Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

DARWIN INITIATIVE

UK International Development
Partnership | Progress | Prosperity

Darwin Initiative Extra Annual Report

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Scheme (Main or Extra)	Extra
Project reference	DAREX006
Project title	Increasing Ecological and Socio-economic Resilience of Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem
Country/ies	Kenya
Lead Organisation	Fauna & Flora
Project partner(s)	Mount Kenya Trust (MKT), Mount Kenya Ewaso Water Partnership (MKEWP), Ol Pejeta Conservancy (OPC), Laikipia Conservancies Association (LCA), Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) and National Museums of Kenya (NMK)
Darwin Initiative grant value	Total Budget £4,453,503; Darwin Initiative contribution £4,010,817
Start/end dates of project	April 1, 2023- March 31, 2028
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024 – Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 1, 2024- March 31, 2025. Annual report 2
Project Leader name	Serah Munguti
Project website/blog/social media	
Report author(s) and date	Fauna & Flora: Serah Munguti, George Odera, Josephine Nzilani, Ann Komen, John Kiptum, Daniel Ndolo, Ben Wambugu, Regina Mugambi, and Pamellah Dio. Partners: Daisy Awiro (MKT), Dennis Gikunda (MKEWP), Bernard Mwangi (OPC), Martha Limo (NRT), Moses Nokisho (LCA), Laban Njoroge (NMK). May 15, 2025.

1. Project summary

The project targets 5,800km^2 of the Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem, located between Mount Kenya catchment forest and Aberdare Ranges in Kenya's central highlands, and overlapping Nyeri, Meru and Laikipia counties (**Annex 4**). The ecosystem contains a vast array of habitats, from mountain forest to arid lands, supporting 1.2 million people, most of whom are part of pastoralist, agro-pastoralist and farming households.

The Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem is a biodiversity hotspot encapsulating a total of 33 private and community conservancies and holding 60% of Kenya's Grevy zebras (EN); 22% of Kenya's African elephant population (EN) and 65% of Kenya's black rhinos (CR). It also hosts significant populations of lion (VU); African wild dog (EN), and reticulated giraffe (EN).

The major permanent river in the ecosystem, Ewaso Ng'iro North River, is a lifeline for wildlife, people and livestock. The river draws its headwaters from Mt Kenya and Aberdare Forest, with tributaries traversing Laikipia conservancies and flowing downstream through northern Kenya into Somalia. At the head of the watershed, illegal activities increased over time including illegal water abstraction, logging, increased livestock presence within riparian and protected forest areas, increased incidences of forest fires are becoming frequent and degrade the Mount Kenya water tower.

About 90% of Mount Kenya's river water is diverted before leaving the forest reserve by community water projects, large-scale and smallholder farms, significantly reducing access for wildlife and communities downstream. Upstream smallholders use inefficient irrigation techniques, and rainwater harvesting is limited due to the high upfront costs of efficient water harvesting and irrigation. Downstream, rangeland degradation and habitat loss result from the multiple land-use pressures, specifically from overgrazing, invasive species, effects of climate change, and land-use changes caused by demands for food, construction materials, fuelwood and livestock feed.

This inequitable use and management of water, and the competing demands of agriculture, agropastoral, pastoral systems, conservation activities and commerce, are generating conflicts between user groups and wildlife.

Previous large-scale investments have made progress in addressing specific problems, but to date, no investment has brought these successes together and scaled up to an integrated, locally led management approach for the watershed.

This project seeks to be that solution. The project aims to provide a nature-based solution to these diverse challenges by building capacities of local implementing institutions and communities for sustainable natural resource management, facilitating adoption of nature-based solutions to deliver economic benefits, and restoring habitat. These interventions are expected to increase water security, build resilience to climate change, and increase peaceful co-existence for people and wildlife.

The problems addressed were identified during the implementation of the previous Darwin Initiative Main project (24-002) and through consultations with diverse stakeholders including communities and partner institutions and as such, Darwin Extra project aims to scale-up lessons learnt previously as well as build on approaches and legacies of other initiatives in the watershed.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

Project management is led by Fauna & Flora while ground implementation is led by 6 partners/subgrantees (MKT, MKEWP, LCA, OPC, NRT and NMK). These partners were identified based on their strengths and their existing work within the project landscape. Following grant award, Fauna & Flora and partners, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Water Resources Authority (WRA), Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and County Government of Nyeri, Meru and Laikipia came together on project inception meetings to create awareness on the project and support synergy across the landscape. Representatives from the partner organisations, the national agencies and county governments were then nominated to sit on a project implementation committee (PIC) which has been providing support in project planning, monitoring and evaluation and decision making throughout from Y1-Y2. A participatory stakeholder engagement plan was developed and used to ensure all key stakeholders are brought on board. Partner capacity assessments, capacity development, quarterly partner meetings and regular M&E checks support project implementation, ensuring any partnership challenges including capacity gaps are addressed as implementation continues. Involvement of Fauna & Flora technical specialists and relevant government agencies have been critical in supporting on-ground project implementation and supporting capacity developments where gaps exist among partners.

On 7th November 2024, Fauna & Flora attended a workshop for Project Leads at the British High Commissioner's residence hosted jointly by the British High Commissioner and Darwin Initiative lead at DEFRA. This workshop was aimed at sharing lessons learned around project applications and management. The event also provided an opportunity for Darwin leads to network with other projects.

Constant engagements with communities, partners, other stakeholders and government agencies have provided platforms and opportunities to address and harmonize approaches on issues around biodiversity conservation, poverty alleviation, climate change among others.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1: Habitat restoration, reduced fuelwood use, equitable water-demand regulation and sharing, and climate-resilient cropland management, increases quantity and quality of dry-season river flows, and improves soil, rangeland, and forest habitat health.

Activity 1.1: *Produce wet and dry season land-use and landcover maps for Mt. Kenya catchment and rangeland, to identify and monitor areas that require restoration (Y1-2).*

MKT finalized the initial base maps for Mt. Kenya Forest restoration sites in Y1. However, following the acquisition a licence from Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) in Y2, MKT acquired better satellite images and developed new base maps to be used for subsequent monitoring of land use land cover changes resulting from project interventions (**Annex 005**). The planted seedlings were noted to be still too young to be detected via remote sensing, hence dominant reflectance in each of the monitored plots took pre-eminence. NRT conducted vegetation baseline assessment for 5 conservancies focusing on plant species count, composition, diversity and environmental variables. The survey identified over 250 plant species (**Annex 006**).

To support comprehensive forest and rangeland cover mapping aimed at enhancing targeted conservation and land management, OPC acquired satellite imagery **(Annex 007).** Rapid and Intensive Pasture Assessments were conducted within the Conservancy (**Annexes 008-009**) and a rangeland management and restoration plan developed. The rangeland management plan identified the drivers of degradation as water erosion from disused and poorly aligned roads (**Annex 010**). It also identified 65 sites with 21 prioritized for immediate restoration actions. 12 out of 21 sites were successfully restored covering, approximately 100 acres. Subsequent rangeland restoration activities will focus on the implementation of this plan. A conservation report outlook was also produced showing general conservation efforts including rhino populations status and Management, recovery efforts for the Northern White Rhinos, Wildlife population management and the habitat and rangeland management (**Annex 011**).

Activity 1.2*: Support 2 CFAs (17,200 people) to establish native tree nurseries and plant seedlings in degraded forest land (Y1, Y2).*

MKT trained 13 community tree nursery groups with 218 members (89M, 129F) on tree nursery establishment and Management (**Annex 012**). Cumulatively, 21 community groups with 366 members (226F, 140M), ~1,830 people have been trained between Y1 & Y2 to support direct restoration work around Mt. Kenya. Ten (10) of the 13 groups trained in Y2 were supported with additional nursery equipment including 15 water tanks to improve their capacity to produce more high-quality tree seedlings (**Annex 013**). Feedback surveys conducted in Year 2 indicated 90% satisfaction rates from members of the 13 community tree nurseries trained (**Annex 014).**

A total of 276,626 assorted indigenous tree seedlings were planted in Y2 within Karuri and Marania Forests of the Larger Mt. Kenya Ecosystem (**Annex 015**). Cumulatively, a total of 481,978 seedlings have been planted on 370 Hectares Y1 & Y2 covering 100% of the 5-year target. Additional trainings will be conducted between Y3-Y5.

OPC conducted 8 community meetings, identifying 6 schools with 334 (157M, 177F) students and 3 community groups with 110 members (50M,60F) as ideal sites for nursery establishment **(Annex 016)**. The trained groups were actively involved in tree nursery management to enhance seedling production to scale up restoration efforts in exclusion zones within the conservancy and community and to strengthen the economic resilience of those involved.

To support ongoing restoration work, OPC procured 10kg of assorted indigenous tree seeds, currently in nurseries, with an expected production of 100,000 seedlings by the end of April 2025 (**Annex 017**). These seedlings will restore 100 hectares of degraded conservancy land, covering 25%

of the overall five-year restoration target. The nurseries were also supplied with equipment to increase local capacity in seedling production (**Annex 018**). Restoration actions within exclusion zones are ongoing. Initial woodland habitat recovery assessment targeting 300 tagged seedlings has been conducted with results showing 70% survival, indicating a significant improvement in seedling recruitment. 63% of the surviving seedlings exhibited no signs of herbivory (**Annex 019**).

Activity 1.3*: Train 5 CFAs on fire prevention and management (Y1), provide equipment (Y1, Y4) and support ongoing patrols and monitoring of forest areas under natural regeneration (Y1-5).*

21 scouts (13M, 8F) from Nanyuki Community Forest Association (CFA) were trained on fire prevention and management and certified as elite fire fighters (**Annex 020**). Cumulatively, 102 scouts (73 M, 29F) from 6 CFAs have benefited from the fire prevention and management training over the two years and will boost fire response efforts across 72,577 Ha of Mt. Kenya Forest (**Annex 021**). Fire equipment procured in Y1 have been distributed to strategic locations with Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) having access; to support effective forest fire response and ensure ongoing forest monitoring patrols and support is guaranteed moving forward (**Annex 022**).

