

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

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Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	DARCC060
Project title	Strengthening climate change capacity for effective management of Madagascar's PAs
Country/ies	Madagascar
Lead Organisation	Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
Project partner(s)	MEDD (Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development), FAPBM (Fondation pour les Aires Protégées et la Biodiversité de Madagascar)
Darwin Initiative grant value	£197,449.00
Start/end dates of project	01 April 2024/31 March 2026
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024 – Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	Apr 2024- Mar 2025 Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	ANDRIANANTENAINA Hanitra Nomentsoa
Project website/blog/social media	
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1. Project summary

Madagascar's protected areas (PAs), created for biodiversity conservation, are still under pressure and are threatened by human activities and negative impacts of climate change, making the management a major challenge for managers: organisations, governmental agencies' staff and local community associations. Strengthening their capacity on several themes including integrating climate change into PA management tools; and implementing measures to fight against climate change will be the focus of this new project in order to ensure effective management of PAs.

Madagascar is a hotspot for global biodiversity and therefore a conservation priority (Goodman & Benstead, 2005; Myers et al., 2000), as approximately 85% of its animals and 82% of its plants are endemic (Callmander et al., 2011; Goodman & Benstead, 2005). However, much of Madagascar's original forest cover has already been deforested, of which ~45% is estimated to have been cleared in the last 60 years (Harper et al., 2007; Vieilledent et al., 2018). There is now

great conservation concern for endemic wildlife populations, of which 90% depend on forest habitat for survival (Dufils, 2003). Protected areas (PA) are created and constitute the main of biodiversity conservation in Madagascar. However, managing these fragile and threatened ecosystems is challenging (Gardner et al, 2018). Then, achieving the objectives of PA management requires knowledge and skills in several fields (Worboys et al., 2016).

To strengthen Madagascar's PA management capacity, the LAFA Forum (implemented by WCS, from 2017 to 2020) was initiated and has been continued by the Darwin Initiative-funded "Realising the Durban Vision: Strengthening Madagascar's Protected area management capacity" project (DARCC011), named FAMPITAFa project, implemented by Durrell (April 2022 - March 2024) which took into account the successes and lessons learnt from LAFA. This project aims to improve PA staff co-management capability through a range of sustained training and learning experiences, allowing them to develop the competences needed to manage Madagascar's terrestrial PAs more effectively. It has been noted that efforts to strengthen the competences of managers still need to be continued, and not just limited to professionals, but also extended to local community associations. In addition, the topics of capacity building should include the fight against climate change. In fact, climate change is considered as the second most important driver of global biodiversity loss after human-induced habitat destruction (Sala et al., 2000; Skogen et al., 2018), and this is only predicted to worsen as global temperatures increase more rapidly (Bellard et al., 2012; IPCC, 2021). Madagascar is no exception to this problem: the country is even ranked among the countries most vulnerable to climate change. PA managers' understanding of climate change and effective adaptation and mitigation measures remains unclear. Reacting to and proactively acting against climate change is already a critical issue which will only become more critical. Without capacity building, vulnerability to climate change will not be reduced and this may hinder population resilience. We may miss important opportunities to mitigate climate change impacts in critical key areas for biodiversity due to a lack of capacity amongst PA managers, local associations and other stakeholders.

In this proposed project, we are going to focus much more on building capacity of PA managers in the fight against climate change, particularly in terms of adapting and mitigating to climate change. Given that predicted climate change impacts also threaten the wellbeing of both the country's biodiversity and its people, local communities living near protected areas will benefit from training in several themes such as Ecosystem based Adaptation, Community based Adaptation, etc.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

To implement this project, DWCT was supported by two major stakeholders: the MEDD (the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development) which is the delegating authority for the management of PAs in Madagascar and FAPBM (A Foundation for Protected Areas and Biodiversity of Madagascar) which is supporting some protected Areas management in Madagascar by allocating funding to them and is also involved in an another project related to capacity-building in the field of conservation.

A project advisory committee was also created to discuss the main roles in the implementation and the main challenges that have been faced. This committee meets twice a year and is composed of key stakeholders with important roles in the management of the country's Protected Areas:

- MEDD through two departments: the department in charge of Protected Areas, the Natural resources and environment (DAPRNE) and the National Bureau in charge of coordinating Climate Change and REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation) (BNCCREDD+)
- FAPBM (Foundation for Protected Areas and Biodiversity of Madagascar) which is funding several Protected Areas in the country,
- MNP (Madagascar National Parks) which is a governmental agency managing 43 Protected Areas

However, extraordinary meetings can be organised if there are any important points that should be discussed or urgent decisions that cannot wait the next ordinary meeting. During the first year of the project, two meetings were held. The points discussed during these meetings were:

- Presentation of the project,
- Roles and responsibilities of the committee and how it works,
- Results achieved between two meetings,
- Problems encountered and strategies to solve them,
- Discussions on the training themes and exchange visits' themes.

A partner who was not part of the Committee but who is key to the project is the British Embassy in Madagascar. A representative of the British ambassador to Madagascar honoured the project launch event with his presence and delivered a speech.

As the project is focusing on building the capacity of people involved in the management of Protected Areas (both professionals and local communities), relations are also being developed with the various organisations involved in the Protected Areas management in Madagascar. For local communities, the list of participants is provided by the protected area managers with whom they work. As for the professionals, anyone wishing to take part in the activities must provide a letter of agreement from their superiors or the institutions in which they work. This is in order to guarantee a certain degree of accountability towards their organisations and also to ensure that they apply the training provided by the project in their work.

3. Project progress

3.1. Progress in carrying out project Activities

The project was officially launched on May 24, 2024 and named FAMPITAFa 2 (FAnamafisana ny fahaizamanaon'ny MPITAntana Faritra Arovana (meaning 'strengthening the capacity of Protected Area (PA) managers') following on from a previous Darwin funded project focused on building capacity of PA managers.

