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: 30th April 2025

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

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	DARCC058
Project title	AgroNative: Increasing Native Species in Beninese Agroforestry through Government Leadership (AgroNative)
Country/ies	Benin
Lead Organisation	JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc., World Education Division
Project partner(s)	Alafia NGO
Darwin Initiative grant value	£199,940
Start/end dates of project	April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2026
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024 – Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2024 - March 2025, Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Nadege Djitrinou Fagla
Project website/blog/social media	worlded.org
Report author(s) and date	Nadege Djitrinou Fagla and Ben Vorspan, 30 April 2025

1. Project summary

The AgroNative project addresses the critical gap in biodiversity-sustaining agricultural practices in Benin, a country where agriculture plays a central role in livelihoods yet faces challenges in sustaining biodiversity. AgroNative's key goal is to partner with the Government of Benin (GOB), strengthening capacity to institutionalize evidence-based agroforestry practices that promote both biodiversity conservation and agricultural productivity—namely, the integration of native tree species into agroforestry plots. AgroNative partners with farmers, local communities, and the GOB to nurture the knowledge and tools needed to implement biodiversity-friendly agroforestry systems that not only sustain native ecosystems but also maximize high and resilient crop yields. By focusing on these agroecological practices, AgroNative responds to the growing need for sustainable agricultural systems that support food security, income generation, and long-term ecological health.

AgroNative is particularly relevant to rural farming communities in Benin, where multidimensional poverty remains a pressing issue and where agricultural intensification often leads to deforestation and biodiversity loss. By promoting agroforestry, AgroNative addresses the dual challenges of poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation, which are critical to both human development and environmental sustainability. The project's focus on gender-sensitive microentrepreneurship and participatory natural resource management through agriculture is designed to ensure that women and other groups experiencing marginalisation can exercise their agency in the decision-making process and benefit from economic opportunities. AgroNative's activities, such as developing demonstration plots and supporting farmers in establishing their own biodiversity-sustaining agroforestry systems, are grounded in the realities faced by the communities, as articulated by all community members during project planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

Map of Africa | Map of Benin | Map of N'dali Commune

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

AgroNative's goal is to institutionalize community best practices through local government capacity strengthening and alignment with national-level government priorities. To do so, the project takes a grassroots approach to centering community priorities (Output 2, community diagnostic and environmental action) in local government capacity (Output 1, institutional capacity strengthening) and environmental/agricultural actions (Output 3, through native species-based agroforestry) that ultimately shapes national priorities (Output 4, through participatory action research).

At the grassroots level, AgroNative's participatory approach centers community priorities through the establishment of Natural Resource Management Committees (NRMCs) in each community. These committees serve as governance bodies for managing agroforestry sites and overseeing income-generating activities. Their involvement in decision-making ensures that the project responds directly to community needs and priorities. Capacity strengthening activities are carefully designed to prioritize local leaders, women, and groups facing marginalisation groups, contributing to more inclusive development. AgroNative also utilises tools such as the Participatory Community Diagnostic (PCD) (See Activity 2.1) and BioBlitz (See Activity 2.3) to engage local authorities and identify key environmental and agricultural priorities. Through these processes, local communities contribute to shaping AgroNative's direction, ensuring that it remains responsive to community input while also promoting long-term sustainability. By actively involving local leaders, youth, and women, AgroNative strengthens ownership and encourages the sustainable management of resources, creating a model of governance that can be institutionalised at the local government level.

AgroNative's goal to institutionalise community best practices through local government capacity strengthening (see Activity 1.2) and alignment with national priorities is realized by bridging grassroots initiatives with government structures and strengthening government structures to best support them. At the local government-level, AgroNative engages key commune-level stakeholders such as the Directorate General of Forestry and Conservation, or the *Direction Générale des Eaux, Forêts et Chasse* (DGEFC) and the Agency for Agroforestry Development, or the *L'Agence Territoriale de Développement Agricole* (ATDA), with its 4th "pole" or "agro-zone division" based in Parakou (ATDA4). DGEFC and ATDA4 are the key AgroNative government-level partners and their involvement ensures that local activities align with broader national conservation objectives. Both institutions, having designated project focal points (see Output 1), play a crucial role in coordinating efforts, ensuring that AgroNative's activities result in institutional learning. In Year 2 (Y2), AgroNative will engage with a group of young people to carry out participatory action research on the project (Output 4) that will contribute to project learning and feed into national-level discussions. This will foster a continuous feedback loop between national policies and local practices, ensuring the project's relevance and setting the stage to shape national-level priorities in sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation should the project scale up. The project team was asked by the national-level DGEFC to contribute to a community-based study that assesses the level to which communities value native species. We are seeking opportunities to contribute to this study and engage in partnerships in Y2.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1: Commune—and department-level GOB knowledge, capacity and commitment to prioritise agroforestry systems integrating key native species and engage communities in these practices, as well as participatory forest management—is increased

Effective capacity strengthening begins with trust and a clear understanding of the landscape. Before developing its capacity strengthening plan, AgroNative laid the groundwork through deliberate, trust-focused foundational efforts. We carried out a comprehensive landscape analysis entitled "*Landscape Analysis: Governmental Actors in Agriculture and Biodiversity Conservation in the N'Dali Commune (Borgou).*" (See Annex A: Landscape Analysis) The landscape analysis focuses on governmental actors involved in agriculture and biodiversity conservation within the N'Dali Commune in the Borgou Department of Benin. It identifies major environmental and social challenges, outlines the roles of public and non-state actors, and discusses public-private partnerships. It also evaluates governance and monitoring frameworks, assesses the roles of various stakeholders, and identifies key organizations involved in biodiversity conservation and agriculture at national, regional, and local levels. Additionally, the analysis highlights capacity gaps among stakeholders and opportunities for strengthening their capabilities.

Based on JSI/WorldEd and Alafia's past experience with GOB partnerships, which align with findings in the report, AgroNative initiated strategic meetings with municipal and departmental authorities to inform them about the project and encourage their ownership. AgroNative secured strong engagement and commitment from the project's two key government stakeholders: (1) ATDA4, the parastatal group in charge of agricultural capacity strengthening to communities whose jurisdiction covers Northern Benin, and (2) DGEFC, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MCVDD).

AgroNative also met with the head of the Forest Inspectorate in Borgou, the Chief of the Forestry Division (both under MCVDD), and the head of the ATDA4 Community Cell in N'Dali. These authorities recognized the project's alignment with national priorities and committed their support, enabling AgroNative to move forward with a strong foundation of institutional backing.

AgroNative decided, in collaboration with ATDA4 and DGEFC, to appoint focal points to the project to ensure consistent participation and collaboration. The focal point designation experienced a few delays due to government processes, but following the formal procedures ensured trusting partnerships with our government counterparts. The DGEFC assigned their focal points on December 6, 2024 and the ATDA assigning theirs on January 13, 2025 (see Annex B: Focal Point Designation Letters). AgroNative engaged informally with the focal points until their first formal meeting. This took place on February 11, 2025, in N'dal with the goal of formally convening the focal points and presenting the project. AgroNative clearly explained the project and collaboratively developed and validated the AgroNative workplan with the focal points (see Annex C: Attendance List - Focal Points Launch Meeting). AgroNative established that focal points will engage in project activities at least five times per month. To facilitate communication and information sharing, AgroNative created a WhatsApp forum and uses phone calls to coordinate and schedule meetings. The meeting was delayed due to the reassignment of focal points by the DGEFC in December. We had to wait until their replacements officially assumed their duties at the end of January 2025.

Activity 1.1: The thorough landscape analysis and focal point designation process set the stage for the project's capacity strengthening approach to begin. Initially, we adapted JSI/WorldEd's Integrated Technical and Organizational Capacity Assessment (ITOCA) tool to be tailored to AgroNative's institutional (organizational systems) and technical (biodiversity sustaining agriculture) capacity strengthening goals. Ultimately, the project team concluded, based on years of experience engaging in capacity strengthening partnerships with the GOB, that the most effective approach would deviate slightly from the originally planned thorough assessment followed by action planning and requisite trainings. The new model, which strengthens the same

components with the same level of intensity, takes a learning-by-doing approach based on action-oriented adult learning pedagogies. This involves identifying key areas for capacity strengthening (based on the original ITOCA tool) and identifying activities already planned by the project through which to strengthen capacity while carrying out the activity.

To ensure this capacity strengthening process meets its objectives consistently, we developed a capacity strengthening framework. The framework includes a user-friendly check list (see Annex D: Capacity Strengthening Framework) to be used internally by the AgroNative team to ensure the overall project and ATDA/DGEFC capacity strengthening goals are met. The framework is based on a simplified ITOCA tool and organizational development and technical capacity strengthening domains.The rationale behind this decision is four-fold:

4. **Maximize capacity results**: JSI/WorldEd's experience, backed by evidence, demonstrates that learning-by-doing invokes longer lasting institutional change. One off trainings may be effective, but individual learning often results in institutional change when new approaches are practiced vs learned in the classroom. While our original approach included both theoretical and practical learning, its theoretical learning preceded practical application whereas this process reverses the order, starting with hands-on learning and applying theoretical knowledge based on needs identified. This approach also builds more on strengths, allowing GOB partners to demonstrate their knowledge rather than simply articulate it during an assessment. This sets the stage for a more empowered engagement.
5. **Recognition of GOB partner time limitations**: Our GOB partners are working professionals with busy schedules. They have demonstrated commitment to and enthusiasm about AgroNative and we want to ensure their involvement remains supportive and not a time burden. This is made possible by leading with activities in which they will already be engaged while supporting capacity exchange and growth along the way.
6. **Commune vs. regional/national level ability to change policy:** Organization development relies often on the need to change or update policies (strategic plans, HR policies, designing budgets, etc.). At the commune-level, organizational development refers more to the ability to apply existing procedures and maximize efficiency in doing so. Carrying out a broad assessment pinpoints some inefficiencies, whereas supporting commune partners in their daily activities allows real world opportunities to identify areas where partners can maximize their existing systems' efficiency.
7. **Trust building capacity *exchange*:** While both JSI/WorldEd and Alafia are go-to entities sought out by some GOB agencies for capacity strengthening, notably at the province and national level, we have worked less with the commune-level ATDA4 and commune-level DGEFC (Section Communale Eaux, Forets, et Chasse - SCEFC) in the AgroNative communes. Rather than approach these partners with the assumption that we can assess and strengthen their capacity, this approach builds trust through a capacity exchange where all parties—including JSI/WorldEd and Alafia—demonstrate their strengths and openness to learn new things from each other.