MKT Horse-back patrol teams conducted forest and wildlife biodiversity patrols covering 6,589 km in Year 2 on vehicle, foot and horseback. 162 wildlife snares were removed and 117 illegal logging cases intercepted (**Annex 039**). During the period, MKT also streamlined monitoring processes for the 370-hectare active restoration site in preparation for post planting monitoring**.**

Activity 1.4*: Identify energy use/needs of households and schools. Train 30 youths (50%W, 50%M) to install energy-saving stoves in 1,050HH (Y1-2) and biogas in 4 schools (Y2).*

OPC identified 720 (270M, 450F) beneficiaries for energy saving stoves through a participatory process **(Annex 023**). Because women are more interested with the jikos/stoves as they are primarily responsible for cooking, the activity attracted more women than men across sites. An assessment was conducted among the beneficiary groups on the preferred stove designs (**Annex 024**). Effectively 27 (7M, 20F) youths were identified and trained as ToTs for energy stove construction (**Annex 025**), constructing 150 permanent and 515 portable stoves. 15 of the 27 trained youths have since joined Laikipia Energy Saving Jikos, a Community Based Organization registered under the Improved Saving Jikos (ISAK) thus creating job opportunities locally (**Annex 026**). As at EOY2 total of 665 households (245M, 420F) have directly benefited from 665 jikos distributed across OPC beneficiary communities. This brings the total number of jikos done in Y1-2 to 1,065 representing 101% of the 5-year target. Additional 155 jikos are to be distributed by end of April, 2025 from the savings made through use of local ToTs as opposed to direct purchase from the market. This will push the achievement to 116% of the target.

MKEWP supported 1 survey on Energy Consumption in Meru, Laikipia, and Nyeri Counties by 18 ToTs (13 M, 5F) and offered 1 training session on data collection using the Kobo Toolkit to determine impact of the 400 energy stoves constructed in Y1. The results showed a 47% reduction both in fuelwood and household expenses on charcoal purchase **(Annex 027).**

NRT conducted energy use needs assessment across 3 schools within Naibunga Upper and Naibunga central conservancies with the aim of delivering biogas units to reduce reliance on fuelwood (**Annex 028**). Technical specifications for the biogas based on the needs of the schools were agreed (**Annexes 029-030**). Installation is ongoing with completion expected by mid-April 2025 (**Annexes 031a-c**).

Activity 1.6*: Restore c.570ha of degraded rangeland through active interventions and natural regeneration, including erosion control, responsible removal of invasive species, reseeding with adaptable/indigenous grass species (Y1-5).*

Within OPC, a total of 23,500 *Vachellia xanthophloea* seedlings were planted in 2024 to restore 100 acres of heavily browsed areas mostly by black rhinos. Of these, 15,000 seedlings were planted in different exclusion zones, as well as in tourist camps and staff residences throughout the conservancy. The remaining 8,500 were distributed to communities bordering OPC (**Annex 019**). These seedlings

were sourced from tree nurseries established within community areas as part of an ongoing community engagement initiative to support the conservancies' habitat recovery efforts whilst contributing to community livelihoods.

NRT continued with Opuntia removal process, removing 40Ha of Opuntia in Y2 (**Annex 032**). 1 (one) community validation meeting was held for the mechanical removal of Opuntia (**Annex 033**). Over the reporting period, 63.05Ha of rangelands were restored through reseeding, with 95 (42M, 53F) community members involved as casuals in the exercise. During the restoration activities, 2,400 semi-circular bands were constructed within Naibunga upper conservancy to harvest and store water to support the germination and growth of seeds. (**Annex 034**).

Activity 1.7: *Conduct annual Ecological Outcome Verifications at OPC (baseline Y2) to monitor soil, biodiversity and ecosystem health, including training 10 OPC staff(Y2).*

To assess soil properties and soil carbon data aligned with the Ecological Outcome Verification (EOV) levels and trends, OPC engaged Downforce Technologies (**Annex 035**). This collaboration provided access to bespoke, science-driven outputs supported by an interactive software platform. As a result, OPC gained access to critical baseline information including aggregated data detailing annual soil organic carbon (SOC) stocks and flows across OPC rangeland and Mutara Conservation area, SOC potential and variability maps, along with SOC and moisture histograms for Mutara and Ol Pejeta. Summary statistics along with a carbon storage attainment score benchmarked against similar functional ecosystems among others (**Annex 036**).

A staff training module has also been developed with the training of 10 OPC staff expected in Y3. With enhanced staff capacity, OPC will conduct annual/seasonal monitoring of the soil, biodiversity and ecosystem health using the EOV from Y3 (**Annex 037**).

MKEWP supported trainings across 21 farms resulting in the identification of diverse macro and mesofauna, notably Dung Beetle Grubs and earthworms, which are indicators of the recommended soil health and organic matter composition (**Annex 038).** This training was part of the overall project goal of improving soil fertility through understanding soil biodiversity and soil structure.

Activity 1.8: *Annually monitor the impact of restoration interventions on forest cover, rangeland health, indicator species, and wildlife (including freshwater), against Y1 baselines, and share lessons learned.*

OPC procured high-resolution SPOT 6 satellite imagery from Airbus, covering OPC's entire landmass. The images will support vegetation cover change monitoring and updating of habitat maps (**Annex 040**). This acquisition facilitated a detailed training session by ESRI on mapping using ArcGIS Pro, focusing on ortho-processing and vegetation classification techniques. The training aimed to build internal capacity for OPC on both supervised and unsupervised vegetation classification to identify and map different vegetation types (**Annex 041**).

An Intensive Pasture Assessment was conducted in Dec 2024 as part of the ongoing rangeland health monitoring to evaluate the grass species composition and biomass levels in the conservancy and establish their trends based on comparison with the previous years. In Y2, grass biomass yields were the highest ever recorded since 2006 with an overall average of 4,894 kg/ha ± 695SE mainly attributed to high rainfall throughout the year (**Annex 009**).

OPC’s wildlife census for 2024 recorded 8,675 individuals, reflecting a 12.9% increase compared to 2023. This increase was consistent across various sectors, with notable growth in the areas adjacent to the wheat fields, where wildlife counts were 7 times higher than in 2023. Impalas, plains zebras, and buffaloes dominated the population, together accounting for approximately 69% of all animals counted (**Annex 042**).

NRT updated the wildlife baseline reports across its conservancies during the reporting period to establish baseline data on the presence and abundance of wildlife species, particularly mammals,

across the conservancies and to evaluate the existing Wildlife Monitoring system, identifying gaps and potential opportunities for leveraging technology in wildlife monitoring efforts (**Annex 043**).

Activity 1.9: *Support WRUAs/communities in the construction and operation of 2 approved water intakes based on collaborative site selection, expert input, and environmental impact assessments (Y1-5).*

Designs and hydrological surveys for Teleswani common water intake (CWI) were completed in Y1. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) license for the intake was obtained from National Environment and Management Authority (NEMA) (**Annex 044).** WRA supported and developed technical designs and conducted hydrological survey for Naromoru CWI (**Annexes 045-046**). The designs were taken through the required community validation exercises (**Annex 047**) and adopted. WRA then issued Authorization for construction works for both Teleswani and Naromoru (**Annexes 048-049**). Construction works are at the final stages.

Activity 1.10 *Support WRUAs/communities in the construction/desilting of 7 earth-pans/watering pools and collaboratively develop governance and access guidelines (Y1-3).*

In Y1, NRT completed 4 of the 7 Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) meetings relating to construction of the water pans. In Y2, the 3 remaining FPIC meetings were held (**Annex 050**). NRT conducted assessment of existing water pans in the three Naibunga Conservancies for desilting, where communities identified and prioritized the earth-pans to be done under the grant **(Annex 051).** WRA supported NRT develop technical designs for 5 water pans (**Annexes 052-056**). Consequently, 4 of the 5 water pans were constructed and completed under the close supervision of WRA (**Annexes 057-060**). To ensure proper governance of the water pans, NRT facilitated a governance gap analysis and capacity needs assessment within Maiyanat conservancy where 25 people (20M,5F) attended**.** An inception meeting involving 25 people (15M,10F) on a conservancy-based water governance model with water sector stakeholders in Laikipia County was also done **(Annex 061).**

Activity 1.11. *Based on an Ecosystem Services Assessment (Y1), produce a catchment water-sharing plan (Y2). Advocate for formal adoption by County governments (Laikipia, Meru and Nyeri) (Y2-3).*

Ecosystem Services Assessment (ESA) was completed in Y1. Consequently, a water sharing plan consultant was recruited to be supported by a hydrological modelling consultant in developing the landscape level water sharing plan (**Annexes 062-063**). Three inception meeting covering water sharing, hydrological modelling and engagement plans were submitted indicating the roadmap for the development of the water sharing plans (**Annexes 064-066**). Progress reports for hydrological modelling work has since been submitted (**Annex 067**). All the 15 WRUAs within the landscape, represented by 189 people (109M, 80F) have since been consulted through focussed group discussions facilitated by the water sharing consultant team **(Annex 068).** The water sharing plan development process will be finalised in Y3.

Activity 1.12: *Support MKEWP and 12 WRUA scouts to monitor water offtake, quantity, quality, and water-use compliance, within targeted catchment tributaries, with technical support from Water Resources Authority (WRA) (baselines Y1).*

NMK conducted river health monitoring assessments across 7 sub-catchments to establish baselines for wet season, covering invertebrates, reptiles and fish. Two dragonfly and 1 damselfly species of conservation concern were recorded including Kenya Jewel (*Platycypha amboniensis*), Maathaai Longleg (*Notogomphus maathaiae*) and The Giant Sprite (*Pseudagrion bicoerulans*) respectively. Two caddisflies rarely encountered in Mt. Kenya were collected; the (Net-tube caddisflies (Psychomyiidae) and Triangular Case Makers (Pisuliidae). These findings indicated that rivers draining into Ewaso Nyiro River (ENR) are rich with macro invertebrates that can be used as bio-indicators for short and long-term monitoring of the outcomes of restoration and rehabilitation ENR ecosystem. Key findings for reptiles included; two locally abundant stream dwelling frog species namely De Witte's Mountain River Frog (*Amietia wittei*), a range restricted species on the upper River points/reaches and Nutt's River Frog (*Amietia nutti*) at mid points elevation. On the lower points,

Savanna ridged Frog (*Ptychadena anchietae*) was quite abundant. These two River frog species (*Amietia wittei* and *Amietia nutti*), are the best indicator species of the ENR system. A total of seven fish species were recorded during the dry season; and *Labeo cylidricus* only in the wet season making a total of 8 species in both seasons. *Garra hindii* was the most abundant species in both seasons. (**Annexes 069**). Additional water quality assessments were conducted by WRA across the various river systems focusing on water quality parameters with results showing Nitrates, Phosphates and sediment levels generally being consistently low throughout the year indicating good water quality and strong river bank protection throughout the catchment, in line with the Biodiversity Monitoring data (**Annexes 070a-b**). Consequently, MKWEP developed a summary/popular version from these technical reports to support in advocacy and lobbying communities through seven WRUAs to enhance response and limit localized pollution trends (**Annex 071**).