Output 1: Empower PA co-managers to take effective environmental action through improved technical and operational knowledge and skills.

Activity 1.1: Provide training to PA staff (directors and technicians)

Three training sessions on "Climate Change and Protected Areas" were provided to PA staff including directors and technicians. A call for expression of interest was launched a month before each planned training session. The protected area managers that were interested in taking part into the training course had to fill in an online application form. Then the 20 best candidates were selected by the Project Team. A letter of support or a confirmation by mail from their line managers were required before their participation was confirmed. The training locations, dates and number of participants are detailed below.

Table 1: Details of training sessions for Protected Area managers

N°	Date	Training location	Number of trainees
1	18-19 September 2024	Toamasina (East)	19 persons including 7 women
2	22-23 October 2024	Antsirabe (Center)	19 persons including 3 women
3	28-29 January 2025	Sambava (North)	17 participants including 6 women

Activity 1.2: Provide training to local community associations

Local communities from the Eastern, Centre-Eastern, Northern part of Madagascar have also been trained on introduction to climate change. For the local communities, a call for expression of interest was launched as well to the Protected Area managers. Those who were interested had to submit a list of the members of local associations that were co-managing protected areas with them. The project staff members were in charge of selecting the participants and then informing the Protected Areas managers whether the list of local communities they have submitted was selected or not. The details of training sessions dates, locations, and number of participants are detailed in the table below.

Table 2: Details of training sessions for local communities

N°	Date	Training location	Number of trainees
1	20-21 September 2024	Toamasina	28 persons including 3 women
2	24-25 October 2024	Antsirabe	30 persons including 5 women
3	30-31 January 2025	Sambava	33 participants including 9 women

Activity 1.3: Training of trainers

For more effective and impactful actions, it was planned to identify 20 PA managers that would be trained to deliver high quality trainings to their peers and the local communities, on themes related to climate change. A call for expression of interest was launched in May 2024. More than 50 applications were received. The candidates were selected based on the following criteria:

- Previous experience on climate change.
- Previous experience on delivering training to professionals or to local communities.
- Availability during the 2 years of the project (Each trainer should be able to deliver a training at least once during the 2 years of the project).

The 20 selected candidates, including 6 women (from diverse institutions and protected areas in different regions of Madagascar), now referred to as new trainers signed a letter of commitment stating that they would attend each training of trainers and would be available to deliver at least one training session as part of the FAMPITAFa project.

Two training of trainers were organised during the first year of the project, focusing on:

- Andragogical facilitation techniques, General concept of Climate change, Climate risks analysis and Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) (15-19 July 2024)
- Nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation or mitigation and project designing (02-06 December 2024)

A refresher and reinforcement session on these previously covered themes was organised from 26 to 28 March 2025.

Activity 1.4: Develop training modules and related materials

Experts have been hired to provide training for the new trainers. These experts were responsible for designing the training modules on the above-mentioned subjects and developing all the materials needed to enable the new trainers to deliver quality training to their peers and local communities.

A trainers' handbook detailing all the steps to follow and how to approach each theme was also developed.

Output 2: Increase uptake of best practice on PA management including climate change adaptation and mitigation measures through peer exchange.

Activity 2.1: Identify potential sites for exchange visits

The sites for the exchange visits were identified during the Project Committee meetings. The new trainers also suggested sites in their region that might be of interest.

The sites in question would enable them to observe climate change adaptation and mitigation measures that local communities and managers could implement in their PAs.

Activity 2.2: Conduct exchange visits

Three exchange visits were conducted during the first year of the project. The dates of each visit, locations, themes and activities, number of participants are summarized in the table below.

Table 3: Exchange visits

N°	Dates of the exchange visit	Place that was visited	Themes and activities	Number of participants
1	20-21 June 2024	Ankeniheny-Zahamena Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate-change adaptation and mitigation measures that are in place and adopted by the local communities: climate-smart agriculture, reforestation, tree nursery, patrolling - Best practices for integrating climate change into the PA management tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 59 members of local associations from 3 PA participated (Ankeniheny-Zahamena Corridor, Maromizaha and Torotorofotsy). 23 of them were women. - 5 professionals from the previously mentioned PA.
2	07-08 August 2024	Nahampoana and Manantantely natural reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roles of local communities in the conservation of natural resources and climate change adaptation or mitigation - Nature-based solutions like reforestation, ecological restoration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 36 members of local communities (including 5 women) took part in this exchange visit. - 8 professionals (including 2 women) participated.
3	21-22 November 2024	Amoron'i Onilahy Protected Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate-smart agriculture (Vegetable crops and agroforestry) - Flood management system - Ecological restoration (nature-based solutions approach: Restoration and improvement of protected area management) - Improved cookstove (Kamadoo) - Sharings on Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 49 members of local associations (including 19 women) took part in this exchange visit - 4 professionals participated

Output 3: Fund small projects to tackle the impacts of climate change through adaptation or mitigation measures.

Activity 3.1: Launch the call for projects

A call for projects has been launched on September 30, 2024, inviting PA managers to submit proposals. The projects proposed had to implement measures to adapt to or mitigate climate change, involving local communities.

Activity 3.2 Identify the best projects according to the established criteria

Twenty (20) project proposals were received. A pre-selection was first carried out to determine whether the proposed project met the requirements of the Terms of Reference. The following questions were asked:

1. Is the applicant a PA managing institution?
2. Is the project being implemented at the level of a PA, involving the local communities?

If the project did not meet one of the first two pre-selection criteria, it was eliminated.