The capacity frameworks (one tailored for the DGEFC and one tailored for the ATDA) includes the following domains:

- Organizational Capacity: Leadership and Governance; Strategic Management and Planning; Operational Planning and Implementation; Finance Systems; Operational Systems; Strategic Information Systems and Data Management; Resource Mobilization; Communications; and Gender, Inclusion and Safeguarding.
- Technical Capacity: Biodiversity Conservation (DGEFC) / Sustainable Agriculture (ATDA4); Climate Resilience; Community Engagement; Cross-ministerial Collaboration

Activity 1.2: The AgroNative team developed the capacity strengthening framework (Annex D: Capacity Strengthening Framework) based on the original ITOCA tool to use as a guide to track ATDA and DGEFC capacity strengthening. The guide identifies key capacity domains for strengthening and aligns them with AgroNative activities. Below is a sample of capacity

strengthening activities initiated and underway through which to activate the capacity strengthening framework.

- **BioBlitz** (Activity 2.2): Provided a hands-on learning activity for ATDA to engage with DGEFC and communities to learn key concepts in the value of native plant integration in both biodiversity conservation and agricultural resilience.
- **Design of sites** (Activity 3.1): The ATDA and DGEFC worked with the AgroNative team to analyze the Bioblitz data and use that data to design the agroforestry sites. This is resulting in the acquisition of new knowledge in native species integration into agriculture with the goal of applying these practices more broadly across the ATDA.
- **Farmer field school (FFS)** / natural resource management (NRM) field schools (Activities 2.3-2.4): The ATDA and DGEFC are actively engaged in the rollout of the FFS activities which include learning and doing. They are also involved in developing and adapting the project's Farmer Field School Manual (see Annex E: Farmer Fields School Manual Framework). This enables them to learn new agricultural techniques while also taking an active role in applying new skills learned through the project in advancing biodiversity sustaining agriculture in their mandates.

Our open dialogue, guided in part through the capacity strengthening framework, will also enable the AgroNative team to pinpoint and sensitively address operational issues (transport challenges, budget allocation, etc.) that can be addressed through sensitive coaching.

Output 2: Farmers and community members knowledge, attitudes, and practices of biodiversity-sustaining agroforestry are increased and participation in forest management is improved

Prior to initiating the activities under Output 2, AgroNative engaged local authorities in selecting communities. The multistep process began with direct engagement of local authorities in the commune of N'dali. On behalf of the project, the Country Director of JSI/WorldEd Benin and the Executive Director of Alafia ONG conducted an initial mission to discuss the project's upcoming implementation. Despite scheduling difficulties, they successfully met with the Mayor of N'dali, the Head of the Communal Technical Unit, the Director of the Departmental Directorate of Agriculture (DDAEP) on July 25, 2024, and the Director of the Departmental Directorate for Forests and Climate (DDEFC) on July 24, 2024. These meetings provided the opportunity for AgroNative to present its objectives, methodology, expected results, institutional partners, and long-term vision.

Following this introductory phase, AgroNative developed a set of eligibility criteria to guide the selection of intervention communities (see Annex F: Community Selection Criteria). Based on these criteria, field teams visited several villages between September 16-21, 2024 to meet with local authorities and introduce the project. Through this process, AgroNative visited 14 villages, and using the selection criteria identified with local authorities five eligible (two were undecided and six were ineligible) and committed communities: Kakara, Warikpa, Bahoun-guéou, Yéroumarou, and Ouénou. Subsequently, Yéroumarou withdrew from the process due to the unavailability of suitable land. In response, AgroNative worked closely with the N'dali Communal Technical Unit to identify a suitable replacement. This collaboration led to the successful inclusion of the village of Gounin.

AgroNative finalized its intervention sites as follows: Kakara, Warikpa, Bahoun-guéou, Gounin, and Ouénou. The team held General Assemblies in each community (Kakara: November 29, 2024; Bahoun-guéou: November 27, 2024; Ouenou: November 26, 2024; Warikpa: September 11, 2024; Gounin: September 14, 2024) to present the project to residents, answer questions, and assess community interest and alignment.

Activity 2.1: AgroNative led the development of the Participatory Community Diagnostic (PCD) tool (see Annex G: Participatory Community Diagnostic Tool) through a collaborative and iterative process. The tool seeks to understand the socio-economic characteristics, agricultural practices,

and environmental challenges of communities in N'dali (Borgou), focusing on how local practices impact biodiversity and soil fertility. It aims to assess community engagement in sustainable practices, such as agroforestry, and explore local knowledge and solutions for improving agricultural productivity, ecosystem restoration, and poverty reduction. The tool also looks at the role of government structures and the potential for capacity-building initiatives to strengthen community involvement in natural resource management.

To carry out the PCD in each intervention community, AgroNative mobilized local leadership—including village chiefs, religious leaders, youth representatives, and council members—for a general assembly. This assembly served to inform communities of the importance of the diagnostic process in successfully implementing the project.

During the assembly, AgroNative administered the diagnostic tool using a structured participatory methodology comprising four key steps:

1. **Categorization:** The team segmented the community by gender and socio-economic roles (youth, elders, traders, farmers, etc.) to ensure diverse perspectives.
2. **Focus group discussions:** We formed four groups based on these categories. Each group, guided by a facilitator and a rapporteur, openly discussed local problems, needs, and strengths.
3. **Plenary sessions:** We convened all participants, where representatives from each group presented group findings. The project team encouraged collective discussion and feedback, ensuring a fully participatory approach.
4. **Synthesis**: The AgroNative team convened all inputs into a simplified, community-validated output that reflected the priorities and realities on the ground.

AgroNative conducted the PCD sessions across all five selected communities: Kakara (January 21, 2025), Warikpa (January 28, 2025), Bahoun-guéou (January 22, 2025), Gounin (February 21, 2025), and Ouénou (January 27, 2025).

Key findings from the PCD revealed the existence of natural resource management committees in several communities, the presence of native forests and reserves, and active government structures engaged in agriculture and resource management. Communities also identified native tree species with high potential for use in agroforestry activities.

The participatory diagnosis provided AgroNative with essential insights, laying a strong foundation for responsive and community-driven implementation. Please see Annex H: Consolidated PCD Report, for a summary of findings across the five communities.

Activity 2.2 AgroNative conducted a participatory BioBlitz to identify overall biodiversity and document floral communities to replicate in the agroforestry plots (activity 3.1) within targeted project zones. This activity aimed to deepen community understanding of local biodiversity and inform the design of agroforestry systems that support ecosystem restoration. AgroNative executed the BioBlitz across five intervention villages—Banhoun-Guéou, Kakara, Warikpa, Ouénou, and Gounin—from February 24 to 28, 2025, following a structured, three-phase methodology:

1. **Community Awareness:** The AgroNative team sensitised communities on the vital role biodiversity plays in ecosystem stability and agricultural productivity. Our discussions with the communities emphasised biodiversity's role in climate regulation, food security, water availability, medicine, and overall well-being. The discussions promoted agroforestry with native species as a key strategy for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem resilience.

2. **Explanation of the Bioblitz Process:** AgroNative introduced the Bioblitz as an intensive, site-specific biological inventory essential for understanding diversity in flora and species interactions—namely, what correlations can we infer between the presence of native plant species and fauna that is beneficial to agriculture. The team explained its relevance for AgroNative's agroforestry planning, especially in identifying native species crucial for

long-term ecosystem restoration and beneficial for agriculture/agroforestry.

3. **Bioblitz Implementation and Plenary Sessions**: In each village, AgroNative formed teams comprising community members, World Education and Alafia staff, and local focal points (ATDA4 and SCEFC). Teams surveyed different land types—fallow, monoculture, and forest—and used smartphones to photograph plant life. Each team spent exactly one hour per parcel. After the fieldwork, teams reconvened in plenary sessions to present findings, share observations, and reflect on lessons learned.

Execution Dates by Village:

- 24/02/25 – Banhoun-Guéou (33 participants, 15 men, 18 women)
- 25/02/25 – Kakara (33 participants, 28 men, 5 women)
- 26/02/25 – Warikpa (45 participants, 25 men, 20 women)
- 27/02/25 – Ouénou (34 participants, 22 men, 12 women)
- 28/02/25 – Gounin (34 participants, 23 men, 11 women)

The BioBlitz proved to be a participatory, data-rich activity that engaged communities and generated critical insights for biodiversity-friendly agroforestry planning.

This Bioblitz activity focused specifically on plant life, as data from JSI/WorldEd and Alafia's Darwin-funded Women-led School-based Agroforestry Project in Benin (DARV019) already provided extensive information on the correlations inferred between native floral/fungal and faunal communities.

After completing the sampling with the communities, AgroNative analyzed the collected data through its project teams. The team then organized a presentation session with the focal points to explain the data analysis methodology and how it led to the results obtained. Finally, AgroNative, together with the focal points, presented the results back to the communities in each of the project's intervention villages for any discussion and validation. Annex I: BioBlitz Attendance Sheets for a list of participants.