Six (6) WRUAs were supported to monitor river water use compliance, pollution, and riparian degradation, using data analysed with the Kobo toolkit. Key findings revealed that the Burguret, Teleswan, and Timau Rivers had the lowest compliance with water use regulations, with over 90% of water abstraction points lacking control devices and fewer than 10% of monitored systems having functional water meters (**Annex 072a-b)**. Over the period, the 7 telemetric stations were monitored for full functionality and relaying of water flows data (**Annex 073**) and recommendations informed procurement of the antennas to boost signal reception of the telemetric stations to enhance data transfer to the server units at WRA HQs in Nairobi.

Output 2: Climate-resilient, nature-based solutions, sustainable land, pasture and water management practices, and improved market linkages, increase wellbeing for 2,906 farming, agropastoral and pastoral households / *c*.14,530 people (at least 40% women)

Activity 2.1*: Identify 6,506 households (WRUAs, CFAs, farmers, pastoralists, agropastoralists) to benefit from sustainable livelihoods support and establish baselines for wellbeing, yields, income and climate vulnerability (Y1-2).*

Using beneficiary selection tools developed in Y1, OPC identified 1,118 (502M, 616F) crop agro-pastoral farmers and 1,845 (1,200M, 645F) pastoralists to benefit from farm input support as well as skill development and a further 665 (245M, 420F) as beneficiaries of the jikos (**Annex 074**). Consequently, 500 individual farmers and 39 demonstration farms received farm inputs (**Annex 075**). A socio-economic baseline survey for the beneficiaries conducted in August 2024 found 53% (n=341;56% M and 51% W) of respondents reported medium well-being, 37% (n=238; 36% M and 37% W) reported high well-being, and 10% (n=64;7%M, 13%W) reported low well-being. OPC's North communities had the lowest wellbeing with 18% of respondents reporting low wellbeing compared to 9% in the other two zones. In the past five years, 58% (n=374;65%M and 54%W) reported improved well-being due to sustainable agriculture, climate resilience, and better water security. Meanwhile, 14% (n=90;12%M;16%M) saw no change, and 28% (n=180;25%M and 30% W) experienced a decline, citing high living costs, taxation, and climate-related stress (**Annex 076**).

MKEWP identified landowners whose farms were to be used as demonstration farms (**Annex 077**) and identified 12 demo farms, signing 6 agreements with the landowners **(Annex 078).** Land preparation was completed for the 12 demo plots facilitating climate smart agriculture trainings for 508 farmers (176 M and 332 W), on various crop varieties including maize (DK 8031), potatoes (Unica, Shangi, Wanjiku), snow peas (Oregon Pod III), onions (African Red Bulb), beans (Nyota), and cabbage (Gloria) (**Annex 079-080**).

As at EOY2, 6,361 (2,985M, 3376F) households have benefited from the project with a further additional households expected to benefit from the common water intakes, to be determined in Y3.

Activity 2.2: *Based on learning needs assessments (Activity 3.3), conduct training-of-trainers (TOTs) for 90 individuals from partner institutions and community groups (Y1, Y3).*

Over the period, 50 ToTs were identified and trained. OPC trained 18 (11M, 7F) for Climate Smart Agriculture and 12 (11M, 1F) to support livestock keepers. MKEWP trained 20 (13M,7F) ToTs

including MKEWP staff on information gathering during the farmer extension needs assessment (**Annex 081**). Consequently, farmer needs assessment covering 524 people (60% W, 40% M) was conducted revealing that only 51% of farmers conduct pre-production market surveys often leading to over-production; 35% rely fully on rainfed farming with only 30% of the farmers being water secure with storage to support farming activities during dry season. Over 70% of the farmers were found to have challenges accessing agrometeorological services. Only 42% have access to extension services (**Annex 082)**. 27 ToTs (9M, 18F) were trained on installation of energy saving stoves (**Annex 083).**

Activity 2.3: *Facilitate TOTs to conduct soil test assessments to inform crop selection and climate-smart agriculture and livestock practices, (baseline Y1, repeat Y3 and Y5).*

To support soil test assessments, OPC procured a soil testing machine (**Annex 084**). Consequently, 18 TOTs (11M;7F) identified to support climate smart trainings (see Activity 2.2), were trained and supported to collect 1,095 soil samples for testing (**Annex 085**). All 1,095 samples were analysed, and the results alongside tailored advice for improving soils, were shared with beneficiary households. The findings indicated that most soils were suitable for growing potatoes, grains, vegetables, and beans (**Annex 086-087**). Soil tests are expected to reduce production costs and increase profits while improving productivity and enhancing conservation of the soils. The soil test results will also inform livestock farmers in investing in high-yielding and nutritious fodder crops, improving both productivity and livestock nutrition.

Activity 2.4: *Develop training manuals (Y1) and facilitate Trainer of Trainers (TOTs) to train c.15,000 people on climate smart agriculture, land restoration, low-carbon stoves/biogas, and nature positive livelihood diversification (Y1–3).*

The training manual developed in Y1 was further reviewed in year 2 to capture emerging needs based ongoing monitoring and engagements with beneficiaries (**Annex 088**). 50 ToTs were trained in Y2 with OPC training 18 ToTs to support climate smart agriculture beneficiaries and 12 (11M 1F) to support livestock keepers**.** The training covered principles of crop production, soil sampling and testing, livestock husbandry, nature positive livelihood diversification and enterprise development. Subsequent trainings were conducted across 39 demonstration farms with OPC ToTs training 1,118 (502M, 616F) beneficiaries (**Annex 089**). MKEWP ToTs trained 508 farmers (176M,332F) in 12 demo farms established in Y2 (**Annex 090-91**) on efficient water use, water harvesting, soil and water conservation, and climate-smart agricultural management practices. This brings the total number of trained farmers to 1,533 (680M, 953F).

Activity 2.6: *Facilitate approx. 656 households (subset of 2.1) to access the microfinance scheme (see Activity 3.10), including youth and women (Y2-4).*

A total of 697 households (208M, 489F) from forty (40) farmer groups currently saving with Ewaso Maji Users Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization (EMU SACCO), made a repayment of Ksh 847,733 (£5,138). Additionally, 64 beneficiary households (58M, 6F) from two farmer groups involved in high-value crops have borrowed Kshs 452,000 (£2,739) to purchase potato tubers. 3 individual farmers (3M, 0F) also borrowed dam liners for 3 water pans with a storage capacity of 2.4 million litres (**Annex 092**). Cumulatively 764 households accessed microcredit representing 116% of the project target.

Activity 2.7: *Conduct training for 5 pastoralist community groups neighbouring OPC (2,400 households: c.12,000 people, 30% W, 70%M) on the livestock to-market scheme (Y2).*

OPC identified and trained 1,845 individual pastoralists (1,200M, 645F) across 5 communities on basic principles of livestock husbandry, disease control, controlled grazing, nutrition and feeding, health management, breed improvement, record keeping and financial management, market access and value addition **(Annex 093).** Consequently, OPC supported vaccination of 25,000 sheep against Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and pulpy kidney disease. 5,500 community cattle were also vaccinated for pulpy kidney disease (**Annex 094**). From the trainings, 131 (66M, 65F) model farmers

were identified (**Annex 095**) and taken through an intensive three-day training covering livestock disease surveillance, weight estimation, proper medication usage, feed formulation, and the administration of the East Coast fever vaccine (**Annex 096**).

Activity 2.8 Facilitate 5 pastoralist community groups (see 2.7) to establish 5 producer groups, with governance structures, to facilitate buying/selling of cattle, and to access inputs (Y2-3).

5 OPC communities trained and supported to form 3 producer groups, to be actively involved in livestock scheme in Y3. Additional 2 groups to be established in Y3.

Activity 2.9: *Support OPC to establish a revolving fund to purchase, fatten and sell c.1,670 steers from the 5 communities, benefiting c.100 pastoralist households (Y2).*

OPC developed a livestock to market scheme concept which was shared and adopted by communities (**Annex 097**). 5 community groups were then involved in the scheme. Over the period, a total of 228 steers were purchased. The steers collectively weighed 63,452.5 kg, with an average weight of 278.3 kg per steer, benefiting 80 pastoralist households. This initiative represented a total community investment of KES 14,086,340 (£85,372). In Y2, the scheme realized a net profit margin of 6%, totalling to Ksh 845,180 (£5,122). The profits have helped the revolving fund grow by 6% availing Ksh14,931,520 (£90,494) to be used to support livestock scheme in Y3 (**Annex 098**). Of the total payments to communities, Ksh 1,269,050 (£7,691) have been paid as bonus earnings to the communities engaged based on the agreed concept with the bonus being calculated at Ksh 20 per kilogram for every live weight purchased.

Activity 2.10*: Facilitate 56 pastoralist youth and women to select business opportunities (e.g., welding, masonry, tailoring) and conduct tailored vocational and entrepreneurial training (Y1-2).*

70 (39M,31F) out of the 102 graduates who successfully completed NRT's three-month hands-on vocational training program and graduated with nationally recognized certificates through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in Y1 underwent business plan development training to strengthen their capacities to establish and manage own businesses. This training aimed to equip them with essential entrepreneurial skills and knowledge to foster business success and drive economic empowerment within their communities**.** To guarantee access to start-up financing, graduates were encouraged to join the NRT Rangelands SACCO. 60 (29M,31F) graduates registered with the SACCO and made regular savings to qualify for the loans. 31 (9M,22F) of those enrolled qualified and were loaned a total of KES 875,000 (£5,303). The loan disbursements followed individual business needs and savings levels. Prior to receiving the funds, the qualifying graduates participated in pre-disbursement training to prepare them for responsible loan utilization (**Annex 099**). Samples of the initial success stories are annexed here (**Annexes 100-101**). Additional disbursements of startup loans to additional graduates who meet the qualification criteria to be facilitated in Y3.

Activity 2.11: *Conduct a feasibility study to identify suitable scale-up of NBS, (e.g., agroforestry/fruit trees, hydroponics, fodder production), and prepare an NBS-business plan and financial model (Y2-3).*

To evaluate the crop production and marketing potential for the various value chains supported by the project, MKEWP identified and engaged a consultant to support the exercise. ToR for the consultant was developed and agreed (**Annex 102**). Consequently, a feasibility study was conducted with 726 respondents (35%M, 65% F) taking part. The study analysed value chain of crop producers among 40 farmer groups resulting in a feasibility study report and a business plan to address market gaps among beneficiary farmer groups within the landscape. The report indicated that only 4% of the farmers assessed sell their produce via farmer producer groups/cooperatives, and 8% engage in contract farming; only 20% of the farmers are aware of aggregation centres, which could improve their market access. (**Annexes 103-104)**. In Y3, the project will engage and address the recommendations of the study report.

Output 3: Conservation CBOs (6 WRUAs and 5 CFAs) and local civic organizations (MKEWP, OPC, LCA, NRT, and MKT) have the capacity and capability to jointly, equitably, and sustainably manage natural resources.