The proposals that passed this pre-selection were evaluated according to the following 7 criteria by answering these guiding questions:

1. Alignment with project objectives (0 to 5 points): Do the objectives of the proposed project align with the objectives of the FAMPITAF 2 project?
2. Direct impact on reducing emissions or adapting to Climate Change (0 to 5 points): Do the actions and activities to be implemented constitute climate change mitigation or adaptation measures?
3. Local relevance (0 to 5 points): Are the project, its objectives and planned activities in line with the local context?
4. Consideration of community needs (0 to 5 points): Does the project meet the needs of local communities?
5. Community involvement (0 to 5 points): What is the level of involvement of local communities in project activities?
6. Realistic activities and timetable (0 to 5 points): Are the planned activities in line with the objectives set and are they achievable within the three months planned for implementation of the project?
7. Realistic budget estimate (0-10 points): Are the resources allocated proportionate to the needs of the project?

After selection, two projects were chosen to receive the grant. These projects are:

1. ***"Strengthening the climate change resilience of communities in the village of Lakambato, Mangabe Protected Area, by implementing adaptation solutions based on sustainable agricultural practices and forest restoration"*** that will be implemented by MADAGASIKARA VOAHAJY
2. ***"Climate resilience and women's empowerment in Maromizaha through agroforestry and handicraft for sustainable development"*** that will be implemented by Groupe d'Etude et de Recherches sur les Primates (GERP).

Activity 3.3: Monitor the progress of selected project implementation

Since project funding was only secured at the end of March, the initial monitoring and evaluation activities will begin in Year 2 of the FAMPITAF 2 project. Nevertheless, the monitoring and evaluation tools have already been developed and will be continuously updated to ensure relevance and effectiveness.

3.2. Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Empower PA co-managers to take effective environmental action through improved technical and operational knowledge and skills.

The first expected output was mainly linked to strengthening the capacities of professionals and local communities involved in the management of Protected Areas. For professionals, a total of 55 people, including 16 women (representing 29% of participants), participated in training courses on climate change and protected areas. The pre- and post-training evaluation revealed that 91% of participants stated that they had good or high-level competences after the training. The figure below shows a real improvement in participants' competences levels.

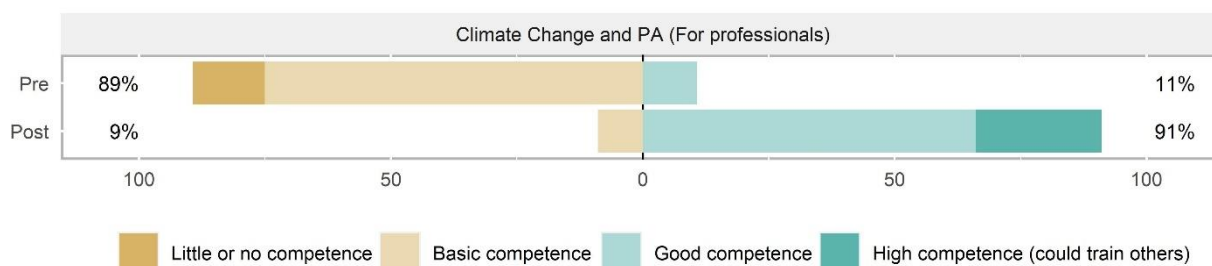


Figure 1: Pre- and post- training evaluation for Protected Area managers (Professionals)

For local communities, 91 people have benefited from training on an introduction to climate change. Of those trained, 17 were women, representing 19% of participants. All those who received training said that their competences had improved after the course. In fact, given the participants' level of education, the pre- and post-training evaluation questionnaires were simplified. Participants only had to answer whether or not they had understood the topics covered. The figure below shows that although 80% of participants already had some knowledge of climate change before the training, there was an improvement in the number of people who said they had acquired knowledge of the theme.

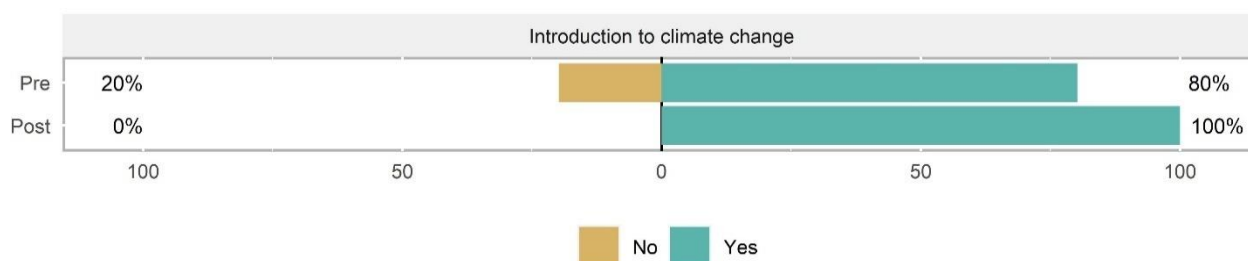


Figure 2: Pre- and post-training evaluation for local communities

On the other hand, this output also focused on the transfer of knowledge between peers. The plan was therefore to select trainers who could deliver training to their peers and to local communities. Twenty (20) new trainers were selected, five of whom were women (representing 25%). Twelve (12) of them have already delivered training to professionals and communities as part of the FAMPITAFa project. Some have taken personal initiatives by training their colleagues or the communities they work with in their PAs.

To support them in implementing these training courses, a training kit consisting of presentations and a trainer's guide has been developed by experts and made available to them.

Output 2: Increase uptake of best practice on PA management including climate change adaptation and mitigation measures through peer exchange.

The second Output focused on learning through peer-to-peer sharing of best practice. This was achieved through exchange visits. During year 1 of the FAMPITAFa project, three exchange visits were organised. In all, 17 Protected Area managers (professionals) and 144 members of associations took part in these exchanges.

A pre- and post-exchange visit evaluation was conducted to measure the impact of participation in the visits on the competences of the VOIs and professionals.

