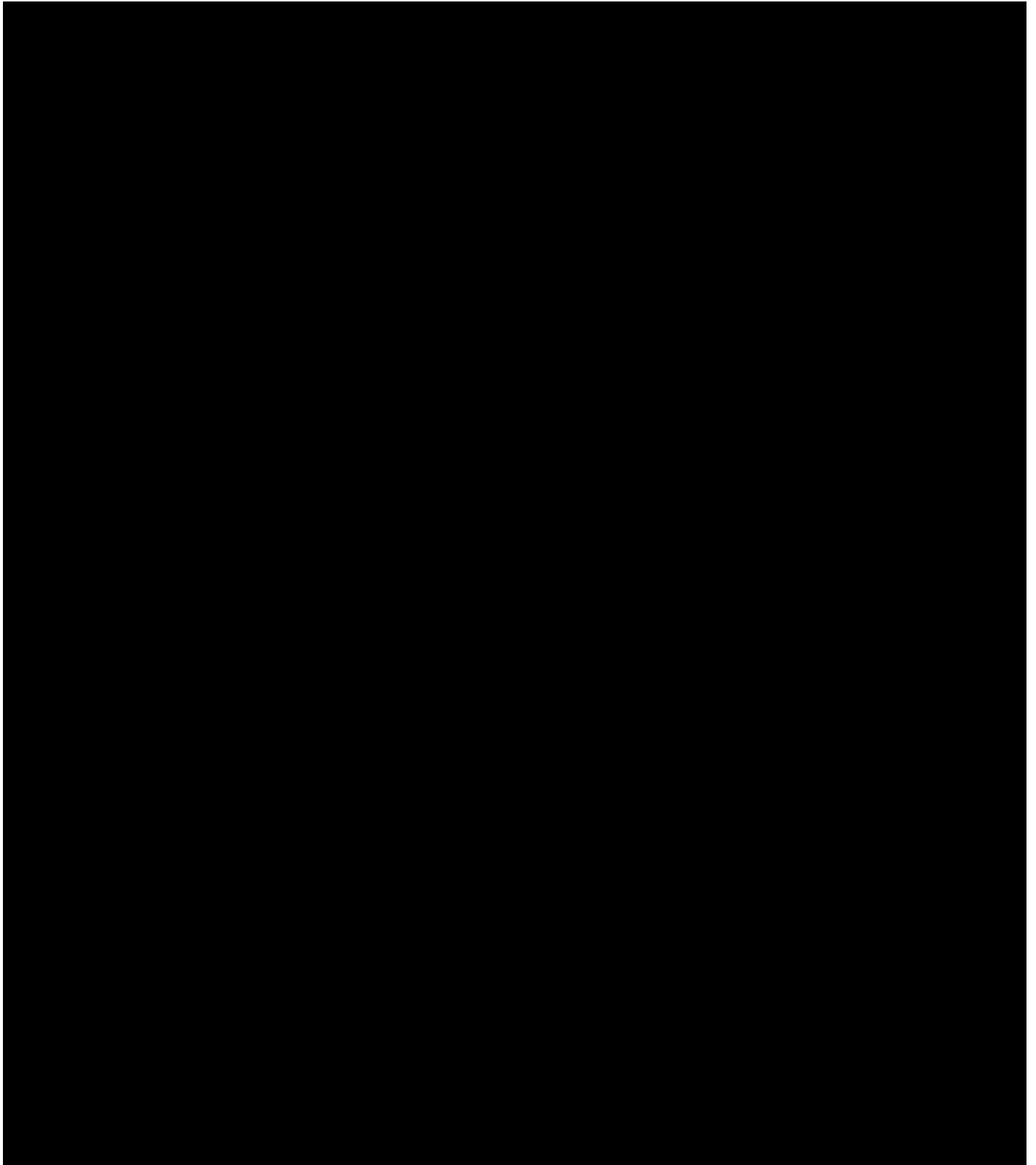
We are collaborating closely with the Ministry on Forestry and Wildlife who has authority to officially recognise and mandate the project’s outputs for all forestry and environmental sector actors. The Minister personally issues invitations to our meetings and receives regular progress updates. Senior ministry staff are actively involved in the process.

## **10.** Darwin Initiative identity

Letters were sent out to the stakeholders to inform them that the project has been funded by the Darwin Initiative. All Reports produced have the Darwin Initiative logo on them at the top lefthand corner.

All reports and public presentations indicate that the project is funded by the UK Government through the Darwin Initiative.