Activity 3.1: *Undertake organisational capacity assessment for WRUAs and MKEWP and develop institutional capacity development plans to guide tailored trainings, including on governance and fundraising (Y1-2).*

In Y2, Fauna & Flora, supported by WRA identified 3 WRUAs whose Sub Catchment Management Plans (SCMP) were either expired or had none at all. Consequently, 1 WRUA was supported to develop a SCMP. 44 (20M 24F) of the Burguret WRUA members together with the WRA staff underwent a 5-day capacity development training (**Annex 105**) which enabled them to develop and finalize the Burguret SCMP (**Annex 106**). The 2 remaining SCMPs to be developed in Y3

Activity 3.2*: Map existing safeguarding approaches among all 5 project partners and deliver training for TOTs to address identified gaps (Y1).*

In Y1, the project mapped existing safeguarding approaches among partners and trained 37 staff (26M, 11F) from 5 partner institutions (MKT, MKEWP, LCA, OPC and NRT) and 4 staff (2M, 2F) from Fauna & Flora on social safeguards. The staff trained are supporting ongoing integration of social safeguards in project activities implementation within their institutions. In year 2 Q4, 2 NRT TOTs trained in year 1 supported training for seven community conservancies implementing interventions in rangeland restoration, water availability, and youth enterprise development. A total of 21 participants (13M, 8F), mainly from conservancy management and boards participated. The training enhanced understanding of social risks related to project activities and guidance on the use of existing social safeguard tools while aligning with community structures. Emerging social risks were mapped and an action plan agreed on for adaptive management in future activity implementation **(Annex 107**).

Activity 3.3: *Support TOTs to conduct capacity assessments of WRUAs, CFAs, farmers, pastoralists, agropastoralists and community conservancies on NBS and sustainable practices (baseline Y1, monitor growth Y3).*

OPC conducted baselines on the current capabilities and capacities for pastoralists and agro-pastoralists on NBS and sustainable practices through a socio-economic survey (**Annex 076**). Access to digital platforms e.g., Kobo Collect and ODK for uploading and tracking progress over time was provided to TOTs to monitor growth planned for Y3 and Y5 and adapt approaches where necessary. Going forward, support in regular training and refresher sessions on monitoring tools, data collection, and reporting methods will be done.

Activity 3.4 Support TOTs to use capacity assessments to prepare capacity building plans and revise training materials for project beneficiaries (Y2, Y3).

The training manual completed in year 1 was further reviewed to capture additional training content informed by farmers needs and soil assessments (see activity 2.4). The manual guided TOTs and extension officers from MKEWP and OPC to jointly develop a training schedule (**Annex 108**) aligned with the local 2 farming cycles within the calendar year: pre planting, planting, crop management (pest & weed management), harvesting, storage and marketing. Additional training materials were prepared (**Annexes 109 a-c)** to facilitate training for specific knowledge areas.

Activity 3.5*: Develop monitoring tools for livelihoods interventions, and train TOTs to use them to submit data to MKEWP, OPC and NRT, for analysis/reporting (from Y2).*

A beneficiary database, together with monitoring tools for beneficiaries of farm inputs and energy saving cook stoves, was developed and customized by partners in Y1. OPC trained to adapt these in Y2. Farmer record forms were designed and shared with supported farmers (**Annex 110**) to facilitate documentation of crop production (yields & incomes) and incidences (pests, disease, conflicts) at

the farm level. These tools will be used by targeted farmers with guidance from TOTs for reporting and submission of data collected from Y3 to analyse impact of the project interventions on farm production.

Activity 3.6: *Institutional capacity of local partners is increased, including proposal development and accessing funding opportunities (e.g., the water sector fund), safeguarding, and governance.*

Fauna & Flora and MKEWP supported two exchange visits to promote peer-to-peer learning on water demand and equitable sharing. The first visit was to Mutitu Community Water Project, engaging 94 people (51M,43F) from 8 WRUAs. The second exchange visit was to Ngusishi Common Intake involving 166 participants (86M, 80 F) from 14 WRUAs. This learning exercise generated a commitment from all community water projects to consider installing master water meters at the point of abstraction to ensure the quantity abstracted is known (**Annexes 111a-b**). Effectively, the two Common water intakes currently under construction have within them smart metres installed to facilitate ease of water abstraction monitoring. Fauna & Flora trained 19(14M,5F) OPC staff at the request of OPC on improved Compliance on Procurement Procedures (**Annex 112**).

Activity 3.7: *Facilitate biannual dialogue meetings for water users and managers, led by MKEWP, and agree on water-use allocation and adoption and management of common waters intake (Y1-5).*

Two dialogue meetings were held with all the 9 water projects within Naromoru WRUA. The dialogue meetings agreed on the need for hydrological surveys and consequent common water intake designs to be done. These findings were validated in a joint meeting held on 30th January 2025 where the final designs were presented and approved for construction (**Annex 047**). In developing a landscape level water sharing plan, all the 15 WRUAs within the landscape were consulted with each WRUA sending at least 15 representatives to a Focused Group Discussion (FGD) on issues surrounding water sharing and the vision for the future (**Annex 68**).

Activity 3.8: *Assess existing microcredit facilities among beneficiaries and develop guidelines for targeted promotion of conservation microcredit uptake among communities (Y1).*

Refer to activity 2.6.

Activity 3.9: *Support beneficiaries to develop and strengthen governance structures for conservation microcredit facilities, including training in financial management, leadership, governance, and monitoring, evaluation and learning (Y1-Y4).*

MKEWP conducted 4 quarterly meetings with the EMUSACCO Board to review Year 2 support for the Micro-credit seed fund and the Revolving fund. The meetings resolved to implement bulk SMS for loan reminders to reduce operational costs, as well as provide feedback on savings levels. Unique customer identifiers, including account numbers for individual members in a group, were also agreed upon. (**Annexes 113-114**). In Y3, MKEWP will operationalize the water conservation fund, charged at 5% of the profits gained from loan repayments to support water conservation activities and ensure WRUAs have adequate capacities to manage the water resources.

Activity 3.10: *Support targeted microcredit facilities through seed funding (supporting affordable water harvesting infrastructure, enterprise development for pastoralist youth and women, and cattle purchase scheme by OPC) (Y2-Y4).*

OPC established 3 groups, with 59 members (49M, 2F) to participate in livestock marketing scheme. All the members received financial literacy training on microcredit facilities, loan management, and repayment strategies. The groups have collectively applied for loans from banks, benefiting from group-based collateral arrangements. The funds are to support members improve business capital to enhance cattle purchase, improving their economic stability and livestock ownership.

Activity 3.11: *Support farmer-producer groups, CFAs and WRUAs to create a conservation fund (Y2) with governance. Monitor the performance of the fund regarding WRUA/CFA operations (Y3).*

Conservation fund created and to be operationalised in Y3 (refer to activity 3.9).

Activity 3.12: *Train 12 WRUA and MKEWP staff in SMART water data collection, analysis and dissemination (Y1-3).*

12 WRUA scouts from 6 WRUAs identified in Y1 were trained in Y2 after the installation of water monitoring equipment was completed. Water Monitors continue to collect data on riparian degradation, water use compliance, and illegal abstractions. This is done under the supervision of WRA. (**Annex 072a).**

Activity 3.14: *Train and facilitate WRUAs to efficiently deter, detect and act against, illegal abstractions of river water and illegal activities in Mt Kenya Forest (Y1-2).*

All 7 WRUAs were trained in Y1 with WRA support. In Y2, 6 WRUAs conducted various patrols along the 6 river systems observing water abstraction, water quality and pollution concerns. All illegal activities detected were reported to WRA for action (**Annex 072b**). MKT patrol teams also supported to ensure deterrence of illegal activities in Mt. Kenya (**Annex 039**).

Activity 3.15. In collaboration with Water Resources Authority, build the capacity of MKEWP and WRUAs in the collection and dissemination of biodiversity data (Y2).

MKWEP developed a summary/popular version from NMK and WRA river health and water quality assessment technical reports to support in advocacy and lobbying communities through seven WRUAs to enhance responses and limit localized pollution trends (**Annex 115**).

Activity 3.16: *Support WRUA communities to lobby against point and nonpoint pollution within the 3 sub catchments targeted by the project (Y1-5).*

The project supported MKEWP to implement an anti-pollution advocacy action plan by engaging 54 (41M, 13F) duty bearers drawn from WRA, NEMA, WRUAs and Directorates of water from Nyeri, Laikipia, and Meru County Governments, among others, to address pollution, focusing on solid waste disposal close to river systems (**Annex 116**). Effectively, Meru & Nyeri Counties have identified alternative dumpsites to be gazetted.

Output 4: The value of project outcomes, (biodiversity conservation, human-wildlife co-existence, economic productivity, water security, climate resilience), is evidenced and ready to be scaled up, through local stakeholder commitment and larger-scale investment.

Activity 4.1: *Hold biannual project implementation committee meetings, comprising of key staff from all partners, to evaluate progress and guide implementation and adaptive management (Y1-5).*

A multistakeholder Project Implementation Committee meeting (PIC) was held with all the members drawn from representatives of National Government (KWS, KFS and WRA); county government of Meru, Nyeri and Laikipia; Private sector (Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry); 6 project implementing partners, and Fauna & Flora. The meeting covered project overview, feedback from Year 1 donor report review, progress with YR2 project implementation and plans for completion of pending activities, Year 3 work plan and recommendations on fast tracking pending activities **(Annexes 117-118).**

Activity 4.2: *Consultative development of a stakeholder engagement plan to guide inclusive awareness raising to increase support for conservation, (e.g., Farmer Field Days, radio, World Environment Day) (Y1).*

Engagement plan completed in Y1 and used to inform stakeholder engagement with communities, county and national government, CBOs and NGOs in Y2.

Activity 4.3: *Facilitate ongoing dialogue processes at County level on conservation, to allow those with different perspectives on land management to have their voices heard (Y1-5).*

The project supported international environment events celebrated at County level including World Wetlands Day, World Wildlife Day and World Water Day which attracted participation from diverse

stakeholders (**Annexes 119-120**). The efforts of Fauna & Flora in these events have since been recognized and rewarded by County government and other National government agencies **(Annex 121**). Additionally, Fauna & Flora has been identified as a critical partner in supporting climate resilience and been invited to support capacity building efforts in Nyeri County (Climate Change Unit, County Climate Change Planning Committee and County Climate Change steering committee) **(Annex 122**).