The local communities were asked whether or not they had the necessary competence to implement the various techniques that will be/have been seen during the exchange visit (as the same questionnaire was used for pre- and post-exchange visit assessment). They could choose between "No, not at all", "Yes, moderately" or "Yes, strongly".

Below the results of the pre- and post-exchange visits evaluations:

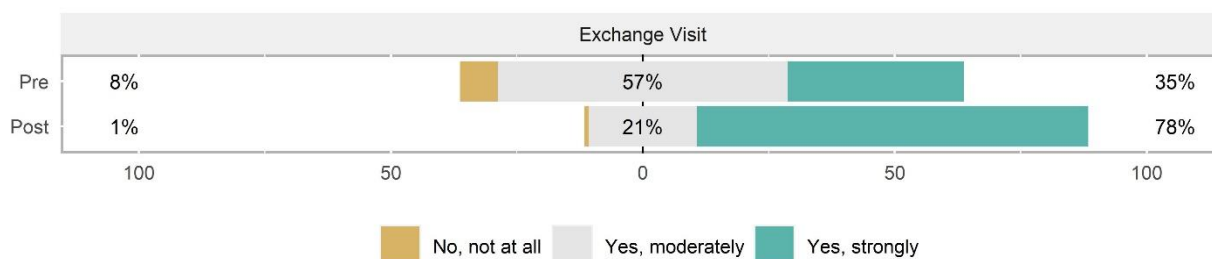


Figure 3: Pre- and post-exchange visit evaluation results for local communities

For the professionals, they were also asked whether or not they had the necessary competences to integrate climate change into their PA management tools and to engage local communities into mitigation and adaptation measures that would be put in place. Like for the local communities, they had the choice between “No, not at all”, “Yes, moderately” and “Yes, strongly”. The graph clearly shows that there is an improvement in the competence level of these professionals.

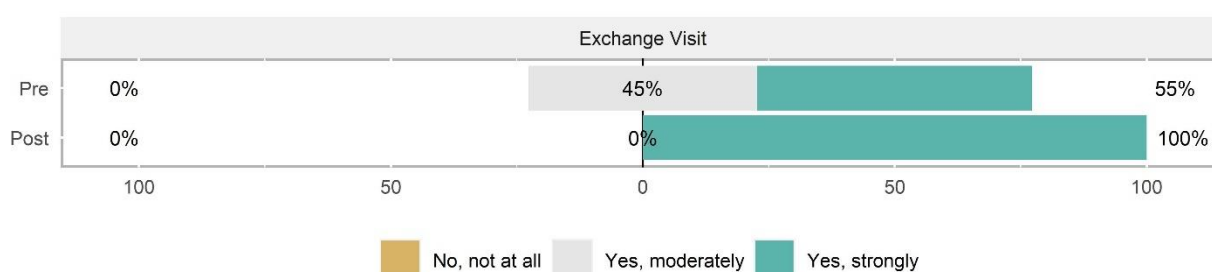


Figure 4: Pre- and post-exchange visit evaluation results for professionals

Output 3: Fund small projects to tackle the impacts of climate change through adaptation or mitigation measures.

Output 3 aims especially to enable training beneficiaries to apply the training they have acquired and thus optimize the training's impact. Two projects were selected and financed during the first year of the project, benefiting two local associations and enabling them to take part in conservation and climate change mitigation or adaptation actions. These projects will be monitored throughout year 2 of this project.

3.3. Progress towards the project Outcome

The Outcome of the project is ‘Protected Areas’ co-managers (organisations' staff and local community associations) are trained and use the capacity and resources gained to improve the management of PAs across Madagascar. To date, 146 people, including professionals and local communities, have benefited from the training provided by the project. The trainees are from 28 PA management organisations and 44 local associations.

Post-training assessments were conducted to measure the practical application of the knowledge and skills acquired in the daily management of protected areas (PA). A sample of 29.09% of the managers who participated in the training were assessed. 100% of the respondents reported applying the knowledge and skills acquired, with two levels of application: widespread application and moderate application.

- 33.3% of the managers extensively applied the knowledge and skills acquired. These managers systematically integrated these skills into their daily management of protected areas. For example, some applied risk analysis skills to prioritize actions in their management zones and regularly used their skills in awareness-raising and climate risk management to conduct training and awareness sessions with local communities. The integration of skills into their daily practices was also observed in reforestation and

ecological restoration projects, where managers systematically considered climate change issues when designing and implementing projects.

- 66.7% of the managers applied the knowledge and skills acquired to some extent but have not yet fully integrated all aspects of the training into their daily management. Although these managers were able to use certain skills, particularly in the areas of climate risk prioritization, ecosystem vulnerability analysis, and adaptation project development, they encountered obstacles that limited the full application of these skills. These obstacles included time and resource constraints or difficulties in coordinating with various stakeholders. However, these managers still integrated the skills into their activities, though in a more intermittent or partial manner.

This post-training evaluation, conducted with 29.09% of the participants (a total of 16 people), served as a preliminary step and a test of the questionnaire. In the beginning of Year 2, the questionnaire will be distributed by email to all training participants to gather their feedback on the sessions delivered. Moreover, since one of the training sessions took place in January 2025, the corresponding evaluation will be postponed to comply with the six-month post-training assessment requirement within the standard indicators.

Post-exchange visits: 33 members of the local communities (22,91%) evaluated the exchange visit to be highly and very highly useful (100%). They stated that they had acquired knowledge and skills on the topics covered during the visit. They pointed out that practices differ from one region to another and that they are motivated to duplicate what the communities on the site visited have done because they consider it to be good practice. As activities carried out following the exchange visit, they listed: reforestation (activities they do regularly, but following the exchange visit they understood the importance and the contribution in mitigating climate change, the use of composting, crop cover system, crop associations and the improvement of patrol techniques.