## **11.** Safeguarding





Please describe any community sensitisation on SEAH or rights of project participants that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and SADD (sex, age, disability disaggregated) data of participants.

During the development of the grievance mechanisms for ZSL projects topics around SEAH were discussed in Focussed group discussions covering areas like definitions around SEAH and how communities could feedback to ZSL if they encountered any such from either staff of partners working with ZSL.

Have there been any concerns around Health, Safety and Security of your project over the past year? If yes, please outline how this was resolved. None

## 12. 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 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)				
<b>TOTAL</b>	£62,958.68	£62,958.67		

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

## 13. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

- We have constantly adapted to challenges and field realities to enable the effective implementation of project activities. We have created a WhatsApp group of the major stakeholders and constantly communicate developments thereupon.

- The main difficulties encountered were changes in staff and the forestry legislation which delayed the project between handovers and created the need for alignment with the new law. These created time constraints as well as budgetary implications because a series of sub activities needed to be developed that were not initially costed. To overcome this, we re-strategized and made long term planning and validated dates upfront in a plan that every stake holder stuck to. We also combined sub activities to avoid cost in additional activities.

**14. 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).

In this section you have the change to let us know about outstanding achievements for your project or significant strides towards attaining a particular goal so far that you consider worth sharing with the wider BCFs community.

<b>File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)</b>	<b>File Name or File Location</b>	<b>Caption including description, country and credit</b>	<b>Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)</b>	<b>Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)</b>
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No

## Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Indicators of Success for Financial Year 2024-2025

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
<b>Outcome</b> Cameroonian forestry companies are effectively implementing environmental and social requirements of SIFE in their operations due to (in large part) this project raising their capabilities and the capabilities of MINFOF		
Outcome indicator (Ind 0.1) 50% increase in number of trained companies (n=25) submitting Annual Operating Plans deemed 'adequate' against the SIFE requirements by end of Y2Q4, against baseline established in year 1.	23 Annual Operating Plans (AOPs) and their Corresponding Annual Forestry Intervention Reports (AFIRS) have been assessed against the SIFE as against 25 Planned due to the unavailability of AOPs at the Ministry of Forestry and wildlife.	Draft training material and train stakeholders
Outcome indicator (Ind 0.2) Engagement between project-trained MINFOF staff and at least 25 forestry companies (18% of total logging concessions in the country) to better understand, implement and enforce SIFE requirements by Y2Q4.	The Operational guide is currently being developed with MINFOF, the Private sector and Civil society organisations. The development process in itself is training and learning that enables better understanding of the SIFE and thus implementation. When the training will finally take place, the targets will be met.	Draft training material and train stakeholders and reassess AOPs and AFIRS
<b>Output 1 Gaps have been identified in company reporting against SIFE requirements</b>		
Output indicator 1.1 (Ind 1.1) Gaps identified in Annual Operational Plans and their corresponding AFIRs against compliance with the SIFE for 25 forestry companies by end of Y1Q1 based on CY2023 data and re-assessed by end of Y2Q4 based on CY2024 data leading to an increase in 60,000 hectares of area under improved sustainable management practices.	23 AOPs and Corresponding AFIRs for 2023 have been assessed covering a total Area of about 57500Ha. Re-assessment will be done at the end of Y2 once training has effectively been carried out.	Reassess AOPs and AFIRs
Outp(Ind 1.2) Gaps identified in Annual Operational Plans and their corresponding AFIRs against compliance with the SIFE for 25 forestry companies by end of Y1Q1 based on CY2023 data and re-assessed by end of Y2Q4 based on CY2024 data leading to an increase in 5 IPLC groups with strengthened tenure and/or rights	IPLC groups have been consulted and their views included in the SIFE. A definition of IPLC does not exist in the forestry legislation but stakeholders agree that within the SIFE a definition aligning with the terminology used in the law be made. This will improve IPLC rights and secure user rights. An IPLC expert has been hired to consult, guide and recommend actions to be covered in both the SIFE and guide in favour of IPLC rights and protection.	Develop Operational guide with IPLC issues mainstreamed.
Outp(Ind 1.3) At least 10 stakeholders from government, civil society and private sector are consulted and provide suggestions for improvement of AOP Gap Analysis by end of Y1Q2.	More than 10 stakeholders from government, private sector, civil society and institutions of learning are actively engaging in a participatory consultative and deliberative process to review the SIFE, Develop the Operational guide.	Continue consultations