Activity 4.4: *Annually, disseminate project findings and recommendations to County governments, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, KFS, KWS (including CBD contact), WRA and other relevant agencies (Y1-5).*

In June 2024, Fauna & Flora attended a threatened tree species consortium meeting convened by Botanical Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) at the IUCN HQs in Nairobi. The meeting identified priority actions towards the implementation of the 2023 – 2024 plan developed by the consortium on threatened tree species. Discussions on collaborative action and resource mobilization for consortium members were held. A collaboration opportunity between Fauna & Flora and International Tree Foundation (ITF) and Centre for Ecosystem Restoration (CER) who have restoration work in Mount Kenya and Aberdares was noted. A presentation on Fauna & Flora work on the restoration of Mount Kenya in partnership with MKT under the project was made (**Annex 123**). In October 2024, Fauna & Flora attended a wetlands inventory workshop, jointly convened by NEMA and Wetlands International in Machakos. This meeting brought together organisations working on various aspects of wetlands ecosystems to share information necessary to contribute to the National wetlands inventory. A wetland monitoring tool was developed and Project lessons shared (**Annex 124**). In March 2025, Fauna & Flora attended a workshop convened by IUCN in Nairobi under the BIODEV 2030 Project. The focus was to evaluate, identify gaps and align sectoral policy instruments in Agriculture, Livestock and Forestry with the Global Biodiversity.

KWS, KFS, WRA and county governments of Laikipia, Meru and Nyeri continue to sit in the PIC where Y2 project implementation progress and Y3 plans were shared in March 2025. In Y2, DE supported National events including the National World Desertification Day attended by the British High Commissioner, National World rangers Day, National World Wetlands Day and the National World Water Day celebrations. These provided platforms for dissemination of project objectives and future plans (**Annexes 117-118**).

Activity 4.5: *Disseminate project results and lessons learned at national and regional conferences, meetings and workshops, and submit an article to an open-access, peer reviewed journal (Y1-5).*

In June 2024, Fauna & Flora attended, actively participated and presented initial lessons learnt from the design and implementation of the DE project during the 1st NMK joint International Scientific Conference held at the NMK HQs in Nairobi (**Annex 125**). The first project article was submitted to Darwin Initiative for publication (**Annex 126**).

Activity 4.6: *Conduct scoping studies, market-analysis, assessment of income benefits of ecosystem services and financial mechanisms (e.g., carbon credits, biodiversity offsets), and engage private sector (Y1-2).*

Fauna & Flora engaged a consultant to support in conducting market analysis of financial instruments that can be explored for sustaining future conservation actions within the landscape (**Annex 127**). A preliminary inception report has been submitted, reviewed and approved and the work is ongoing (**Annex 128**). The market analysis is expected to map out current sustainable finance instruments used by project partners; describe enabling conditions needed for scaling up these instruments; correlate ecosystem services priorities and hydrological needs to funding constraints and prioritize sustainable finance instruments to build up a tailored roadmap in a future phase.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Habitat restoration, reduced fuelwood use, equitable water-demand regulation and sharing, and climate-resilient cropland management, increases quantity and quality of dry-season river flows, and improves soil, rangeland, and forest habitat health

Indicator 1.1a) *By EOY5, 8,070ha of Mt Kenya catchment forest are under active management for restoration (370ha for direct tree planting and 7,700ha for natural regeneration.*

All the 370Ha of the targeted Mt. Kenya catchment forest area for active regeneration has been restored achieving 100% of the target within Y2. This has been achieved by planting cumulatively 507,478 seedlings with 205,352 seedlings having been planted in Y1 and another 302,126 seedlings in Y2 (**Annex 015**). Monitoring patrols continue on the 7,700 Ha marked for natural regeneration. In Y2, the monitoring team recorded and destroyed 162 snares and intercepted 117 illegal logging cases. The report points to a declining trend in illegal activities compared to Y1 directly attributable to enhanced monitoring for natural regeneration. The increased wildlife encounters signify increased habitat health (**Annex 039**).

Indicator 1.1b) *By EOY3 fuelwood utilization by 1,050 households (c.5,250 people) and 4 schools is reduced by 40% as a result of adoption of energy-saving, low-carbon stoves and bio-gas*

1,065 energy saving stoves have been installed between Y1-Y2, representing 101% of the initial target. The energy needs survey of 199 sampled out of the initial 400 stoves households conducted by MKEWP in Y1 show 47% reduction in fuelwood consumption. The cost of firewood also dropped by 37% (**Annex 027**). This means so far, the target has been surpassed by 117.5%. Further monitoring to happen in Y3.

Impact of biogas construction in schools on fuelwood utilization will be monitored in Y3.

Indicator 1.1c) *By EOY5, grass and forb cover in 570ha of rangeland in benefiting conservancies increases by 30% as a result of active land rehabilitation, (erosion control, responsible removal of damaging invasive species and use in biogas production, reseeding of cleared areas with indigenous species, and active management of restored sites.*

OPC have restored 40ha (**Annex 010**) and NRT 63.05ha (**Annex 34)** of rangeland in Y2 through use of earth moving equipment to repair gullies, removal of opuntia, construction of 2,400 semi-circular bunds to support water retention and reseeding of degraded areas. Monitoring of the impact of these actions to be mapped in Y3.

Indicator 1.1d) *By EOY3, 2 or more climate-smart agricultural practices adopted on 280ha of cropland.*

Climate smart agriculture practices including farming fast maturing, drought resistant crop seed varieties, soil health management and water conservation practises have been adopted in 139.06 Ha of cropland planted in Y2 (**Annex 085**) by 1,118 individual farmers trained including 39 demonstration farms. This effectively brings the area under climate smart agriculture, supported by the project to 667.36 Ha, over 238% of the initial 280Ha target. The increased acreage is attributed to the larger number of beneficiaries interested in soil quality testing. Results of Y1 production data is under compilation with Y2 production data expected in Y3. Data analysis and reporting will be done in Y3.

Indicator 1.1e) *By EOP, there is observed improvement in soil structure and cropland biodiversity in 280ha of cropland compared to Y1 baseline.*

MKEWP conducted soil tests for 661 beneficiaries in Y1. In Y2, OPC conducted Baseline soil tests for 850 beneficiaries. OPC will conduct soil structure and biodiversity analysis in Y3 to form the baselines against which subsequent comparisons will be made. The analysis will cover 667Ha of land under smart agriculture production. Effectively, OPC and MKEWP conducted baseline soil structure and biodiversity analysis for which subsequent comparisons will be made. (**Annex 038).**

Indicator 1.2*. By EOY5, 2 water intakes are operational upstream and regulating water demand in all the seasons of the year, benefiting 3,600 households / c.18,000 people, and 7 earth-pans/watering*

pools in 5 conservancies promote groundwater harvesting, providing new dry-season water supply for wildlife.

Two (2) common intakes (CWI) have been fully designed and authorized (**Annexes 45, 48 &49**) and construction nearly completed. The CWI will benefit over 3,600 households once completed.

4 out of the 5 earth pans planned for in Y2, were designed and constructed (**Annexes 52-56**). The pans are expected to benefit communities, livestock and wildlife, especially providing water during dry season. This is expected to reduce conflicts between pastoralists and farmers around watering points along the rivers where pastoralists water their livestock while farmers farm through irrigated agriculture. The increased cost of pan construction, coupled with exchange rate depreciation means the available budget was insufficient to do all the 7 pans planned in the project. However, 3 of the earth-pans constructed were way bigger in volume, than planned with some being over 25,000 cubic metres.

Indicator 1.3*. By EOY1 an ecosystem services assessment is completed, and by EOY3 the assessment has informed the collaborative development and implementation of an equitable water-sharing plan across the landscape.*

Ecosystem Service Assessment completed in Y1. Water sharing plan development underway to be completed in Y3.

Indicator 1.4 *By EOP, quantity and quality of dry-season Ewaso river flows in target tributaries increases compared to Y1 baseline*

Baseline data on river quality and quantity established in Y1. Monitoring to be done in Y3 & Y5

Output 2: Climate-resilient, nature-based solutions, sustainable land, pasture and water management practices, and improved market linkages, increase wellbeing for 2,906 farming, agropastoral and pastoral households / *c*.14,530 people (at least 40% women)

Indicator 2.1 *By EOY2, giving priority to the most vulnerable households, 2,906 households / c.14,530 people: 34% farmers (60%W, 40%M); 33% agropastoral (50%W, 50%M), and 33% pastoralists (30%W, 70%M), are trained in activities to become more resilient to climate change: locally-led ecosystem-based adaptation; climate-resilient agriculture; soil and water conservation; land restoration; rainwater harvesting; installation of energy saving/low carbon stoves, and enterprise development, using gender-responsive approaches.*

A total of 3,588 (households/c. 17,940) people have been trained so far to be resilient to climate change (climate smart agriculture, tree nursery management, livestock management). Additionally, 335 students benefited from nursery management trainings. OPC identified 1,118 beneficiary households (502M, 616) with 500 farming households and 39 demonstration farms receiving farm inputs (**Annex 75**) thus enhancing their production and adaptation capacity. 665 beneficiaries received energy-saving stoves reducing fuelwood utilization and enhancing the benefits of efficient fuel cook stoves. 1,845 pastoralist and agropastoral beneficiaries were trained on effective disease management through timely vaccination, parasite control, and proper feeding which boosts livestock health and productivity, effectively supporting them in climate change adaptation by enhancing their productive asset protection capacities. By undergoing trainings to enhance adoption of best practices in livestock husbandry, the project supports enhancing market value and long-term sustainability. The 6 schools engaged with 334 students and the 3 community groups with 110 members (60F, 50M) in tree nursery production and management enhances sustainability and guarantees income for those involved. Training of 27 stove builders (18F, 9M) ensured local capacity developed but also improved income potential for those trained.

MKEWP also trained 508 farmers (35% M, 65% F) on climate-resilient agronomic practices (**Annex 080**). The high frequency of women is attributed to the fact that women's groups are more organized in comparison to those of their male counterparts. Women find it easier to assemble and make time to attend trainings while the male stick to their traditional role of providing for their households, making it nearly impossible to attend such trainings. More training to be done from Y3 to Y4.

Output 3: Conservation CBOs (6 WRUAs and 5 CFAs) and local civic organizations (MKEWP, OPC, LCA, NRT, and MKT) have the capacity and capability to jointly, equitably, and sustainably manage natural resources.