3.4. Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: Conservation NGOs and other agencies in Madagascar continue to prioritise the professional development of their PA staff, releasing staff for training events and self-directed learning.

Comments: In many cases, employers have demonstrated a willingness to support staff development by encouraging participation in training activities and exchange visits organized by the project.

Assumption 2. Individual PA staff are willing to sustain interest and focus on their own professional development.

Comments: In general, every PA staff that has already participated into one of the training activities organised by the project, apply for another course so that they can acquire more knowledge. This reflects high level of interest in improving their ability to do their work effectively and develop their professional skills.

Assumption 3. Integrating climate change into Protected Area management tools will lead to sustainable development that is resilient to climate change

Comments: The IMET tool for assessing the effectiveness of protected area management, now in use in Madagascar, incorporates the climate change dimension. This means that an increasing number of managers will be incorporating climate change into their management tools.

Assumption 4. Malagasy conservation institutions are supportive of the integration of best practices into PA management.

Comments: Several institutions such as Madagascar National Parks (MNP), Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG), and the Madagascar Biodiversity Partnership (MBP) have already begun integrating new approaches and tools introduced through partner initiatives, indicating a supportive environment for continuous improvement. This reflects a supportive environment for continuous improvement in PA management.

Assumption 5. Local community associations are willing to develop their competences through training sessions and exchange visits for PA effective co-management.

Comments: During the training sessions and exchange visits that were organized, participants from local communities demonstrated strong interest in the topics covered and actively engaged in the knowledge sharing. This reflects their commitment to and sense of responsibility for the Protected Areas they co-manage.

3.5 Achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and multidimensional poverty reduction

The capacity building of Protected Area managers is a comprehensive approach that not only reinforces biodiversity conservation efforts but also supports broader goals of human development and poverty alleviation. The climate change training aims to raise awareness among participants, whether they are protected area (PA) managers or local communities, about identifying and prioritizing adaptation and mitigation measures in response to the impacts of climate change, in connection with economic development, and implementing these measures. The implementation of these measures depends, in particular, on the availability of funding or other specific criteria. However, participants are always encouraged to leverage the resources they have to carry them out. For instance, strategies such as diversifying income sources, selecting climate-appropriate seeds, adjusting cultural calendars, and other agricultural adaptation measures are ways to improve local communities' incomes and reduce the negative impacts of climate change on their daily lives. Although the direct impact of this training has not yet been measured, the expected outcomes are substantial and are likely to contribute significantly to strengthening the resilience of communities in the face of climate challenges.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

Project goals and training activities centred around building the capacity of PA professionals contribute to Madagascar's National Development Plan (NDP) target 5 – to enhance natural capital and build resilience to disaster risks – as well as Madagascar's National Adaptation Plan which incorporates the aim to develop income-generating activities less dependent on natural resources and strengthen legislation and policies relating to conservation of degraded ecosystems. The project also contributes to Madagascar's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan's strategic objectives 2 (to recognise and integrate biodiversity values and benefits from sustainable use); 5,14 (protect and restore habitats and ecosystems); 11 (manage PAs more effectively); and 12 (to improve the conservation status of threatened species). Strengthening climate change adaptation also aligns with Madagascar's National Policy for Fighting Climate Change.

Training on biodiversity and climate change aligns with several national and international priorities, especially goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). More specifically building capacities to incorporate climate adaptation in PA management supports GBF targets 8 (minimize the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and build resilience), 9 (manage wild species sustainably to benefit people) and 20 (strengthen capacity-building, technology transfer, and scientific and technical cooperation for biodiversity). By ensuring that all stakeholders involved in PA co-management across the landscape have the required knowledge and skills to effectively manage the land and its natural resources, and establishing gender equality in the processes, the project contributes to SDGs 1,4,5,12. The meaningful and consultative project partnership between Durrell and MEDD addresses SDG 17.

By extension, the management training for all staff on technical aspects of climate-sensitive conservation and communication will benefit efficient management and governance of the forestry sector (in line with the Malagasy Forestry Policy) and strengthen the work with law enforcement agencies to tackle illegal wildlife trade, supporting CITES commitments.

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.	X
Empowering	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

The active involvement of women in project activities, including trainings and exchange visits has always been strongly encouraged. For every activity organized, the participation of women engaged in the management of Protected Areas has been carefully recorded. From the outset, our approach has been intentionally inclusive, designed to be accessible to all genders. This includes scheduling training sessions at times that are considerate of women's availability, taking into account both the time of day and the season, to ensure they are not excluded due to other responsibilities. By the end of the project's first year, 29% of the participating Protected Area managers were women (out of 30% expected at the end of the project) and 19% of the participating local community members in the trainings were women (out of 20% expected by the end of the project).

The lesson learned on gender and women's participation in project activities : despite the limited presence of women working in Protected Area management in Madagascar and their membership in local associations, achieving meaningful female participation in project activities remains a challenge. This highlights the need to go beyond simply offering equal opportunities and to proactively identify and address the specific barriers that women face such as time constraints, competing responsibilities, or lack of confidence in mixed-gender settings. Ensuring gender-sensitive planning, including the choice of training schedules, communication channels, and facilitation methods, is crucial to fostering more inclusive and impactful participation. In addition, the project plans to specifically target associations composed entirely of women involved in the management of protected areas as beneficiaries of its activities. Preparatory steps will be organized beforehand to confirm their motivation and availability.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

Durrell is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the project. The M&E system implemented has proven effective in tracking progress and ensuring that the expected output indicators are being met.