(Ind 1.4) At least 6 village forest management committees are consulted for implementation of SIFE	At least Six Village Forest management committees have been consulted and their contributions contained in a report.	Integrate these contributions into the guide being developed
<b>Output 2.</b> Operational guidance for auditing SIFE requirements has been developed		
Output indicator 2.1. Guidance for improved assessment of the SIFE requirements is drafted and distributed to >100 stakeholders from government, civil society and private sector by end of Y1Q3	The Operational Guidance for improvement of the SIFE implementation is currently being drafted and the final version shall be shared to stakeholders.	Final version needs to be adopted and shared to stakeholders.
Output indicator 2.2. At least 10 stakeholders from government, civil society and private sector are consulted and provide suggestions for improvement of operational guidance by end of Y1Q3.	More than 10 stakeholders from Government, private sector, civil society and institutions of learning are engaged in the process of developing the Operational guide.	Continue with engagement till final copy and training.

**Annex 2: Project's full current Indicators of Success as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)**

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification
<b>Outcome:</b> Cameroonian forestry companies are effectively implementing environmental and social requirements of SIFE in their operations due to (in large part) this project raising their capabilities and the capabilities of MINFOF	<p>(Ind 0.1) 50% increase in number of trained companies (n=25) submitting Annual Operating Plans deemed 'adequate' against the SIFE requirements by end of Y2Q4, against baseline established in year 1.</p> <p>(Ind 0.2) Engagement between project-trained MINFOF staff and at least 25 forestry companies (18% of total logging concessions in the country) to better understand, implement and enforce SIFE requirements by Y2Q4.</p>	<p>MoV 0.1) 25x assessments of CY22 Annual Operating Plans conducted by end of Y1Q1. And 25x re-assessments of same companies' AOPs for CY2023 by Y2Q4.</p> <p>(MoV 0.2) Activity reports and training records from MINFOF, forestry companies and project staff (stakeholder consultations, training sessions and field missions).</p>
<b>Output 1 Gaps have been identified in company reporting against SIFE requirements</b>	<p>1.1 Gaps identified in Annual Operational Plans and their corresponding AFIRs against compliance with the SIFE for 25 forestry companies by end of Y1Q1 based on CY2023 data and re-assessed by end of Y2Q4 based on CY2024 data leading to an increase in 60,000 hectares of area under improved sustainable management practices.</p> <p>1.2) Gaps identified in Annual Operational Plans and their corresponding AFIRs against compliance with the SIFE for 25 forestry companies by end of Y1Q1 based on CY2023 data and re-assessed by end of Y2Q4 based on CY2024 data leading to an increase in 5 IPLC groups with strengthened tenure and/or rights</p> <p>1.3 ) At least 10 stakeholders from government, civil society and private sector are consulted and provide suggestions for improvement of AOP Gap Analysis by end of Y1Q2.</p> <p>1.4) At least 6 village forest management committees are consulted for implementation of SIFE</p>	<p>1.1Gap Analysis Report on AOP assessment findings for Y1 and re-assessment report for Y2. Area disaggregated by protected areas/non-protected areas, Biome/Ecosystem/Habitat, community controlled or noncommunity controlled. Extent of habitat disaggregated by preproject and post project sustainably managed area, and other</p> <p>1.2 Gap Analysis Report on AOP assessment findings for Y1 and re-assessment report for Y2. Number of communities/people surrounding concessions. Disaggregated by Gender; Age Group; Typology of tenure/rights: (Extraction/Harvesting, Access/Use, Water, total ownership), Biome/ecosystem/habitat...</p> <p>1.3 Stakeholder analysis and engagement plan. Reports on stakeholder consultation sessions with photographs and attendee records.</p> <p>1.4 Stakeholder analysis and engagement plan. Reports on stakeholder consultation sessions with photos and attendee records (disaggregated by Gender; Age Group; Typology of community/management organisations.)</p>
<b>Output 2</b> Operational guidance for auditing SIFE requirements has been developed	2.1) Guidance for improved assessment of the SIFE requirements is drafted and distributed to >100	2.1) Electronic and hard copies of the SIFE Implementation Guide