Box 1: Aligning with National-level Priorities: In November 2024, the JSI/WorldEd team met with the national-level DGECF to discuss potential collaboration with AgroNative. DGECF is conducting a study on how local communities value native tree species, cataloguing native species for each ecosystem in Benin, categorizing them by ecological, economic, and socio-cultural value. AgroNative will collaborate with the study using PCD and Bioblitz methods and engage in data sharing with DGECF. This engagement will open the door to future, more in-depth collaboration in light of shared goals.

Activities 2.3-2.4 Following the needs identified in the PCD, and recognizing the importance of having a designated group within the community serve as a community-level focal point to advance project activities, AgroNative advanced the community's desire to establish a Natural Resource Management Committee (NRMC) for effective project implementation. The NRMC's role as project focal points includes developing the agroforestry plots, implementing income generation activities, formalising learning from the farmer fields school, and managing the communities' natural resources. To establish NRMCs the AgroNative team organized a general assembly (GA), bringing together key stakeholders from each intervention village. During the GA, the issue of creating a natural resource management committee was raised, and the community expressed their commitment to supporting this initiative in achieving the project's objectives.

As a result, the roles within the NRMC were defined. After outlining the various positions, volunteers stepped forward to fill these roles. This led to a discussion where local authorities approved the commitment of the volunteers who would form the committee in each village. The session concluded with the drafting of meeting minutes, officially documenting the creation of the NRMC (See Annex J: NRMC Creation Meeting Minutes). Each village committee consists of thirty (30) members, including youth, members of the N'dali classified forest management committee, men, women, leaders, and farmers.

AgroNative implements its farmer field school (FFS) approach through NRMC committees. Each NRMC has members engaged in FFS activities. The FFS manual includes community-based

natural resource management (CBNRM) activities which we will deliver through a broader subset of community members including FFS members, students, educators and more. Rather than convene two separate sessions (Activities 2.3 and 2.4), we are streamlining the sessions into one course.

The AgroNative team developed a detailed outline for a FFS manual specific for the project that includes 12 modules that follow an entire year's growing, harvesting, and planning seasons. The first module, delivered in the fourth quarter of this year, includes foundational knowledge and is divided into five sections (organizing FFS groups and choosing land; NRM; good agricultural practices and soil health; organic kitchen gardening; and gender, equity and protection in sustainable agriculture). These set the stage for the remaining modules that follow the growing season and that will be rolled out from April 2025 to February 2026, with content from the first module incorporated throughout. Each module contains an opportunity to engage in a structured comparison of monoculture plots, agroforestry plots, and–in some cases–native forest. We are working collaboratively with the ATDA4 and DGEFC/SCEFC to develop the content of the manuals as the project progresses. This process builds on the outline, which includes learning objectives, key content, activities, facilitator roles, guided comparisons between different agricultural practices and agroforestry, and tools needed. The final manual will be taken forward by the ATDA4 and DGEFC for their use, which is facilitated by the fact that it is being developed collaboratively. This also serves as a key capacity strengthening activity. The FFS Manual Framework is found in Annex E.

Output 3: Biodiversity-sustaining agroforestry plots are established and profitable (for both women and men) with the support of commune-level MAEP staff

Activity 3.1: The AgroNative team worked closely with the ATDA4 and DGEFC focal points and the five communities to design the agroforestry plots. The group first selected the native tree species to include in the agroforestry plots.To do so, they used five key data points to select trees: a literature review; tree species identified under DARV019's Bioblitz and PCD; and tree species identified during the BioBlitz for this project (Activity 2.2) and the PCD (Activity 3.1). The Project team created a table for each community documented the frequency of species occurrence across these sources. Species observed in two or three of these sources were automatically selected. These results were then presented to the communities, allowing for a participatory process to select the species for the agroforestry sites, pending their availability in local nurseries and the ability to propagate them. Following species selection, the project team presented five different agroforestry designs (see Annex K: Agroforestry Design Examples). The communities then selected the design they wish to have for their agroforestry plots and planned their plots (See Annex L: Community Agroforestry Design Blueprints).

Activity 3.2: Following the design of the agroforestry sites, the AgroNative team supported the communities to prepare plans for their nurseries and plots. Each FFS will develop a nursery that will propagate native tree species on-site and strengthen community capacity in native tree production. The nurseries will feed the community plots (Activity 3.3) as well as the individual plots developed in year 2 (A3.5). To prevent destruction from grazing, communities also planned for the construction of a living fence near a water source to facilitate irrigation of young plants. The AgroNative team, in collaboration with the focal points, supported communities to budget and plan for the tools and resources needed.

Activity 3.3 This activity was postponed to the first quarter of Y2 to better coincide with the rainy season, which starts in May. Originally planned with the assumption that irrigation systems would be in place, this activity was delayed for a number of reasons. First, the lengthy period of engagement with the focal points and community selection delayed the process. More importantly, however, for the project to be sustainable and replicable, it would not have been possible to rely on irrigation systems and thus planting must coincide with the rainy season. This was an important lesson learned for the project and contributes to project learning while not affecting the project's overall outcome.

Activities 3.4 and 3.5, microenterprise training and the establishment of individual agroforestry plots will occur in Y2.

Output 4: Data from a participatory action research activity demonstrates the added value of integrated native species in agroforestry systems and improved participatory forest management and action researchers build environmental leadership skills

Output 4 activities are planned for Y2.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Output 1 lays the foundation for government-level institutional capacity strengthening, delivered through the remaining outputs. At baseline, coordination and capacity among local and department-level government institutions—particularly those responsible for agriculture and conservation—had some limitations, hindering the integrated approach needed for biodiversity-sustaining land use whereby the DGEFC supports the ATDA4 with biodiversity sustaining agricultural practices and the ATDA4 supports the DGEFC with community engagement and agricultural-based livelihoods approaches to conservation, among other benefits of the exchange. AgroNative's approach under Output 1 aims to improve collaboration between DGEFC and ATDA4, which is the central tenet of AgroNative's strategy. This collaboration is not just institutional—it reflects AgroNative's core goal: advancing *land sharing conservation*, where human land use is both biodiversity-sustaining and economically viable for local communities.

The project's first major achievement was to create formal channels for collaboration between these two key government actors. The landscape analysis that helped identify institutional strengths and capacity gaps. This process not only revealed existing fragmentation but also created space for joint planning and problem solving. DGEFC and ATDA4 each designated focal points for the project, and together they agreed upon collaboration in advancing AgroNative's workplan to guide their joint engagement throughout the project and beyond.

The second major area of work focused on strengthening institutional capacity to act collaboratively in service of their respective mandates. AgroNative is implementing a learning-by-doing approach, embedding skill development within core activities. While original plans included stand-alone training sessions, the revised method—emphasizing practical, embedded learning—proved more responsive to the real-world needs of government staff. For example, participation in Bioblitz and FFS activities became hands-on learning experiences, reinforcing technical and facilitation skills.

Finally, the third and perhaps most tangible impact of Output 1 has been the enhanced daily engagement of ATDA4 and DGEFC with communities. Capacity building is not just about technical skills—it strengthens the ability and commitment of these institutions to work directly with farmers, village leaders, and local committees. This is projected to significantly improve the quality of support provided to communities and help ensure that the voices of local stakeholders are heard in broader land use planning.

While some quantitative indicators for Output 1 are still being finalised—such as the number of individuals trained or the number of decisions influenced—the underlying systems have been built. The use of attendance sheets, training materials, and the capacity checklist will provide the needed means of verification. With institutional commitment now embedded in day-to-day operations, AgroNative is well positioned to meet its targets for this Output by the end of the project.

Output 2: Communities began with minimal structured knowledge or organized efforts around biodiversity-sustaining agroforestry. AgroNative led a participatory community selection process, ultimately identifying five intervention villages. Through the PCD, community priorities, environmental challenges, and local knowledge systems were documented. This diagnostic served both as a baseline and as a community engagement mechanism.

The Bioblitz activity marked a major step forward, generating a community-based biodiversity inventory across five sites. These surveys deepened local understanding of native plant species and their ecological value. Nearly 180 people participated, and findings were validated in plenary sessions, reinforcing collective learning.

AgroNative facilitated the formation of NRMCs in each village. These 30-member committees are now the focal point for community-led agroforestry efforts and serve as the primary actors in FFS activities. Rather than conduct separate sessions for sustainable farming and resource management, AgroNative streamlined its approach into a 12-module FFS manual, under co-development with community members and local government. Most of Module 1's five sections have already been implemented, with future modules scheduled in alignment with the agricultural calendar - and concepts from Module 1 integrated throughout.

Indicators under Output 2, such as the number of new management plans and individuals reporting reduced unsustainable practices or increased yields, are monitored through upcoming FFS meeting notes and upcoming KAP studies. While final indicator data (e.g., 150 individuals trained or 3,000 benefitting) will be captured in endline surveys, qualitative and process-based evidence (# of individuals actively participating in activities, etc.) strongly suggests the project is on track to achieve this output.

Output 3: At project launch, the five project communities had no integrated agroforestry systems using native species. Working collaboratively with ATDA4 and DGEFC, AgroNative led a participatory process to select native tree species based on both scientific and community-generated data. Community members selected species from a consolidated matrix derived from literature reviews, previous project experience (DARV019), and data from this year's BioBlitz.

Communities then chose among five agroforestry designs, customizing layouts to local preferences and capacity. Each FFS group began preparations for on-site nurseries to propagate native species and build local capacity in seedling production. Communities also planned for the construction of living fences and replicable irrigation strategies to protect and sustain the plots.

Planting was delayed to coincide with the rainy season in Year 2—a strategic decision to ensure sustainability without reliance on artificial irrigation. While agroforestry plots are not yet physically established, the entire preparatory phase is complete. As such, the likelihood of reaching Output 3 targets—including 80% of livelihood enterprises functioning and 15 hectares under sustainable management—is high.