To assess the impact of capacity-building activities for both Protected Area managers and local communities, the system evaluates two complementary and hierarchical dimensions:

- **Pre-training assessment (“prior learning evaluation”)**: This measures changes in participants’ competencies through pre- and post-training/exchange visit questionnaires administered before and immediately after each activity.
- **Post-training assessment (“transfer evaluation”)**: Conducted approximately six months after training/exchange visit, this questionnaire assesses how effectively participants have applied the knowledge and skills gained during the sessions. It covers several key dimensions, including the effectiveness and relevance of the training/exchange visit, the frequency of use of the acquired skills, concrete examples of their application, and any obstacles encountered in putting them into practice.

All collected data is compiled in Excel and analysed using R software to ensure robust and accurate interpretation.

During committee meetings, most recently held on March 25, 2025, the data collection and analysis methodology, along with the results achieved to date, are presented and followed by open discussions and suggestions for improvement.

7. Lessons learnt

The "Training of Trainers" approach was adopted: new trainers participated in sessions focused on both facilitation techniques and effective training delivery. Particular emphasis was placed on the importance of thorough preparation prior to any training session, notably through the development of pedagogical progress sheets or training scenarios. These tools proved highly valuable in supporting the facilitation of training sessions for protected area (PA) managers and local communities. As they are new trainers, these tools have been very helpful in facilitating the smooth delivery of the training sessions. The guide provides various group facilitation techniques, methods for pre- and post-training evaluations, appropriate tools to use depending on the target audience, as well as structured sessions and sequences to follow in order to achieve the training objectives. Furthermore, the implementation of the training activities was guided by a competency-based approach, with a strong focus on learner-centred methodologies. The adopted training method consisted of 30% theoretical input and 70% practical application, thereby promoting active and experiential learning.

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

No feedback received in the half year report.

9. Risk Management

No new risks emerged during this reporting period.

10. Scalability and durability

New trainers who already have the knowledge and skills on the subject (technical content of the modules) and on facilitation techniques will be able to continue to train their peers and local communities, even without the support of the project in terms of materials and/or payment of training participants). Moreover, some of them have already done activities in their own to implement the training they gained. Some have activities planned to train PA managers in their sites and local communities in the coming weeks. This could also help ensure the sustainability of the project's achievements, results, and impacts beyond its completion.

11. Darwin Initiative identity

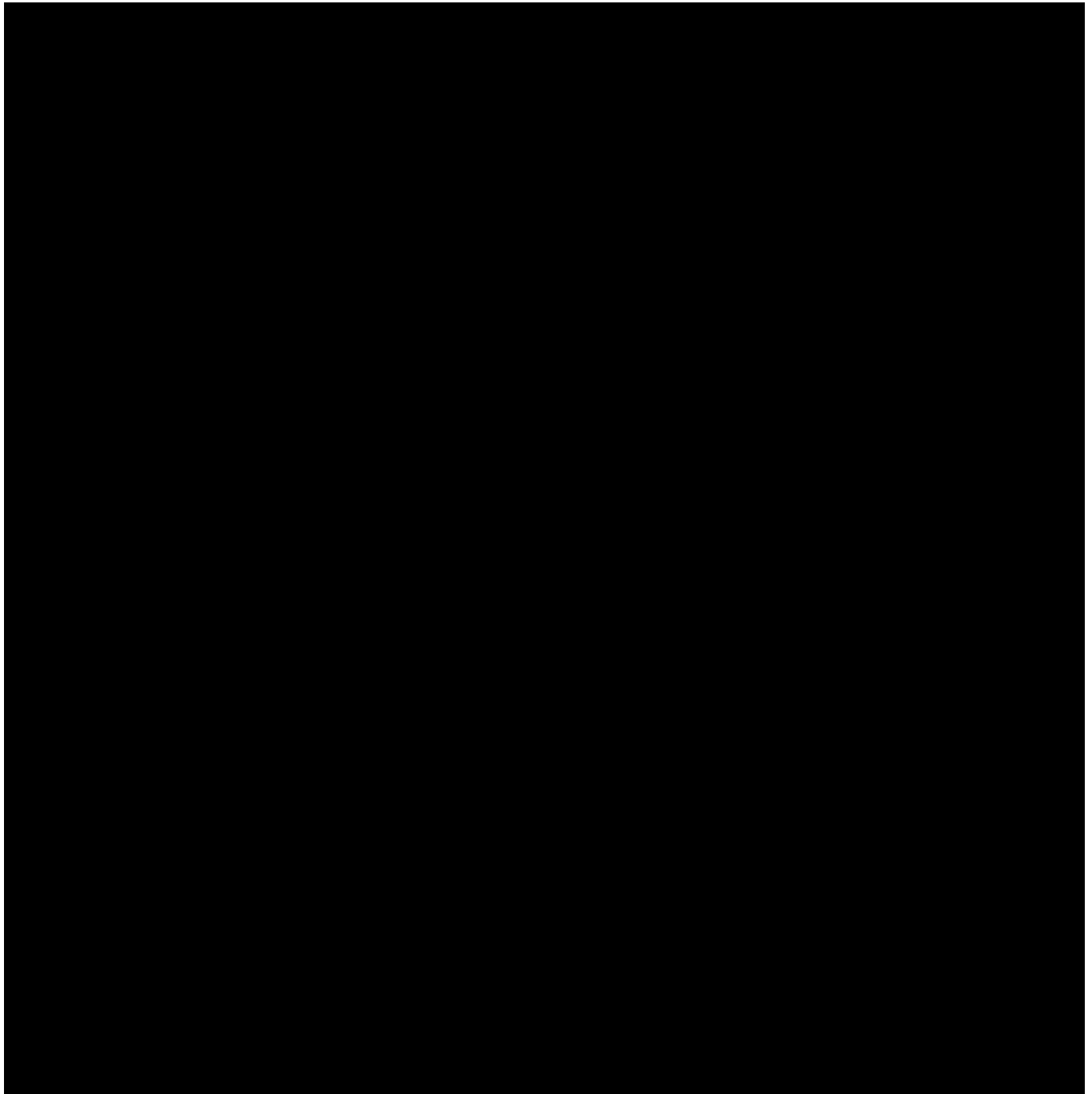
Throughout the project's activities, the Darwin Initiative logo, along with the UKAid logo and the Durrell logo have been emphasized. The logos of all three have been consistently displayed on

project materials, including forms, attendance sheets, training documents, and presentation slides shared with key stakeholders.