	<p>stakeholders from government, civil society and private sector by end of Y1Q3 [ZSL]</p> <p>2.2) At least 10 stakeholders from government, civil society and private sector are consulted and provide suggestions for improvement of operational guidance by end of Y1Q3. [ZSL]</p> <p>2.3) SIFE implementation on the ground assessed during field missions to at least 3 forestry companies by end of Y1Q4 [ZSL]</p> <p>2.4) At least 1 guidance document for improved assessment of the SIFE requirements is published by end of Y1Q4 [DI-C01]</p> <p>2.5) Training developed on the implementation of SIFE guide by Y2Q1. [ZSL]</p>	<p>2.2) Stakeholder analysis and engagement plan. Reports on stakeholder consultation sessions with photos and attendee records</p> <p>2.3.1) Gap Analysis Report on AOP assessment findings for Y1 and re-assessment report for Y2.</p> <p>2.3.2) Field mission reports for each forestry company</p> <p>2.4) Electronic and hard copies of the SIFE Implementation Guide (disaggregated by knowledge/practice area, product typology)</p> <p>2.5) Training materials in electronic and hard copies</p>
<p><b>Output 3 Capacity of private sector stakeholders to implement operational guidance and government and CSO stakeholders to scrutinise company regulatory compliance has been improved</b></p>	<p>(Ind 3.1) 3 classroom training sessions held with at least 120 stakeholders from across government, civil society and private sector by end of Y2Q3. [DI- A01]</p> <p>(Ind 3.2) 75% of training participants (n=80) score a minimum of 65% ('good') in tests of understanding of SIFE reporting requirements, by end of Y2Q4 against a baseline established pre-training at project start. [ZSL]</p> <p>(Ind 3.3) 90 people across government, civil society and private sector report that they are better implementing or assessing requirements of the SIFE by end of Y2Q4 (&gt;6 months after training) [DI-A04]</p>	<p>3.1</p>



**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 Kick-off meeting and scoping exercise between ZSL and MINFOF
- 1.2 Literature review on the requirements of SIFE and alignment with ESG indicators of the SPOTT tool
- 1.3 Expert interviews with stakeholders on SIFE implementation, compliance and requirements improvement
- 1.4 Partners working session for framing and refining the methodology and the timelines
- 1.5 Conduct desk-based review of 50 Annual Operational Plans and their corresponding AFIRs for compliance with the SIFE. (25 in year 1 and review of same 25 companies in year 2)
- 1.6 Review M&E mechanisms used by MINFOF to identify compliance with the SIFE.
- 1.7 Produce assessment report on gaps in reported implementation of SIFE by forestry companies and compliance audit improvements by MINFOF
- 1.8 1st Stakeholder consultation to review ZSL assessments, with MINFOF, ZSL and consulted stakeholders.
- 2.1 Develop operational guide for MINFOF for the monitoring and evaluation of SIFE, and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) grids
- 2.2 2nd Stakeholder consultation to review operational guide and MEL tools with stakeholders
- 2.3 Conduct 3x monitoring field missions to forest management companies to evaluate adherence to legal SIFE requirements in production forests.
- 2.4 Produce field mission report providing learnings to MINFOF on auditing SIFE requirements in a field context.
- 2.5 3rd Stakeholder consultation to disseminate learnings and gather feedback on field mission element
- 2.6 Publish operational guidance for auditing SIFE requirements
- 2.7 Obtain MINFOF recognition and adoption of operational guide for implementing SIFE audits
- 2.8 Drafting of training content for sensitisation of guidance
- 2.9 Review and feedback on training content by MINFOF to ZSL
- 3.1 Undertake capacity assessment of MINFOF  
staff (questionnaire immediately before and after each training session)  
Activity
- 3.2 Conduct 3x classroom training workshops for stakeholders (40 attendees per session - first workshop to be conducted by ZSL with following two conducted by MINFOF)
- 3.3 Produce workshop report evaluating content and impact of training sessions
- 3.4 Publish training materials free and open-access and distribute in-country with relevant stakeholders
- 3.5 Undertake capacity assessment of MINFOF staff (6 and 12 months after first training session)
- Project close- out      Produce synthesised project report and close project

**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
E.g. DI-A01	E.g. Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	1.2	People	Men	0			0	120
E.g. DI-A01	E.g. Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	1.2	People	Women	0			0	120
E.g. DI-B01	E.g. Number of new or improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	0.3	Number	New	0			0	25
E.g. DI-B01	E.g. Number of new or improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	0.3	Number	Improved	0			0	25

**Table 2 Publications**

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)



## 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 <b>correct template</b> (checking fund, scheme, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and <b>deleted the blue guidance text</b> before submission?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> 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 email to <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> If so, please discuss with <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Have you provided an updated risk register?</b> 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 15)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	