Indicator measurement will rely on endline surveys, FFS notes, and biodiversity assessments. Data on species populations, abundance of pollinators, and pest suppression are forthcoming through baseline and endline biodiversity surveys planned for Year 2. Current progress, however, lays a strong foundation for impact.

Output 4: Activities under Output 4 are scheduled for Year 2. However, preliminary work—including the participatory research design approach embedded in the PCD, Bioblitz, and FFS activities—demonstrates AgroNative's commitment to data-driven learning and aligns with the DGEFC's ambitions to assess community valorization of biodiversity.

Across all four Outputs, AgroNative has moved from foundational engagement to active implementation. While some activities—particularly those tied to planting and biodiversity monitoring—are scheduled for Year 2, preparatory steps have been comprehensive and participatory. Progress is being measured through a combination of tools, training records, and upcoming KAP and endline surveys. With sustained community involvement and government collaboration, the project is well placed to achieve its Outputs by the end of the implementation period.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The AgroNative project has made strong progress toward achieving its Outcome: “GOB policies, practices and capacity to support communities to advance CBNRM and biodiversity-sustaining agricultural practices that intercrop native flora species is increased.” At baseline, government institutions communicated, but did not have formal streams for collaborations; communities prioritized monocultures over biodiversity-sustaining agricultural practices; and few formal mechanisms existed for integrated natural resource management. After the first year of implementation, anecdotal evidence across the first three project outputs suggests positive movement across the three Outcome indicators. Under Indicator 0.1, the project is well on its way toward the target of 3,000 people benefiting from sustainable agriculture and climate-resilient practices. While full census data is pending, 225 participants from five intervention communities have already taken part in preliminary farmer field school (FFS) activities through their engagement in the NRMCs, and hundreds more have engaged through Bioblitzes and NRMC activities, and participatory community diagnostics. These individuals will actively, through the project, contribute to improved, more resilient agricultural output for the communities spanning more than 3,000 individuals.

Indicators 0.2 and 0.3—related to knowledge application and training replication—are also advancing. With the rollout of the capacity strengthening framework, over a dozen government officials including focal points from ATDA4 and DGEFC/SCEFC as well as mayors, department-level GOB and more are now engaged regularly in AgroNative’s activities. While six-month post-training assessments are scheduled for Year 2, focal points have already begun applying skills in agroforestry site planning, data collection, and farmer training development. Their collaboration in designing agroforestry plots based on BioBlitz data and adapting FFS modules demonstrates clear integration of new capabilities. Furthermore, AgroNative’s learning-by-doing methodology has enabled capacity gains beyond individual learning, embedding them in institutional routines and community engagement. Given that the focal points will each work closely with local counterparts through ongoing FFS and natural resource management activities, it is highly likely that the Indicator 0.3 target of 20 trainers replicating training will be exceeded by project end.

Overall, the Outcome indicators are well-suited to measuring change at both individual and institutional levels, particularly when triangulated through participatory action research (PAR), census data, and qualitative community feedback. Indicator 0.1 captures broad-scale impact, while Indicators 0.2 and 0.3 provide insight into longer-term institutional and behavioral change. However, capturing the full scope of “benefiting from sustainable practices” (0.1) may need further clarification. Nevertheless, the PAR methodology—complemented by the baseline diagnostic, Bioblitz data, and endline KAP surveys—provides robust verification opportunities for all three indicators.

Given the progress made to date, AgroNative is on track to achieve its Outcome by the end of the funding period. The foundational collaboration between ATDA4 and DGEFC, formalized through joint planning and ongoing engagement, ensures continued momentum. Community-level structures like NRMCs and FFS groups are well-established, and the participatory design and planting of agroforestry plots in Year 2 will reinforce sustainable land use practices and biodiversity awareness. To maintain this trajectory, AgroNative will focus on timely rollout of the full FFS curriculum, continued coaching of government focal points, and sustained community engagement. The project team will make additional efforts to document and disseminate lessons learned through Output 4.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: GOB devotes time and focus to AgroNative activities
Comments: This assumption holds true, as the project secured strong engagement from key government stakeholders (ATDA4 and DGEFC) who designated focal points and collaborated on capacity-building activities. AgroNative adapted its approach to respect government timelines, using learning-by-doing to build capacity without overwhelming government staff.

Assumption 2: Communities remain engaged in and committed to AgroNative activities, understanding the value of biodiversity for agriculture
Comments: This assumption is also holding, evidenced by successful community selection and strong participation in diagnostic sessions, the Bioblitz, and creation of NRMCs. Communities actively shaped agroforestry plot designs and expressed enthusiasm for native species integration.

Assumption 3: Communities and GOB have strong contingency plans to adapt to inclement weather/climactic events that harm early-stage agroforestry plot establishment
Comments: This assumption partially holds, as weather-related risks delayed agroforestry plot establishment due to the need to wait for the rainy season in the absence of irrigation infrastructure. AgroNative responded by aligning planting schedules with seasonal patterns to support sustainability without overreliance on irrigation systems.

Assumption 4: Community cohesion and support for women-led entrepreneurship remains intact
Comments: This assumption appears valid so far, with balanced gender participation during Bioblitz and NRMC formation (including women in leadership roles). AgroNative's participatory and inclusive approach continues to promote gender equity across activities.

3.5 Achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and multidimensional poverty reduction

AgroNative is working toward enhancing in-country capabilities and capacity for both biodiversity conservation and multidimensional poverty reduction.

Short-term Impact: In the short term, AgroNative is focused on building institutional capacity at the commune and department levels, with key partners like the DGEFC and ATDA4 actively involved. These government bodies have committed focal points to the project, ensuring long-term institutional engagement. Capacity strengthening occurs through practical activities, such as the Bioblitz biodiversity inventory and FFS, which also serve as platforms for knowledge transfer. In total, over 170 individuals have participated in the BioBlitz, while the FFS module is being rolled out across the five project villages. The approach is inclusive, involving diverse groups, including leadership from youth, women, and local leaders. This ensures that the benefits of biodiversity-friendly agriculture and sustainable practices reach a broad section of the population, especially marginalized groups. Community-level benefits are also substantial, as NRMCs are formed in these villages, driving local participation in decision-making processes.

Long-term Impact: In the long term, AgroNative is laying the foundation for systemic, sustainable change. Agroforestry plots developed in collaboration with local communities will serve as models for scalable, biodiversity-sustaining agriculture. These plots, which use native species, will restore habitats, enhance pollination, and reduce pest species through regulatory ecosystem services, contributing to better agricultural yields and climate resilience. By the end of the project, 3,000 individuals will benefit from improved sustainable agricultural practices, with 150 households adopting new livelihood strategies that promote biodiversity conservation. The project's gender-sensitive approach, through inclusive diagnostic sessions, ensures that women, youth, and other underrepresented groups are equally empowered. This inclusive method not only supports equitable benefits but also enhances the potential for widespread adoption and scaling beyond the project's initial scope.

Contribution to Biodiversity Conservation: AgroNative's focus on restoring biodiversity through native species agroforestry directly contributes to habitat regeneration, with an anticipated increase in pollinator populations and the ability of restored ecosystems to perform their regulatory functions. This leads to more stable ecosystems, improving both agricultural productivity and ecosystem health. By fostering the sustainable management of natural resources and restoring degraded habitats, AgroNative aims to reduce biodiversity loss and supports the long-term ecological balance of the region.

Contribution to Poverty Reduction and Human Well-being: AgroNative addresses multidimensional poverty by providing households with alternative, sustainable livelihoods that improve both economic well-being and environmental resilience. Through the promotion of biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices, families are not only improving food security but also diversifying income streams, thus reducing reliance on unsustainable practices. The focus on women and youth ensures that the benefits are more inclusive. Evidence of this is reflected in the active participation of over 170 individuals in the Bioblitz and the ongoing development of skills through FFS. By empowering these communities to adopt new farming practices and gain access to natural resource management tools, the project improves both social and economic outcomes, contributing to the long-term reduction of poverty in the region.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

During the reporting period, AgroNative has contributed to Benin's national policy commitments under the NDC, NBSAP, and NAP, and advanced alignment with international biodiversity conventions including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Through its participatory approach and capacity-strengthening framework, AgroNative has actively supported Benin's NDC targets to reduce emissions through sustainable agriculture and enhanced forestry practices, particularly by promoting agroforestry systems that integrate native species. This directly supports the NBSAP's ecosystem approach and the goal of conserving genetic diversity, as evidenced by the Bioblitz and PCD that identified local species and biodiversity conditions. The project's collaboration with key national and subnational stakeholders—including formal engagement with focal points from ATDA4 and DGEFC, and alignment with PAGEFCOM2—has strengthened institutional capacity and embedded biodiversity-sustaining practices within commune and departmental strategies. Notably, AgroNative's formal interaction with the national-level DGEFC on native species valuation, as well as the designation of focal points and development of action plans (Annex B), represent direct contributions to concrete aspirations and potential national reporting mechanisms and policy execution. These efforts, including structured community diagnostics and agroforestry plot co-designs, contribute to Articles 8, 10, and 13 of the CBD and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework by fostering in-situ conservation, sustainable use, and public awareness through hands-on capacity building and participatory forest management.

5. 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	

The AgroNative project has integrated Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) considerations from the outset by embedding these principles in both its design and implementation strategies. Desk research and experience in Benin points to legal and customary rights that often limit the ability of women and other groups experiencing marginalisation to own land or access resources independently. AgroNative addresses such constraints through discussions with institutional partners (such as the ATDA and DGEFC) and that through our capacity strengthening framework, which includes domains and questions on gender, inclusion and safeguarding, we are working to institutionalize more inclusive policies and practices. The capacity strengthening framework includes domains explicitly assessing and building capacity in gender, inclusion, and safeguarding, providing institutions with practical tools and guidance to mainstream GESI into agricultural and natural resource governance.