Indicator 3.1 *By EOY1, 90 staff and community members from MKEWP, OPC, and MKT (30 from each, 50%W, 50%M) are trained to provide training on nature-based approaches for addressing water and livelihood challenges, marketing, microfinance, safeguarding and governance, and represent their organisations in county decision making processes. (NBS include: agroforestry/fruit trees, hydroponics, drought resistant/fast maturing crops, soil and water conservation approaches, fodder production, ground/rainwater harvesting, and land restoration.*

87 ToTs were trained in Y2, 42 from MKEWP (30M, 12F) and 45 from OPC (25M, 20F). MKEWP trained 18 ToTs (13M, 5F) on farmer record keeping (**Annex 081**). Another 24 ToTs (17M,7F) were also trained on soil testing for correct decisions on the choice of crops to improve yields at the demonstration plots. These ToTs together support beneficiaries in Y2 on Nature-based approaches. OPC together 18(7M, 11F) to support interventions around agriculture and livestock production while 27 (18F, 9M) trained to support installation of energy saving stoves (**Annex 025**).

Indicator 3.3: *By EOY2 at least 356 HH (included in 2.3 above) are accessing conservation microcredit (60%W), and there is a 40% increase in households benefiting from a revolving fund, for long-term financing to support NBS, from baseline to EOP*.

378 (180M,198F) households accessed conservation microcredit in Y1 and continued to make repayments in Y2. In Y2, MKEWP facilitated 64 beneficiaries (58M, 6F) from two farmer groups involved in high-value crops to access Kshs 452,000 (£2,739) to purchase potato tubers. 3 individual farmers also borrowed for dam liners for 3 water pans with a storage capacity of 2.4 million litres (**Annex 092**). The number of beneficiaries is expected to increase over the project period.

Indicator 3.5: *By EOY1, the capacity of 12 monitors (50%W, 50%M) drawn from 6 WRUAs, is built to collect and manage data (water flows, abstraction, pollution, biodiversity, crop production, fuel consumption and micro-credit utilisation), and from Y2 to EOP data management is carried out by these monitors in collaboration with project partners*.

The 12 monitors recruited and trained in Y1 have continued to monitor river systems including collecting data on river flows (where manual gauges exist), illegal abstraction points, biodiversity concerns and other data sets vital for the project (**Annex 072b**).

Indicator 3.6: *By EOY4, the institutional capacity of local partners is increased, including proposal development and accessing funding opportunities, (e.g., the water sector fund), safeguarding, and governance.*

MKEWP and WRUAs Capacity Assessments completed in Y1. In Y2, 1 WRUA trained and supported to develop a Sub Catchment Management Plan (SCMPs), a critical governance and resource mobilization tool (**Annex 106**). 2 other SCMPs to be developed in Y3. Fauna & Flora also trained 19 OPC staff (14M,5F), at OPCs request, on critical grant management issues including grant procurements and reporting (**Annex 112**).

Output 4: The value of project outcomes, (biodiversity conservation, human-wildlife co-existence, economic productivity, water security, climate resilience), is evidenced and ready to be scaled up, through local stakeholder commitment and larger-scale investment.

Indicator 4.1 *By EOP, local community members (including members of WRUAs, CFAs, farmer/pastoralist producer groups and conservancy members), and target county officials have improved awareness and greater support of conservation activities in the area, including evidence of increased membership (of WRUAs and CFAs) and participation in conservation activities.*

In Y2, 8 more WRUAs engaged in discussions around water resource conservation within the landscape up from the initial 7 in Y1 to 15 in Y2 (**Annex 68).** WRUAs initiated on their own requests for support to develop critical governance documents including development/review of SCMPs. 2 WRUAs conducted elections within Y2 and embarked on membership recruitment drives.

Indicator 4.4: *Scoping studies, market analysis and recommendations on using ecosystem services to generate income for conservation are complete (EOY1-2); a sustainable financing plan is developed*

(EOY3), and business cases and/or funding proposals co-created with key partners are shared with the government of Kenya, international bodies, and/or potential private sector investors (EO4), with at least one funder/investor secured to progress implementation of the sustainable financing plan (EOP).

LCA completed its scoping study report in Year 1. The scoping study informed the development of LCAs Strategic plan (2025-2030). The strategic planning has identified ecosystem services as a potential revenue stream to support conservation efforts. Over the period, LCA conducted 2 meetings with participation of 37 member conservancies. The meetings revolved around preparation of the development of a strategic plan which will serve as a comprehensive roadmap for strengthening conservancy governance, sustainable financing, conservation programs, and policy advocacy (**Annex 129-130**). Market analysis on financial mechanisms for conservation and development in the Upper Ewaso Ngiro Ecosystem is underway to inform the development of a business plan in Y3 (**Annex 128**).

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Outcome: Sustainable natural resource management increases water security and ecosystem functioning in the Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem, supporting key species, reducing conflict, increasing human wellbeing, and adaptation to climate change.

Indicator 0.1a. *By end of project (EOP), vegetation cover on 8,070ha of Mt. Kenya catchment forest has increased by at least 50% against Y1 baselines as a result of active restoration, natural regeneration and increased protection (native tree species to be planted include: Prunus africana (VU-on CITES appendix II), Ficus thonningii, Olea africana, Ficus sur, Podocarpus latifolius, Syzygium guineense, Hagenia abyssinca, Podocarpus falcatus and Dombeya rotundufolia*.

Vegetation cover changes against the baseline to be mapped from Y3-Y5. Within Mt. Kenya forests, the seedlings planted around sites marked for active restoration are still too small to be detected.

Indicator 0.1b*: By EOP, vegetation cover on 570ha of rangelands (plant species composition, diversity and groundcover) has increased by 30% against baseline in 4 target conservancies as a result of direct rehabilitation. (Decreaser grass species to be monitored, include: Themeda triandra, Setaria sphacellata. Invasive species to be monitored/eradicated, include: Opuntia Stricta.)*

Baselines for NRT conservancies developed in Y1. OPC developed baselines in Y2. Restoration actions ongoing and changes in vegetation cover to start from Y3-Y5, with OPC & MKT having acquired better mapping capacities from ESRI training and new software licences.

Indicator 0.2 *By EOP, the quantity and quality of dry-season water (quantity of nitrates, phosphates and sediments) flowing in and out of Mt Kenya forest, into and out of OPC community areas, and exiting Laikipia County, increases measurably compared to Y1 baseline, as a result of catchment restoration, soil and water conservation practices, pollution control, and equitable water-demand regulation.*

Refer to output indicator 1.4. However, meaningful impact expected as monitoring continues between Y3-Y5.

Indicator 0.3*: By EOP, population and diversity of fresh water species in target tributaries increases against baseline as a result of reduced water pollution and sustained river flows, (freshwater species to be monitored, include: frogs, beetles, invertebrates).*

Baseline survey data for dry season freshwater aquatic species completed by NMK in Y1. Wet season baseline freshwater aquatic survey data and associated water quality assessments done in Y2 (**Annex 069).** Monitoring surveys to be done in Y3-5 to determine population and diversity trends against baselines from sustained river flows. Refer to activity 3.16 for actions to reduce pollution.

Indicator 0.4*: By EOP, populations of key wildlife species in benefiting conservancies are stable or increasing and their distribution/habitat utilisation improves against baseline as a result of habitat restoration and increased water availability. Wildlife species to be monitored, include: savanna elephant, reticulated giraffe, black rhino, white rhino, common zebra, grevy's zebra, lion and wild dog.*

Wildlife baselines established for NRT conservancies and report is annexed (**Annex 43**). OPC's wildlife census for 2024 recorded 8,675 individuals, reflecting a 12.9% increase compared to 2023, but mainly for the small grazers (**Annex 42**). Monitoring to be undertaken in Y3 and 5.

Indicator 0.5*: By EOP 6,506 vulnerable households / c.32,530 people (approx. 50%W, 50%M) from farming, agropastoral and pastoralists communities are reporting improved wellbeing from diversified climate-smart livelihoods, sustainable agricultural and livestock production, access to market, and improved water security, against baselines.*

By EOY2, 5,082 households (~25,510 people) had already benefited from climate smart diversified livelihoods (climate smart agriculture, sustainable livestock management), markets access (livestock markets, enterprise development). Additionally, over 1,923 households are expected to benefit from the common water intakes, bringing the total beneficiary numbers to 7,005, well above the target 6,506 households. Baseline socio-economic surveys completed in Y1 for MKEWP and Y2 for OPC and will act as baselines with Mid-term and end of project surveys scheduled for Y3 and Y5 respectively to monitor impact of these interventions on household wellbeing.

Indicator 0.6*: By EOP, 300 farming households / c.1,500 people report significant reduction in incidents of conflict and kilos of farm produce lost through livestock raiding as a result of equitable access to 2 common water intakes, implementation of an endorsed water-sharing plan, and improved dialogue between water users.*

Baseline socio-economic surveys completed in Y1 for MKEWP and Y2 for OPC on the status of conflict. Mid-term and end of project surveys scheduled for Y3 and Y5 will monitor impact of common intakes and water allocation in reducing conflicts. The ToTs have been trained and provided with tools to document conflict incidences as they occur at the farm level (see Activity3.5). This data will form part of the subsequent impact analysis (Y3, Y5).

Indicator 0.7*: By EOP, the capacities and leadership for local natural resources management institutions is enhanced, and County and institutional policy and financial plans are informed by ecosystem services assessment and water-sharing plan.*

Trainings conducted for CFAs have enabled better and quick responses to fire incidences thereby supporting protection of restored forest areas. Support and capacity enhancement for WRUAs has enabled action especially deterrence of illegal water abstractions, reduced pollution and erosion resulting from poor farming practices along the rivers and enhanced compliance with the National laws on water use and management. County governments have adopted actions including adopting alternative solid waste dumping sites away from water sources. The SCMPs for the WRUAs have inspired action and guide management decisions around management of sub-catchments by both communities and government agencies.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

All the outcome and output assumptions still hold true.

Outcome assumptions

Assumption 1: *County and national governments remain supportive of a balanced approach to natural resource management in the landscape.*

This assumption has remained true, with the three counties being actively involved in project monitoring and participating in PIC.

Assumption 2: *Continued support and cooperation from targeted communities.*

Communities are supportive, and relations remain conducive for the project to meet its targeted impacts.

Assumption 3: *Kenya remains politically stable throughout and beyond the project period*

The political environment in Kenya has remained stable.

Assumption 4: *Reduced water abstraction upstream, through equitable allocation and sustainable water would increase water flows downstream, where wildlife conservancies and pastoralists are located, resulting in reduced water-access conflict and human-wildlife conflict.*

This assumption remains and project interventions to reduce abstraction upstream continue to be rolled out, with water harvesting infrastructure (water pans and storage tanks) provided to communities upstream, 6 of the 7 earth-pans successfully constructed, 2 common water intakes near completion, a water sharing plan informed by hydrological models and Ecosystem Service Assessment is under development and will be completed in Y3.