The Darwin Initiative has also been prominently mentioned in all press releases, as well as in invitations to meetings, training sessions, and exchange visits, with its logo included on all official communications. Communication materials and social media posts have clearly stated that the project is funded by the UK Government through the Darwin Initiative.

Furthermore, during all project-related events, public speeches delivered by Durrell representatives, local authorities, and other partners have systematically acknowledged and expressed gratitude to the British Government and the Darwin Initiative for their support to Protected Area managers in Madagascar.

12. Safeguarding



13. Project expenditure

Project expenditure to follow.

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

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

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

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			

14. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Following each activity, whether a training session or an exchange visit, the participants are consistently encouraged to apply the new knowledge and skills they have acquired. While they express motivation and willingness to do so, they also raise financial and technical challenges, such as the lack of funding to implement what they've learned, limited tools and resources, and the absence of appropriate equipment.

Except for the funding allocated to the two-climate change adaptation and mitigation projects (for GERP and Madagasikara Voakajy), these needs fall outside the scope of this project. As a result, participants are encouraged to focus on activities that do not require additional funding but rather make use of available resources while integrating or taking into account climate change considerations in their ongoing work.

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

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

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

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
Outcome Protected Areas' co-managers (organisations' staff and local community associations) are trained and use the capacity and resources gained to improve the management of PAs across Madagascar.		
Outcome indicator 0.1. By Y2 end, at least 320 practitioners co-managing PA have received training (120 organisations' staff and 20% of whom are women; and 200 members of local community associations and 15% of whom are women).	A total of 146 people participated to the training courses (55 organisations' staff and 29% of them are women; and 91 members of local community associations and 19% of whom are women. Evidence provided in section 3.3.	Continue to provide training to PA staff and to local community associations (at least 3 training sessions to PA staff and 3 to local communities). Training will be delivered by new trainers. Organise training refreshment for the new trainers. Update training modules and related materials.
Outcome indicator 0.2. By Y2 end, at least 70% of PA organisations' staff (84 people, representing at least 10 organisations) and 60% of local community associations' members (120 people, representing at least 15 community associations) who received training have used in their work the capacity and resources gained and can provide qualitative examples to demonstrate how.	By Y1 end, a sample of 29.09% (16 people) of the managers assessed: 33.3% out of them applied extensively the knowledge and skills acquired; 66.7% applied the knowledge and skills acquired to some extent but have not yet fully integrated all aspects of the training into their daily management. Evidence provided in 3.3.	Conduct post-training evaluation of participants.
Outcome indicator 0.3. By Y2 end, at least 50% (60 people) of PA practitioners and 40% (80 people) of local community associations' members report that the capacity and resources gained have improved their ability to effectively manage their PA, and can provide qualitative examples to demonstrate how [DI-A04]	By Y1 end, 29,09% (16 people) of PA practitioners and 22,91% (33 people) of local community associations' members report that the capacity and resources gained have improved their ability to effectively manage their PA and can provide qualitative examples to demonstrate how. Evidence provided in 3.3.	Conduct post-training evaluation of participants. Conduct post-exchange visit evaluation of participants.
Output 1 Empower PA co-managers to take effective environmental action through improved technical and operational knowledge and skills.		
Output indicator 1.1. By Y2 end, at least 120 PA practitioners have received training (20% of whom are women).		

Output indicator 1.2. By Y2 end, after completing training, 70% (84 people) of participants report a good or high level of knowledge about the competencies taught.	By Y1 end, 91% (50 people) of participants stated that they had good or high-level competences after the training. Evidence provided in 3.3.	Conduct pre- and post- training evaluation.
Output indicator 1.3. By Y2 end, 200 members of local community associations trained (15% of whom are women (30)) and 60% (120 people) of participants report a good or high level of knowledge about the competencies taught.	By Y1 end, 91 members of local community associations trained (19% of whom are women (17)) and 100% report a good or high-level competences after the training. Evidence provided in 3.3.	Conduct pre- and post- training evaluation.
Output indicator 1.4. By Y2 end, 20 new trainers (at least 30% (6) of whom are women) are able to train people, and at least 10 have delivered further training by project end [DI-A05].	By end of Y1, 20 new trainers (including 6 women (30%)) are able to train people, and 12 (5 women) have already delivered training to their peers and to local communities.	Indicator already achieved. Continue to give training refreshment to new trainers and encourage all of them to deliver training.
Output indicator 1.5 At least 2 technical training modules, guidelines and tools are developed and made available to participants [DI-C01].	2 training modules (one for PA managers including Concept of climate change, Climate risk analysis, Ecosystem based-Adaptation (EBA); and one for local communities including Introduction of climate change) are developed and made available to participants. 1 tool is developed (a trainers' handbook) and used by new trainers.	Use these modules and materials; and update if needed.
Output 2. Increase uptake of best practice on PA management including climate change adaptation and mitigation measures through peer exchange		
Output indicator 2.1. By Y2 end, at least 6 exchange visits organised (3 per year).	By Y1 end, 3 exchange visits organised.	Organise at least 3 exchange visits.
Output indicator 2.2. By Y2 end, 220 people (20 from PA organisations and 200 from local community associations) learning from peers, sharing experience and good practices through at least 6 exchange visits.	By Y1 end, 161 people (17 from PA organisations and 144 from local community associations) learning from peers, sharing experience and good practices through 3 exchange visits.	Identify potential sites for exchange visits. Conduct exchange visits.
Output 3. Fund small projects to tackle the impacts of climate change through adaptation or mitigation measures		
Output indicator 3.1. At the end of Y2, 4 small projects funded	By Y1 end, 2 small projects funded.	Launch the call for projects. Identify the best projects according to the established criteria.