On the ground, AgroNative addresses harmful attitudes, customs, and beliefs that often marginalise women, youth, and people with disabilities, by facilitating participatory dialogues in community settings (i.e. through the PCD). In addition, AgroNative acknowledges environmental vulnerabilities, especially how climate change disproportionately affects women and disadvantaged groups due to their limited control over land and income-generating assets. The FFS manual framework incorporates modules on gender, inclusion, and safeguarding, promoting shared learning and collaborative decision-making, while recognizing the division of time, space, and labour. Flexible scheduling and locally-led facilitation enable broader participation, including from those with unpaid care responsibilities or mobility challenges.

To promote representation and power-sharing, AgroNative ensures the inclusion of diverse voices in group organization and decision-making. Training sessions intentionally engage both men and women. Upcoming participatory action research initiatives will strive to be led by youth, including individuals from marginalised backgrounds, reflecting an intersectional approach that considers ethnicity, age, gender, and ability. AgroNative also works to expand access to resources and services, for example by facilitating equitable access to improved farming techniques, regardless of gender or status, but taking into consideration the disproportionate labour burden on women.

One restraint for the project is that we are working at the commune level. This means that our commune-level counterparts are not able to change policy, but can influence practice. A key goal for a potential scale-up is to leverage lessons learned around GESI at the local level to not only to empower individuals but also to shift power relations and systemic norms, positioning AgroNative to scale its model in a gender-transformative way that catalyzes wider institutional and societal change.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

AgroNative employs an integrated, participatory and adaptable Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system. The foundation of our M&E approach are activities like the PCD and BioBlitz, which serve dual functions—providing baseline data for Output and Outcome indicators, and acting as participatory tools that help communities shape and validate project priorities. These tools gather both qualitative insights (e.g., local biodiversity perceptions, community priorities) and quantitative data (e.g., species counts, community engagement metrics). Progress toward Outputs is monitored continuously through activity-linked indicators, which ensures outputs—like GOB institutional engagement and farmer training—are tied directly to Outcome-level goals like enhanced agroforestry systems and biodiversity conservation. Our revised learning-by-doing approach to capacity strengthening replaced the more formal assessment-action-training cycle originally planned, increasing partner ownership and yielding deeper institutional engagement, particularly from ATDA4 and DGEFC. Information is shared through formal meetings, WhatsApp forums, and collaborative planning sessions, enhancing real-time learning and adjustment. While the action research activities and some evaluation components are scheduled for Year 2, we have already identified a key area for improvement: better aligning planting timelines with the rainy season, which led to the strategic delay of agroforestry plot establishment (Activity 3.3). This responsive adaptation, guided by M&E insights, enables AgroNative to remain nimble to partner priorities.

7. Lessons learnt

AgroNative's first year offered valuable lessons across administrative, technical, and M&E domains, reinforcing the importance of flexibility, relationship-building, and context-sensitive planning. A key success was the deliberate, trust-based approach taken to engage government partners (ATDA4, DGEFC) at both the departmental and commune levels. While this delayed early implementation, it proved essential for long-term ownership and has positioned the project for sustainability and institutional uptake. Technically, the decision to replace the formal ITOCA rollout with a learning-by-doing model allowed us to embed capacity strengthening directly into field activities, increasing partner engagement and immediate relevance. However, we underestimated the time required for formal government processes, such as focal point designation, and overestimated the feasibility of establishing agroforestry plots before the rainy season—an assumption that led to a necessary but strategic delay of Activity 3.3. If we were to restart, we would build in more time for administrative engagement and more carefully align planting with seasonal cycles from the outset. For similar projects in northern Benin or comparable contexts, we recommend prioritizing early-stage trust-building, embedding capacity development into day-to-day activities, and avoiding dependence on irrigation infrastructure for early agroforestry establishment. Going forward, this learning has already informed our updated implementation calendar for Year 2. We may submit a formal Change Request regarding Output indicator 3.4: Stabilised/ improved species population (relative abundance/ distribution) within the project areas. It will take a longer time than the project timeline to measure improved biodiversity outcomes. Otherwise, the delays and adaptations remain within the scope of project objectives and outcomes. We are documenting these adjustments as part of our adaptive management framework to strengthen future delivery and replication efforts.

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

Not applicable

9. Risk Management

No new risks have emerged in the past 12 months beyond those originally identified. However, one existing risk—government availability due to competing priorities (Risk 5)—did partially materialize. In response, the project adapted by shifting from a full ITOCA process to a more flexible, embedded capacity strengthening framework that allowed for responsive, real-time engagement with government partners. This adaptation maintained momentum and aligned with institutional realities, ensuring progress without compromising the overall capacity development goals. All other risks identified in the original risk register—fiduciary, safeguarding, delivery chain, climate-induced events, and capacity limitations—have remained stable and manageable. Mitigation strategies have proven effective thus far, and no escalation or new risk mitigation measures have been required for these areas. The Risk Register is attached.

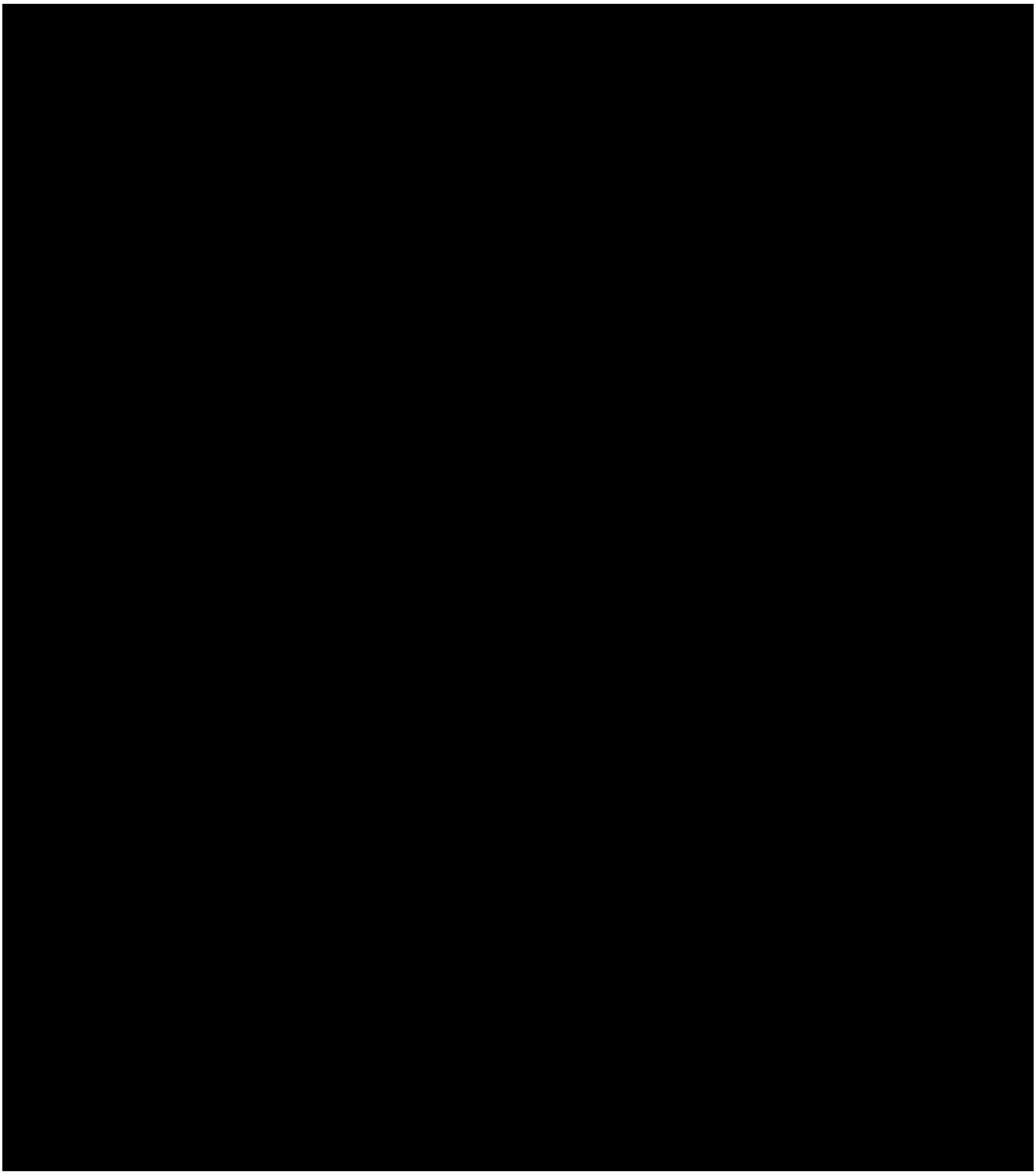
10. Scalability and durability

AgroNative is laying strong groundwork for scalability by working closely with commune- and department-level government partners and communities, building on lessons learned from the DARNV019 project. By starting at the local level, AgroNative is helping to institutionalize successful, community-driven practices within government systems, creating a pathway for wider adoption across Benin through GOB support. The learning-by-doing approach to capacity strengthening has been especially well received, as it respects government partners' time and builds practical skills in real-time. Through hands-on activities like the BiobBlitz, FFS, and participatory agroforestry planning, both community members and government focal points have gained firsthand experience of the benefits of integrating native species into agriculture. These activities have sparked genuine interest from our partners and demonstrated clear alignment with national priorities. The collaborative development of tools like the FFS manual, rooted in local contexts and co-owned by stakeholders, means the approach is both replicable and adaptable. While we are still early in the process, the level of engagement and commitment from both communities and government partners is encouraging and points to real potential for AgroNative's model to be scaled up across other regions.