Assumption 5: *COVID-19 restrictions do not affect project activities, e.g. socioeconomic surveys, in-person training of partners and beneficiaries, markets and demand for agricultural, fodder and livestock products. We are confident that the trainings and other in-person activities will happen because the Kenya government has made great strides in containing COVID-19 infections including mass vaccination. All COVID-19 protocols will be observed during such meetings.*

All restrictions were removed before to the start of the project, and we have not had new incidents.

Refer to **Annex 2** for output level assumptions monitoring.

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

The project has made significant strides in realizing positive impact on biodiversity and multidimensional poverty reduction. Within just 2 years of the project, the 370Ha of Mt Kenya Forest land, marked for restoration has successfully been planted, setting the stage for its recovery. Effective monitoring strategies in place to enhance success. While supporting restoration actions, over 666 households engaged in tree nursery establishment and management and other casuals engaged in actual land preparation and seedling planting have secured jobs and earned cumulatively Ksh 8,846,085 (£53,613) over the reporting period. Fire response trainings for the 5 CFAs have supported effective fire response capacities limiting impacts of forest fires that have over the years diminished farmer incomes by destroying crops planted within the forest areas under Trees Establishment Livelihoods Improvement Scheme (TELIS). The effective fire response also supports thriving biodiversity within restored areas. The equipment and manpower trained with the project support have also enhanced responses within neighbouring Aberdares forest, thus enhancing biodiversity outside the project area.

By receiving hands-on trainings in livelihood diversification through climate resilient technologies that require low investments yet are high rewarding, the project set 508 farmers from 6 WRUAs towards a path of success. Information regarding livelihood alternatives such as beekeeping, rainwater harvesting, water ponds, rabbit rearing, and reducing the cost of production through the circular economy is critical in supporting war against poverty. The project is also indirectly addressing poverty resulting from deprivation of education, health and living conditions by ensuring that as far as practical, local communities are engaged in and informed accordingly. Supporting government policies such as the County Environmental Action Plan (CEAP) which addresses investments in key areas is key to supporting multidimensional poverty reduction.

The 40Ha of land where Opuntia stricta has been removed and restoration using suitable grass species done in over 63.5Ha is expected to positively improve rangeland quality and utilization by diverse wildlife species. Initial SMART patrol and EarthRanger data indicate return of wildlife species (e.g. Grevy's zebra and gazelles) in restored areas. The conservation work engaged 95 (42M, 53F) youth on casual basis earning substantial income thus improving household incomes.

The 6 water pans constructed will reduce pressure on ecologically sensitive springs and riparian areas, setting them up for recovery over the long term. This is also expected to reduce human wildlife conflicts.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

Convention on Biological Diversity

The project supported Fauna & Flora's sustained engagement as part of technical working group in Kenya's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) alignment with Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) processes where a final plan is envisioned to be presented to CBD secretariat by end of June 2025. Most recent being participation in a workshop on aligning sectoral public policy instruments in Agriculture, Livestock, and Forestry with the Global Biodiversity Framework (**Annex 134**)

Ramsar Convention

The project supported Fauna & Flora and stakeholders on commemoration of World Wetland Day national) events on 2nd February 2025 held in Ondiri Swamp as part Ramsar Convention requirement (**Annex 121**). The event provided an opportunity for awareness creation on the project targets, achievements and lessons learnt sharing to stakeholders. The process of developing a landscape level water sharing plan, construction/desilting of 4 water pans and development of governance and access guidelines currently ongoing is expected to contribute to better conservation and management of water resources in the region in line with Ramsar Convention philosophy of 'wise use of wetlands'.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Varied restoration actions which included raising and planting of 276,626 indigenous tree seedlings within Karuri and Marania Forests, training, equipment and support of local communities on forest monitoring and patrols and installation of 1065 energy saving Jikos to date contributes to emissions reductions targets for Kenya inline to Paris Agreement.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Project interventions on community livelihoods and capacity building; habitat restoration and protection, water conservation and management; energy saving and biodiversity monitoring among others contributes towards achievement of SDGs goal1 (No poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 5 (Gender equality), 6 (Clean water), 15 (Life on land) and 17(Partnership).

5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

MKT trained 218 (129 F, 89 M) members from 13 community tree nurseries on setting up, managing and bookkeeping for community tree nurseries. This knowledge advances the members' skills and knowledge on conducting sustainable businesses and can be replicated to other businesses; the knowledge could also be applied to food production contributing to food security. Most importantly, they together earned Ksh 8,846,085 (£53,613), as revenue from tree planting activities further improving their lives (**Annex 13**).

MKT's Baseline Livelihood Report conducted in 2025 covering 377 households in Marania and Ontulili, highlighted the interlinkages between forest restoration and poverty reduction in rural communities. The report found that 75.3% of households rely on farming as their main source of income, with strong participation in Community Forest Associations (CFAs) where members engage in tree planting, nursery work, and environmental training. While 95.5% of respondents reported increased food availability linked to forest restoration, the report identifies persistent multidimensional poverty challenges—including limited access to quality healthcare, vulnerability to climate-related shocks, and inadequate access to farm inputs, credit, and markets (**Annex 135**). These concerns will inform the next project planning.

2,015 households benefitted directly from poverty reduction activities working with OPC: 80 pastoralist households benefited from livestock to market scheme with direct investment of Ksh 14,086,340 (£85,372). 500 households and 39 demonstration farms received farm inputs including

certified seeds for fast maturing, drought resilient crop varieties. 665 provided with energy saving stoves, expected to reduce expenditure on energy while improving on available incomes for the beneficiary households. 1,095 Household benefited from soil testing which will boost their production and lower the cost of production.

NRT supported the skill development of 102 vulnerable pastoralists in Y1. In Y2, 70 graduates (39M, 31F) underwent business plan development training, equipping them with practical skills to manage businesses effectively and leverage emerging market opportunities. 60 graduates (29M, 31F) enrolled and are regularly saving with 31 (9M, 22F) qualifying and receiving a loan of Ksh 875,000 (£5,303) to set own businesses.

A total of 508 farmers attached to 12 demonstration sites are receiving training on climate smart agriculture and credit access to adopt sustainable water technologies and access certified seeds which is projected to increase household income and food security. A total of 400 households provided with energy saving stoves, expected to reduce expenditure on energy while improving on available incomes for the beneficiary households.

6. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

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

All our project partners factored GESI at the project design level and in implementation of the activities to address the needs of disadvantaged groups, including women and other vulnerable populations:

MKT activity implementation, at least 60% of the beneficiaries were women:10 out of the 17 community tree nurseries that benefitted from the procurement of seedlings were women-led; From 0, 30 women are now certified firefighters across the 6 CFAs; community engagement meetings where critical decisions would be made had at least a 50% women threshold on attendance.

OPC and MKEWP beneficiary selection was informed by agreeing on quotas for women and vulnerable groups in order to meet the needs of disadvantaged groups (women and other vulnerable groups) as evidenced in the gender disaggregated metrics reported under output 2 and 3, section 3.1. The 500 beneficiaries who received farm inputs were mainly from vulnerable groups. Though the livestock to market scheme has mainly benefited men due to cultural factors; women were given more slots for activities they could participate in which included access to energy saving Jikos and climate smart agriculture support.

All planned project monitoring and evaluation is gender disaggregated to inform project adaptation to address specific gender needs.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

Fauna & Flora developed a detailed M&E plan for Y2 activities (**Annex 132)** to capture evidence of change as activity implementation progressed taking into account impacts along delivery path. The M&E plan outlines key project indicators to monitor (as per the log frame), roles and responsibilities, schedule, budget, M&E tools, and communication plan. The M&E plan supports continuous tracking of project impacts; risk mitigation to enable adaptive management.

The project activities were evaluated against the Smart indicators and Means of Verification (MoV) as indicated in the log frame. All tools including survey questionnaires, data sheets are done to respond to the changes being tracked during project implementation.

The PIC, initiated in Y1, also supported monitoring of the project and worked to oversee project M&E and adaptive management. 1 PIC meeting was held and recommendations on adjustments to the project delivery agreed.

Fauna & Flora as the lead organisation held biweekly project management meetings involving project teams leading on different components of the project including fund management, finance, operations, technical specialists, programme and country manager to plan and review progress, to ensure implementation remains on track. Quarterly M&E meetings also held with UK cross cutters to bring them up to speed on delivery progress and get inputs. Regular M&E meetings were held with partners and the dedicated Fauna & Flora project manager, who is based in the landscape, maintained contact with partners, supporting them where needed.

Partners have been supported to develop and implement own M&E strategies based on specific interventions being implemented.

8. Lessons learnt

- *Structured M&E techniques improve impact monitoring* – While baselines were created in Y1 for most interventions, monitoring of impact remain key. In Y2, the project has adopted having structed monitoring tools to facilitate efficient monitoring of the impact on intervention both on biodiversity and people
- *Coordination and Capacity Development facilitates efficient and coordinated response* -Effective Coordination among the 6 CFAs trained in firefighting and Management was so successful that KWS expressed interest in training their own rangers. In Y3, KWS and MKT will explore means of enhancing efficiency of use of the firefighting equipment and possible improvement of skills among KWS rangers
- *Governance and Community Coordination in Forest Restoration is key in achieving any meaningful success* – KFS and CFAs clarified the Tree-First policy, ensuring CFA members adhered and to and took the lead in site restoration rather than prioritizing farming interests.
- *Collaborations with organizations engaged in similar initiatives, along with government agencies overseeing natural resource management is key*- The project has benefited from exchange of information, policy guidance, lobbying, advocacy, and technical assistance through collaborations partly contributing to successes reported. Collaboration with a soil testing service provider offering data analytics access for farmers has enabled MKEWP to support farmers even better.
- *Structured engagements deliver results*- Working with beneficiaries through well-organized community groups allowed for the selection of 40 farmer groups (508 members) by MKEWP for practical training via demonstration farms, focusing on climate-resilient strategies, soil and water conservation, and nature-based solutions.
- *Prior planning and effective engagement of communities is key*- The livestock-to-market scheme has had a positive impact in pastoralist communities, enabling majority to take part and benefit from the scheme, unlike projects implemented within pastoralists communities that are bound to be captured by a few elite members of the community. Despite the initial start-up challenges OPC was able to deliver 2 years of activities within Year 2 of the project

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

Comments and queries from the most recent annual report:

Comment: The total number of identified households in activity 2.1 is unclear. The project planned to identify 6,506 households and apparently identified 2,733. This may need clarification.

OPC activities were moved to Y2 through a change request and as such, their beneficiaries were to be identified in Y2. As of the reporting date, OPC already selected a total of 3,628 beneficiaries. This includes 1,118 crop farmers and agro-pastoralists for climate-smart agriculture interventions, 665 households for receive energy-saving Jikos and 1,845 pastoral households benefitting from skill improvement to support the livestock to market scheme. Additional households are expected to benefit from Common water intakes; number will be established in Y3. Total number of beneficiaries is expected to surpass the 6,506 project target by EOY3.