Output indicator 3.2. 4 local community associations benefited to the funded	2 local community associations benefited to the funded.	Monitor the progress of selected project implementation.

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: Protected Areas' co-managers (organisations' staff and local community associations) are trained and use the capacity and resources gained to improve the management of PAs across Madagascar.	<p>0.1 By Y2 end, at least 320 practitioners co-managing PA have received training (120 organisations' staff, 24 of whom are women (20%), within 20 organisations; and 200 members of local community associations, 30 of whom are women (15%), within 30 associations). [DI-A01].</p> <p>0.2 By Y2 end, at least 70% of PA organisations' staff (84 people, representing at least 10 organisations) and 60% of local community associations' members (120 people, representing at least 15 community associations) who received training have used in their work the capacity and resources gained and can provide qualitative examples to demonstrate how.</p> <p>0.3 By Y2 end, at least 50% (60 people) of PA practitioners and 40% (80 people) of local community associations' members report that the capacity and resources gained have improved their ability to effectively manage their PA, and can provide qualitative examples to demonstrate how [DI-A04]</p>	<p>0.1 Training attendance records.</p> <p>0.2 Online questionnaire at Y1 and Y2 end</p>
Output 1: Empower PA co-managers to take effective environmental action through improved technical and operational knowledge and skills	<p>1.1 By Y2 end, at least 120 PA practitioners have received training (20% of whom are women).</p> <p>1.2 By Y2 end, after completing training, 70% (84 people) of participants report a good or high level of knowledge about the competencies taught.</p> <p>1.3 By Y2 end, 200 members of local community associations trained (15% of whom are women (30)) and 60% (120 people) of participants report a good or high level of knowledge about the competencies taught.</p> <p>1.4 By Y2 end, 20 new trainers (at least 30% (6) of whom are women) are able to train people, and at least</p>	<p>1.1 Training attendance records.</p> <p>1.2 Questionnaire pre- and post- training</p> <p>1.3 Online questionnaire at Y1 and Y2 end</p> <p>1.4. List of training modules beneficiaries' records</p>

	<p>10 have delivered further training by project end [DI-A05].</p> <p>1.5 At least 2 technical training modules, guidelines and tools are developed and made available to participants [DI-C01]</p>	
Output 2: Increase uptake of best practice on PA management including climate change adaptation and mitigation measures through peer exchange	<p>2.1 By Y2 end, at least 6 exchange visits organised (3 per year).</p> <p>2.2 By Y2 end, 220 people (20 from PA organisations and 200 from local community associations) learning from peers, sharing experience and good practices through at least 6 exchange visits.</p>	<p>2.1. Exchange visits attendance records</p> <p>2.2. Pre- and post- exchange visits questionnaires</p>
Output 3: Fund small projects to tackle the impacts of climate change through adaptation or mitigation measures	<p>3.1 At the end of Y2, 4 small projects funded</p> <p>3.2 4 local community associations benefited to the funded</p>	<p>3.1 Projects' documents</p> <p>3.2. Project monitoring and evaluation form</p>
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p>1.1 Provide training to PA staff (directors and technicians)</p> <p>1.2 Provide training to local community associations</p> <p>1.3 Training of trainers</p> <p>1.4 Develop training modules and related materials</p> <p>2.1 Identify potential sites for exchange visits</p> <p>2.2 Conduct exchange visits</p> <p>3.1 Launch the call for projects</p> <p>3.2 Identify the best projects according to the established criteria</p> <p>3.3 Monitor the progress of selected project implementation</p>		
<p>Important Assumptions</p> <p>1. Conservation NGOs and other agencies in Madagascar continue to prioritise the professional development of their PA staff, releasing staff for training events and self-directed learning.</p> <p>2. Individual PA staff are willing to sustain interest and focus on their own professional development.</p> <p>3. Integrating climate change into Protected Area management tools will lead to sustainable development that is resilient to climate change</p> <p>4. Malagasy conservation institutions are supportive of the integration of best practices into PA management.</p> <p>5. Local community associations are willing to develop their competences through training sessions and exchange visits for PA effective co-management.</p>		

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

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

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	If this links directly to a project indicator(s), please note the indicator number here	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-A01	Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	0.1	People	Men	113			113	265
DI-A01	Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	0.1	People	Women	33			33	55
DI-A03	Number of local or national organisations with enhanced capability and capacity.	0.2	Organisation	Type: PA NGO	26			26	20
DI-A03	Number of local or national organisations with enhanced capability and capacity.	0.2	Organisation	Type: Community association	56			56	30
DI-A04	Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training	0.3	People	Men	10*			10*	112
DI-A04	Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training	0.3	People	Women	6*			6*	28
DI-A05	Number of trainers trained under the project reporting to have delivered further training	1.4	People	Men	14			14	14
DI-A05	Number of trainers trained under the project reporting to have delivered further training	1.4	People	Women	6			6	6
DI-C01	Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed.	1.5	Number	Training manual	3			3	2

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)

*A subset of 16 people have completed an in-person evaluation 6 months after training and 100% are applying new skills and knowledge they gained in the training, so this number is likely to be closer to the number of people trained. However, we are still to conduct an online evaluation survey that will be sent to all of those that have participated in the training to understand if this is representative of the larger group of attendees.

1. 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?	x
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.	x
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.	x
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.	x
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	x
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	