11. Darwin Initiative identity

AgroNative has primarily publicised the Darwin Initiative informally through presentations and discussions with local partners, particularly when engaging with government counterparts. The UK Government's contribution has been most notably recognised in meetings with national-level officials, especially the DGEFC. We present the Darwin Initiative as an initiative from a sole funder of a distinct project with a clear identity. While there is limited general awareness of the Darwin Initiative in Benin, we have introduced it to key stakeholders, including those at the commune and department levels, through the project's implementation. To date, we have not used social media platforms, though this may be considered for future phases. Much of the project's public visibility and recognition of Darwin support is expected to increase through the youth-led participatory action research activities (Outcome 4) and ongoing engagement with the DGEFC at the national level.

12. Safeguarding



13. 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	[redacted]			
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items				
Others				
TOTAL	**96,754**	**93,201**		

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

14. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Over the past year, the project has experienced several delays, primarily linked to the time required to engage with government and community stakeholders. However, these delays have

been both strategic and essential. Building trusted relationships and ensuring alignment with formal government protocols were foundational steps in laying the groundwork for long-term collaboration and sustainability. These engagement processes—though time-consuming—were critical to securing meaningful participation and formal endorsement from key governmental bodies, including ATDA4 and DGEFC. Importantly, this phase of relationship and trust-building will not impact the overall timeline or completion of project activities.

In response to these dynamics, the project refined its approach to capacity strengthening, opting for a "learning-by-doing" model over the originally proposed assessment-based training sequence. This method has enhanced both the relevance and sustainability of capacity building among government counterparts by embedding learning within project implementation and responding more organically to identified gaps and opportunities.

Another key design adaptation has been the decision to shift the establishment of agroforestry plots to the rainy season. Originally scheduled earlier, this activity was postponed both due to delays in establishing community and government structures to oversee the projects (NRMC, Focal Points) and intentionally postponed to avoid over-reliance on irrigation infrastructure, which would be impractical and unsustainable in this context. By aligning planting with seasonal rainfall, the project is not only minimizing resource burdens but also enhancing the long-term viability of agroforestry practices for participating communities. This decision strengthens the project's sustainability without compromising its outputs.

There are no sensitive issues to raise with the Darwin Initiative at this time.

8. 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
Outcome: GOB policies, practices and capacity to support communities to advance CBNRM and biodiversity-sustaining agricultural practices that intercrop native flora species is increased		
Outcome indicator 0.1 Number of people benefitting from improved sustainable agriculture practices and are more resilient to weather shocks and climate trends **[DI-D11]** **Target: 3,000 people**	**In progress**. A learning-by-doing approach was adopted over structured standalone trainings, resulting in more engaged and context-relevant capacity building. GOB focal points (from DGEFC and ATDA4) were formally appointed and integrated into project activities such as the BioBlitz, agroforestry plot design, and development of the FFS manual, providing experiential learning opportunities for community members who will ultimately contribute to the improved agricultural practices for approximately 3,000 of their community members. Evidence provided in Section 3.3 and Annexes I, J, K, and L.	Continue collaborative development and rollout of the FFS modules through ATDA and DGEFC focal points, ensuring structured learning continues throughout seasonal cycles. Planting and maintenance of community and individual plots. Engage focal points in monitoring and facilitation to complete training milestones.
Outcome indicator 0.2 Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training **[DI-A04]** **Target: 150 people**	**In progress**. Through strategic engagement and planning meetings with ATDA4, DGEFC, and local Forest Inspectorate, key institutions have shown strengthened ownership and alignment with project goals. These entities participated in project co-design and execution of the BioBlitz and PCD. Evidence in Section 3.3 and Annexes B, C, D, I, J, K and L.	Maintain regular coordination via WhatsApp group and in-person planning meetings. Identify opportunities for formal capacity strengthening activities to solidify institutional uptake.
Outcome indicator 0.3 Number of trainers trained reporting to have delivered further training by the end of the project. **[DI-A05]** **Target: 20 people (6 at department-level GOB and 7 each from two commune-level GOB**	**In progress**. Focal points were appointed and have been engaged in project activities and planning. Evidence in Section 3.1, Output 2, and Annexes B, C, D, I, J, K and L.	Plan additional briefings aligned with milestones (e.g., post-FFS training outcomes, community plot establishment) to engage broader decision-makers and share lessons learned.
Output 1. Commune - and department-level GOB knowledge, capacity and commitment to prioritise agroforestry systems integrating key native species and engage communities in these practices, as well as participatory forest management - is increased		
Output indicator 1.1 Number of people from key national and local stakeholders completing structured and relevant training. **[DI-A01]** **Target: 20 people**	**In progress**. A learning-by-doing approach was adopted over structured standalone trainings, resulting in more engaged and context-relevant capacity building. GOB focal points (from DGEFC and ATDA4) were formally appointed and integrated into project activities such as the BioBlitz, agroforestry plot design, and development of the FFS manual, providing experiential learning opportunities.	Continue collaborative development and rollout of the FFS modules through ATDA and DGEFC focal points, ensuring structured learning continues throughout seasonal cycles. Engage focal points in planting. Engage focal points in

	Evidence provided in Section 3.3 and Annex B, C, D, E, I, J, L).	monitoring and facilitation to complete training milestones.
Output indicator 1.2 Number of government institutions/departments with enhanced awareness and understanding of biodiversity and associated poverty issues **[DI-A07]** **Target: 3 institutions**	**In progress**. Through strategic engagement and planning meetings with ATDA4, DGEFC, and local Forest Inspectorate, key institutions have shown strengthened ownership and alignment with project goals. These entities participated in project co-design and execution of the BioBlitz and PCD. Evidence in Section 3.3 and Annexes C, I, and L.	Maintain regular coordination via WhatsApp group and in-person planning meetings. Note formal capacity strengthening activities to solidify institutional uptake.
Output indicator 1.3 Number of decision-makers attending briefing events **[DI-C14]** **Target: 18**	**In progress**. Project briefings were conducted with high-level GOB representatives, including municipal and departmental authorities (Mayor of N'dali, DDAEP, DDEFC) and technical heads. These initial briefings built trust and provided the foundation for formal collaboration. Evidence provided in Section 3.3 and Annexes C, I, and L.	Plan additional briefings aligned with milestones (e.g., post-FFS training outcomes, community plot establishment) to engage broader decision-makers and share lessons learned.
Output 2. Farmers and community members knowledge, attitudes, and practices of biodiversity-sustaining agroforestry are increased and participation in forest management is improved		
Output indicator 2.1 Number of new/improved community management plans available and endorsed **[DI-B03]** **Target: 5 plans**	**In progress**. Participatory Community Diagnostic (PCD) completed in 5 villages (Kakara, Warikpa, Bahoun-guéou, Gounin, Ouénou). NRMCs were established in all villages and will be the vehicle for community planning. Evidence in Section 3.3 and Annexes G, H, I, J, and L.	Use PCD results and NRMC structures to draft and finalize community natural resource management plans for endorsement in Year 2. Facilitate validation workshops with local authorities.
Output indicator 2.2 Number of individuals / households reporting a decrease in unsustainable practices as a result of project activities **[DI-B09]** **Target: 150 Individuals**	**In progress**. FFS activities initiated with community NRMCs and focus on sustainable practices (soil health, agroforestry, organic gardening). Evidence in Section 3.3 and Annexes I, J, and L.	Continue FFS sessions across the growing season. Begin pre-post tracking for individual behavior change.
Output indicator 2.3 Number of individuals / households reporting an adoption of livelihood improvement practices as a result of project activities **[DI-B10]** **Target: 150 individuals**	**In progress**. AgroNative established NRMCs (150 members) actively participating in FFS sessions on improved farming, kitchen gardening, and resource management. Evidence in Section 3.3 and Annex J and E.	Continue FFS delivery with integrated income-generating modules. Begin early planning for microenterprise and value chain training (Activity 3.4).
Output indicator 2.4 Number of individuals trained by the project reporting increased agricultural yield and improved entrepreneurship skills **Target: 150 individuals**	**In progress**. FFS manual developed to include structured comparisons between plot types to demonstrate yield benefits. Evidence in Section 3.3 and Annex E.	Roll out remaining modules and track (initial) changes in productivity through FFS monitoring. Roll out entrepreneurship-focused

		trainings in collaboration with local actors in Y2.
Output indicator 2.5 Number of people benefitting from improved sustainable agriculture practices and are more resilient to weather shocks and climate trends **[DI-D11]** **Target: 3,000 individuals**	**In progress**. Five villages selected, NRMCs established (30 members each), and foundational training delivered through FFS (150 direct participants). Initial indirect reach extends to broader households. Evidence in Section 3.3 and Annex J.	Roll out FFS. Track indirect beneficiaries through NRMC engagement logs.
Output 3. Biodiversity-sustaining agroforestry plots are established and profitable (for both women and men) with the support of commune-level MAEP staff		
Output indicator 3.1 Proportion sustainable livelihood enterprises established that are functioning at project end (at least a year after establishment) **[DI-A10]** **Target: 80%**	**Not yet started**. Microenterprise training and individual agroforestry plots scheduled for Y2.	Launch microenterprise modules through FFS. Begin site-level planning for individual agroforestry plots with households.
Output indicator 3.2 Number of new/improved sustainable livelihoods/ poverty reduction management plans available and endorsed **[DI-B04]** **Target: 5**	**Not yet started**. Planning linked to FFS outcomes and NRMC input. Full plan development scheduled for Y2.	Co-develop plans with NRMCs based on yield and enterprise data from agroforestry and FFS activities.
Output indicator 3.3 Hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices **[DI-D01]** **Target: 15 hectares**	**In progress**. Agroforestry sites designed in all five communities. Community-led site prep initiated. Planting delayed to align with the rainy season. Evidence in Section 3.3 and Annexes K and L.	Plant agroforestry plots in Q1 of Y2. Monitor coverage and survival rates. Track expansion to individual plots.
Output indicator 3.4 Stabilised/ improved species population (relative abundance/ distribution) within the project area **[DI-D04]** **All targets below TBD after bioblitz** 3.4a. (agriculture) % increase in relative abundance of native invertebrate pollinators in agroforestry plots vs. monocultures 3.4b. (agriculture) % decrease in relative abundance of pests in agroforestry plots vs. monocultures (as identified by communities and corroborated by literature) Target Biodiversity: 3.4c. (biodiversity) % increase in native insectivorous birds in agroforestry plots vs. monocultures 3.4d. (biodiversity) % increase in abundance of native amphibian species in agroforestry plots vs. monocultures	**In progress**. Bioblitz completed across five villages. Data on floral biodiversity compiled and validated but used primarily to design agroforestry plots.	Potentially submit change request form to update these indicators to track plant abundance (outputs from plot creation) vs. biodiversity outcomes given the timeframe of the project.

Output indicator 3.5 Number of native plant species incorporated into agroforestry plots **Target**: 18* (10 tree, 8 shrub / herbaceous) *may vary by site	**In progress**. Species identified through triangulated Bioblitz and literature data. Community-led selection completed. Design finalized. Evidence in Section 3.3 and Annex L.	Secure propagation material and propagate species in community nurseries. Track incorporation and survival post-planting.
Output indicator 3.6 Number of GOB officials engaged in collecting and/or analysing data for Indicators 3.4 and 3.5 **Target: 12***	**In progress**. ATDA4 and DGEFC focal points engaged in Bioblitz analysis and agroforestry site design. Participated in training and feedback loops. Evidence in Section 3.3 and Annex I.	Continue involvement through planting, faunal monitoring, and agroforestry follow-up. Expand training on data entry and analysis using mobile tools.
Output 4. Data from a participatory action research activity demonstrates the added value of integrated native species in agroforestry systems and improved participatory forest management and action researchers build environmental leadership skills.		
Output indicator 4.1 Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed **[DI-C01]** **Target: 1 blueprint for agroforestry**	**Not yet started**. Research, synthesis, and documentation scheduled for Y2, informed by FFS and agroforestry outcomes.	Compile FFS data, yield results, and biodiversity tracking with ATDA4 and DGEFC. Update blueprint for agroforestry. Plan dissemination strategy.
Output indicator 4.2 Number of projects contributing biodiversity conservation or poverty reduction evidence to policy/ regulation/ standards consultations **[DI-C07]** **Target: 5**	**Not yet started**. Evidence will be generated through Y2 implementation and monitoring	Identify relevant policy consultation forums and support youth action researchers to contribute ideas and/or engage focal points to present at local and regional platforms.

9. 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
Outcome (Max 30 words): GOB policies, practices and capacity to support communities to advance CBNRM and biodiversity-sustaining agricultural practices that intercrop native flora species is increased	0.1 Number of people benefitting from improved sustainable agriculture practices and are more resilient to weather shocks and climate trends **[DI-D11]** **Target: 3,000 people** 0.2 Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training **[DI-A04]** **Target: 150 people** 0.3 Number of trainers trained reporting to have delivered further training by the end of the project. **[DI-A05]** **Target: 20 people (6 at department-level GOB and 7 each from two commune-level GOB)**	0.1 Census data; community surveys; participatory action research (PAR) - disaggregated by gender and youth 0.2 Endline KAP study, PAR, Integrated Technical and Organisational Capacity Assessment (ITOCA) action plan - disaggregated by gender and youth 0.3 ITOCA action plan; PAR - disaggregated by gender
Output 1 (Max 30 words) Commune - and department-level GOB knowledge, capacity and commitment to prioritise agroforestry systems integrating key native species and engage communities in these practices, as well as participatory forest management - is increased	1.1 Number of people from key national and local stakeholders completing structured and relevant training. **[DI-A01]** **Target: 20 people** 1.2 Number of government institutions/departments with enhanced awareness and understanding of biodiversity and associated poverty issues **[DI-A07]** **Target: 3 institutions** 1.3 Number of decision-makers attending briefing events **[DI-C14]** **Target: 18**	1.1 Training attendance sheets - disaggregated by gender 1.2 KAP study, PAR, ITOCA action plan - disaggregated by gender 1.3 ITOCA action plan - disaggregated by gender and institution
Output 2 (Max 30 words) Farmers and community members knowledge, attitudes, and practices of biodiversity-sustaining agroforestry are increased and participation in forest management is improved	2.1 Number of new/improved community management plans available and endorsed **[DI-B03]** **Target: 5 plans** 2.2 Number of individuals / households reporting a decrease in unsustainable practices as a result of project activities **[DI-B09]** **Target: 150 Individuals**	2.1 FFS meeting notes; PAR - disaggregation N/A 2.2 KAP study; PAR - disaggregated by gender and youth

	2.3 Number of individuals / households reporting an adoption of livelihood improvement practices as a result of project activities **[DI-B10]** **Target: 150 individuals**	2.3 KAP study; PAR - disaggregated by gender and youth
	2.4 Number of individuals trained by the project reporting increased agricultural yield and improved entrepreneurship skills **Target: 150 individuals**	2.4 KAP study; PAR - disaggregated by gender and youth
	2.5 Number of people benefitting from improved sustainable agriculture practices and are more resilient to weather shocks and climate trends **[DI-D11]** **Target: 3,000 individuals**	2.5 Census data; PAR, FFS meeting notes - disaggregated by gender and youth

Output 3 (Max 30 words) Biodiversity-sustaining agroforestry plots are established and profitable (for both women and men) with the support of commune-level MAEP staff	3.1 Proportion sustainable livelihood enterprises established that are functioning at project end (at least a year after establishment) **[DI-A10]** **Target: 80%**	3.1 Endline survey; PAR - disaggregation N/A
	3.2 Number of new/improved sustainable livelihoods/ poverty reduction management plans available and endorsed **[DI-B04]** **Target: 5**	3.2 FFS notes; PAR; Endline survey - disaggregation N/A
	3.3 Hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices **[DI-D01]** **Target: 15 hectares**	3.3 FFS notes; PAR; Endline survey - disaggregated by previous land use data
	3.4 Stabilised/ improved species population (relative abundance/ distribution) within the project area **[DI-D04]** **All targets below TBD after bioblitz** 3.4a. (agriculture) % increase in relative abundance of native invertebrate pollinators in agroforestry plots vs. monocultures 3.4b. (agriculture) % decrease in relative abundance of pests in agroforestry plots vs. monocultures (as identified by communities and corroborated by literature) Target Biodiversity: 3.4c. (biodiversity) % increase in native insectivorous birds in agroforestry plots vs. monocultures 3.4d. (biodiversity) % increase in abundance of native amphibian species in agroforestry plots vs. monocultures	3.4 Endline biodiversity survey - disaggregation TBD based on baseline biodiversity survey/bioblitz
	3.5 Number of native plant species incorporated into agroforestry plots **Target**: 18* (10 tree, 8 shrub / herbaceous) *may vary by site	3.5 Endline biodiversity survey
	3.6 Number of GOB officials engaged in collecting and/or analysing data for Indicators 3.4 and 3.5 **Target: 12*** *AgroNative will train 20 GOB offices, with at least 12 focused technically and not administratively.	3.6 ITOCA Action Plan and reports

Output 4 (Max 30 words) Data from a participatory action research activity demonstrates the added value of integrated native species in agroforestry systems and improved participatory forest management and action researchers build environmental leadership skills	4.1 Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed **[DI-C01]** **Target: 1 blueprint for agroforestry** 4.2 Number of projects contributing biodiversity conservation or poverty reduction evidence to policy/ regulation/ standards consultations **[DI-C07]** **Target: 5**	4.1 PAR; Endline survey - disaggregation N/A 4.2 PAR, Endline survey - disaggregation N/A

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

Output 1: Commune - and department-level GOB knowledge, capacity and commitment to prioritise agroforestry systems integrating key native species and engage communities in these practices, as well as participatory forest management - is increased

1.1 Assess commune- and department-level MAEP-ATDA capacity to support communities in improving their ability to monitor natural resources and improve agricultural practices to sustain biodiversity

1.1.1 Develop ITOCA tool to capture organisational capacity domains including: leadership, governance, strategic management, finance and administration systems, resource mobilisation, activity management, and strategic information

1.1.2 Develop ITOCA tool to capture technical capacity domains assessing capacity in biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture, community engagement, natural resource management, and more.

1.1.3 Administer Integrated Technical and Organisational Capacity Assessment (ITOCA) tool to commune- and department-level MAEP-ATDA to identify technical and organisational capacity strengths and gaps

1.1.4 Support MAEP-ATDA to develop Capacity Strengthening Action Plan (CSAP) to address the gaps identified during ITOCA

1.2. Build commune- and department-level MAEP-ATDA capacity to support communities in improving their ability to monitor natural resources and improve agricultural practices to sustain biodiversity

1.2.1 Design an engaging, participant-centred training and mentoring plan with MAEP-ATDA to support communities that aligns with the CSAP

1.2.2 Carry out trainings per CSAP including: strategic and operational planning, budgeting and resource mobilisation, biodiversity conservation, biodiversity-sustaining agricultural, mission and vision development, community mobilisation, etc.

1.2.3 Facilitate collaboration between MAEP, MCVDD, ANDF and DGFRN to jointly achieve agriculture, livelihoods, and biodiversity goals

1.2.4. Align AgroNative work plan activities to CSAP to ensure all AgroNative activities actively strengthen GOB capacity through on-the-job training and support

Output 2: Farmers and community members knowledge, attitudes, and practices of biodiversity-sustaining agroforestry are increased and participation in forest management is improved

2.1 Carry out Participatory Community Diagnostic (PCD) activity as an entry point to community engagement in each of the communities

2.1.1 Adapt PCD tool to assess communities' perceptions around challenges preventing biodiversity conservation and sustainable agriculture and to pinpoint opportunities to address them

2.1.2 Administer PCD with each community through one-on-one interviews, focus groups and plenaries including representatives from women's groups, youth groups, religious leaders, private sector groups, etc.

2.1.3 Support community to develop community action plan (CAP) proposing actions the community can take to address the issues and challenges they identify during the PCD

2.1.4 Align CAP and PCD results with all AgroNative activities to ensure they resonate fully with communities and build off of community strengths

2.2 Implement community-led bioblitz activity to build community buy-in and design agroforestry systems that sustain native biodiversity

2.2.1 Convene community for a basic overview of ecosystem functions and carry out discussion on bioblitz purpose and connection to agroforestry design

2.2.2 Provide introduction to use of technology (iNaturalist, if appropriate) required for bioblitz

2.2.3 Implement bioblitz to collect data on invertebrates, birds, herpetofauna, and flora on four different parcels of land including fallow land, monoculture, agroforestry, and intact / mostly intact native forest.

2.2.4 Convene community to discuss initial anecdotal observations

2.2.5 Analyse data with select community members and present data back to community; revisit discussion on anecdotal observations in support of integrating native plant species in agroforestry

2.2.6 See Activity 3.1 for use of bioblitz data for design of agroforestry

2.3 Convene farmer field schools with community members

2.3.1 Design farmer field school curriculum with MAEP-ATDA and MCVDD to train farmers on biodiversity sustaining agroforestry through intercropping native species

2.3.2 Convene biweekly meetings with farmers and communities over the cycle of the growing seasons to observe changes in their agroforestry plots

2.3.3 Record observations made by farmers for information share and to support farmers in making decisions about their future agroforestry plots

2.4 Convene CBNRM field schools with community members

2.4.1 Design CBNRM field school curriculum with DGFRN and MCVDD to train community members on CBNRM

2.4.2 Convene biweekly meetings with community members across the seasons to observe changes in biodiversity in the native and human-made ecosystems

2.4.3 Record observations made by community members for information share to support community decisions around CBNRM

Output 3: Biodiversity-sustaining agroforestry plots are established and profitable (for both women and men) with the support of commune-level MAEP staff

3.1 Design agroforestry plots that sustain native biodiversity

3.1.1 Conduct desk research with literature on native tree and shrub species to Northern Benin and analyse results from the bioblitz, DARNV019 studies and PCD

3.1.2 Using research and analyses, support communities to design agroforestry plots that contain native plant species* that attract invertebrate pollinators and pest predators (invertebrates, insectivorous birds, etc.)

3.2 Support communities to build and stock nurseries with seedlings for crop and native plant species and ensure their upkeep through farmer field schools

3.3 Plant agroforestry plots through community planting days

3.4 Train farmers on agroforestry-based microbusiness development with attention to gender equitable financial management, and will support participants to found savings groups

3.5 Provide resources for 20 farmer field school participants (at least 50% women) to plant agroforestry plots

3.5.1 Through farmer field school activities, work with participating farmers to identify opportunities for them to replicate the agroforestry plots (3.3) on their own land

3.5.2 Work with participating farmers to identify 20 groups or individuals (4 per community, at least 50% women) to plant agroforestry plots

3.5.3 Supply materials and seedlings for 20 nurseries

3.5.4 Provide guidance to those planting agroforestry plots and support broader farmer field school membership to provide oversight on the plots

Output 4: Data from a participatory action research activity demonstrates the added value of integrated native species in agroforestry systems and improved participatory forest management and action researchers build environmental leadership skills

4.1 Convene action research course that researches and provides guidance on the practice of sustaining biodiversity by integrating native plant species in agroforestry systems

4.1.1 Convene a group of 12-20 youth, women, agricultural workers, community members and local GOB representatives to participate in an action research course and implementation process

4.1.2 With a Beninese university, deliver an action research course covering principles of action research, tool design, data collection, data analysis, stakeholder engagement, leadership, and agency

4.1.3 Through course, support researchers to design research questions around the GOB's agroforestry practices, community engagement in agroforestry and CBNRM, and overall AgroNative activities

4.2 Carry out community-led participatory action research

4.2.1 Support community researchers to carry out data collection in northern Benin based on the research questions they conceived and data collection tools they designed

4.3 Review data and present back to GOB and broader community with suggestions for improvement in rolling out biodiversity sustaining agroforestry

4.3.1 Support communities to review and analyse data, identifying key findings

4.3.2 Support communities to understand their findings and apply them to improve CBNRM and native species-integrated agroforestry

4.3.3 Support communities to present their findings to GOB and recommend suggestions based on them

4.4 Support GOB to implement suggestions for improvement in rolling out biodiversity sustaining agroforestry

4.5 Carry out subsequent rounds of research and recommendation making based on results - an iterative process throughout AgroNative

4.6 Feed action research findings into AgroNative's overall adaptive management approach and monitoring and evaluation plan

*We will aim to plant at least 30 native trees per hectare and achieve approximately 20% native shrub coverage. Beninese law requires at least 10 trees per hectare in agricultural systems.

Important Assumptions

- GOB devotes time and focus to AgroNative activities
- Communities remain engaged in and committed to AgroNative activities, understanding the value of biodiversity for agriculture
- Communities and GOB have strong contingency plans to adapt to inclement weather / climactic events (drought, floods, storms, extreme heat) that harm early-stage agroforestry plot establishment
- Community cohesion and support for women-led entrepreneurship remains in tact

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

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

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	If this links directly to a project indicator(s), please note the indicator number here	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
[DI-D11]	0.1 Number of people benefitting from improved sustainable agriculture practices and are more resilient to weather shocks and climate trends [DI-D11] Target: 3,000 people	0.1	Number of people	Men: 1500 Women: 1500 IPCL Benin	0	–	–	0	3,000
[DI-A04]	0.2 Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training [DI-A04] Target: 150 people	0.2	Number of people	Men: 75 Women: 75 IPCL Benin	0	–	–	0	150
[DI-A05]	0.3 Number of trainers trained reporting to have delivered further training by the end of the project. [DI-A05] Target: 20 people (6 at department-level GOB and 7 each from two commune-level GOB)	0.3	Number of people	Men: 10 Women: 10 IPCL Benin	10	–	–	0	20
[DI-A01]	1.1 Number of people from key national and local stakeholders completing structured and relevant training. [DI-A01] Target: 20 people	1.1	Number of people	Men: 10 Women: 10 IPCL Benin	5 (3 DGEFC, 3 ATDA4)	–	–	0	20
[DI-A07]	1.2 Number of government institutions/departments with enhanced awareness and understanding of biodiversity and associated poverty issues [DI-A07]	1.1, 1.2	Institutions	3	2 (DGEFC, ATDA4)	–	–	2	3

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
	Target: 3 institutions								
[DI-C14]	1.3 Number of decision-makers attending briefing events [DI-C14] Target: 18	1.2	Number of people	Men: 9 Women: 9 IPCL Benin	9 (Mayor, Heads of DDAEP, DDEFC, Technical Unit, focal points)	–	–	9	18
[DI-B03]	2.1 Number of new/improved community management plans available and endorsed [DI-B03] Target: 5 plans	2.4	Number of Plans	Benin New	0	5	–	0	5
[DI-B09]	2.2 Number of Number of people / households reporting a decrease in unsustainable practices as a result of project activities [DI-B09] Target: 150 Number of people	2.2	Number of people	Men: 75 Women: 75 IPCL Benin	0 (assess-ment planned Y2)	–	–	0	150
[DI-B10]	2.3 Number of Number of people / households reporting an adoption of livelihood improvement practices as a result of project activities [DI-B10] Target: 150 Number of people	2.3	Number of people	Men: 75 Women: 75 IPCL Benin	0	–	–	30	150
[DI-D11]	2.5 Number of people benefitting from improved sustainable agriculture practices	2.5	Number of people	Men: 1500	0	–	–	30	3,000

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
	and are more resilient to weather shocks and climate trends [DI-D11] Target: 3,000 Number of people			Women: 1500 IPCL Benin					
[DI-A10]	3.1 Proportion sustainable livelihood enterprises established that are functioning at project end (at least a year after establishment) [DI-A10] Target: 80%	3.1	%	–	0 (training starts Y2)	–	–	0	80%
[DI-B04]	3.2 Number of new/improved sustainable livelihoods/ poverty reduction management plans available and endorsed [DI-B04] Target: 5	3.2	Number of Plans	Benin New	0 (planned Year 2)	–	–	0	5
[DI-D01]	3.3 Hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices [DI-D01] Target: 15 hectares	3.3	Hectares	–	0 (planting postponed to Q1 Y2)	–	–	0	15
[DI-D04]	3.4 Stabilised/ improved species population (relative abundance/ distribution) within the project area [DI-D04]	3.4	TBD	–	Bioblitz conducted; baseline floral data compiled	–	–	Baseline	TBD
[DI-C01]	4.1 Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed [DI-C01]	4.1	Number	Benin French	0	–	–	0	1

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
	Target: 1 blueprint for agroforestry								
[DI-C07]	4.2 Number of projects contributing biodiversity conservation or poverty reduction evidence to policy/ regulation/ standards consultations [DI-C07] Target: 5	4.2	Projects	–	0 (policy briefs and presentations planned Y2)	–	–	0	5

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)

11. Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the **correct template** (checking fund, scheme, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and **deleted the blue guidance text** before submission?	✔
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please 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 BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	✔
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	✔
Have you provided an updated risk register? If you have an existing risk register you should provide an updated version alongside your report. If your project was funded prior to this being a requirement, you are encouraged to develop a risk register.	✔
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 15)?	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	✔
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	✔
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	