Comment: The report announces that the revised and updated project risk framework will be shared separately. Please add it to the next AR if available.

Revised and updated project risk framework is attached (**Annex 133).** A separate risk framework covering confidential OPC information is shared on email separately.

Comment: The project apparently developed training manuals (activity 2.4), but the evidence added to the report as Annex 46 could not be opened by the reviewer. See **Annex 088.**

Comment: Activity 2.2 mentions a learning needs assessment which the reviewer could not find in the evidence documents. Please add it to the next AR (See **Annex 82**).

10. Risk Management

Risk management has remained a key part of project implementation, with ongoing efforts to anticipate, monitor, and mitigate emerging risks. Over the past 12 months, several new risks have surfaced, necessitating adaptive responses to maintain momentum and safeguard project outcomes.

- Donor-related operational disruption: The Stop Work Order from the US Government to NRT created a significant gap in funding for core conservancy functions, particularly affecting ranger salaries and routine operations. This slowed activity implementation in conservancies and exposed the risk of over-dependence on a single donor for essential functions. To ensure all activities planned are delivered, Fauna & Flora submitted a Change request moving some funds to Y3 to allow adjustments by NRT.
- Inflation and economic instability: Rising inflation rates across Kenya affected the cost of materials, logistics, and service provision. As a result, several budget lines became underfunded relative to the actual costs of delivery, requiring partners to seek co-financing or match funding to close gaps.
- Climate-related risks: The project experienced delays due to drought and flash floods, particularly impacting ecosystem restoration and some community-based activities. These weather extremes, worsened by climate change, disrupted planned fieldwork and access to some conservancy areas. When conditions allowed, the project doubled on effort, ensuring delivery within shorter time periods.
- Procurement bottlenecks: Delays in procurement approvals by partners caused postponement of some activities. In particular, late submission of requests and internal administrative lead times made it difficult to align procurement timelines with implementation schedules. Fauna & Flora, stepped in in some instances ensuring procurement processes were fast tracked, ensuring implementation in most cases. In extreme cases, change requests were submitted to allow more time for activity delivery.
- On active tree planting, MKT realised that CFA governance structures could affect the impacts and the status of the trees planting and maintenance. In collaboration with the Kenya Forest Service and continuous education, stakeholder and community engagement, this has been mitigated. This, however, is a potentially a recurrent risk that will require ongoing engagement on mitigation.

Updated project risk framework **Annex 133.**

11. Scalability and durability

The knowledge-sharing sessions, stakeholder meetings, and field visits have played a key role in increasing interest and developing capacity among partners and other stakeholders as demonstrated by greater community participation, strengthened governance within CFAs, WRUAs and adoption of the project activities by key government agencies. WRA for example has officially taken over the automatic river gaging stations done by the project to ensure sustainability. The government will therefore monitor and maintain all the stations moving forward. KFS has taken over restoration supporting implementation of policies on forest restoration sites, ensuring proper maintenance and coordination. The project's recognition by governing institutions, including the County Government of Laikipia, Meru and Nyeri further reinforces its credibility and long-term impact.

The success of fire response management among CFAs has led to KWS requesting similar training for their rangers, highlighting the broader impact of the project beyond Mount Kenya to neighbouring landscapes such as the Aberdares. This underscores the project's role in strengthening regional conservation efforts through improved fire response strategies and community engagement. Effectively, the project's fire equipment has been stationed strategically to allow government access. This ensures support and long-term support for the interventions

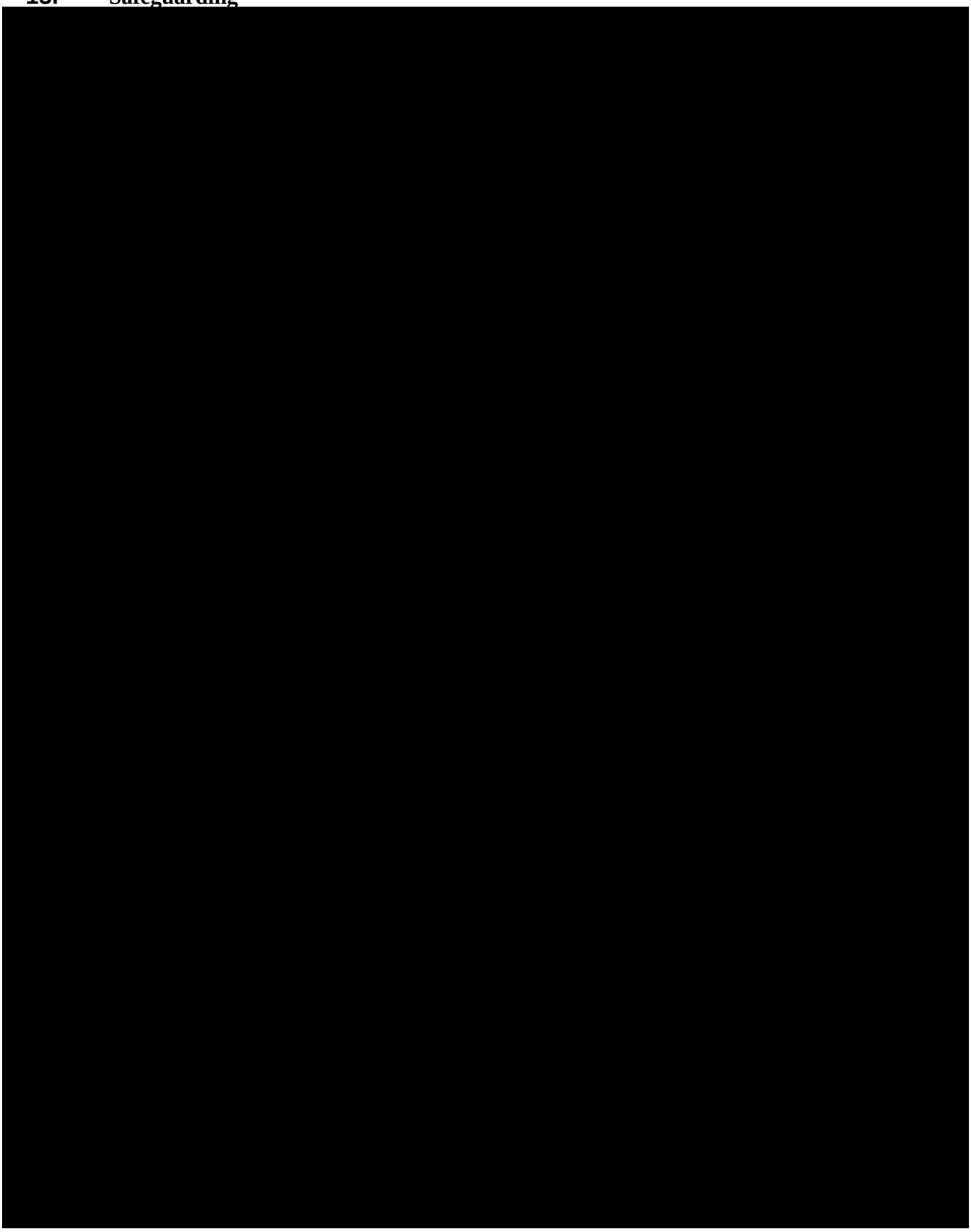
As a livelihood-based, scalable, and replicable initiative, the project's best practices can be adopted across different sites and landscapes. The socio-economic benefits experienced by communities serve as a strong incentive for sustained engagement in conservation, creating a cycle of restoration and livelihood improvement. With growing interest from stakeholders and lessons learned being applied to refine future approaches, the project is well-positioned to ensure long-term environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

12. Darwin Initiative identity

All communication regarding DE project follows a project communication plan developed in Y1 to guide branding and donor visibility. All project items are branded in line with Darwin guidelines including, project banners (straight, telescopic and broad based), project visibility T-Shirts and project stickers (for vehicle, printer, laptops, phones, a camping box, a tractor and water tanks). All were branded with the project title and DI-UK Government logo alongside the phrase, "funded by the UK government through Darwin Initiative" (**Annex 136**).

UK government contribution was recognized by always acknowledging that the project was funded by the UK government through Darwin Initiative either through materials that refer to the project and in any written or spoken public presentations about the project. All forms of document, certification, merchandise or presentation, including both online and offline / printed materials. This includes all branded materials mentioned above, in all project inception or implementation meetings, meetings with government officials including county governments, Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, Water Resources Authority, National Museums of Kenya, all trainings held for project beneficiaries, world wetlands day celebrations and social media posts. Partner activities involving the project attributed Darwin Initiative as the primary funder.

13. Safeguarding



14. Project expenditure

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

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2024/25 Grant (£)	2024/25 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs	[redacted]			
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items				
Others				
TOTAL	£1,202,159.66	£1,202,159.66		

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]		Fauna & Flora (Halcyon and Individual donors), NRT and OPC.
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			

15. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

- Has the design of the project been enhanced over the last year, e.g. refining methods, or exit strategy?- NO
- Discuss any significant difficulties encountered during the year and steps taken to overcome these if not already discussed elsewhere. N/A
- Are there any issues you would like to raise with the Darwin Initiative? Please highlight anything sensitive as this can be redacted prior to this report being published- NO

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

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

In just 2 years, the project trained 102 scouts drawn from 6 Community Forest Associations within Mt. Kenya Forest landscape. This is a remarkable achievement in supporting fire response actions by the Kenya Government which has over the years slowed restoration efforts, especially during drought. Despite the huge losses that frequent fires caused to the forests and community farms and other investments, response was limited to government mainly due to lack of skills and equipment on the part of the government. Even then, government would often be overwhelmed particularly due to the slow response times further fuelling the losses.

This project has not only contributed significantly to fire response through skill development and equipment purchase, it awakened the desire in 29 women, to act along other 73 men who were trained. Such actions if any, were male dominated and to have women trained and be part of the team is incredible and a significant milestone in ensuring communities work with governments as partners in taking charge of the critical natural resources including forests. Effectively, some 72,577 Ha of Mt. Kenya Forest land has had a boost with both human capital, equipment and a renewed sense of responsibility on the part of communities.

Image, Video or Graphic Information:

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)**
Images	Find the images here	Fire response and Management Training and Equipment for Mt. Kenya Forests supported under Darwin Extra Project		Yes

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

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact A water-secure Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem supports thriving biodiversity and people, providing a scalable model for human-wildlife co-existence, climate-resilient livelihoods, nature-based solutions and sustainable economic development for other water-stressed landscapes.	On course, actions delivered to increase water security, promote biodiversity conservation, and reduce poverty as outlined in the sections below.	
Outcome Sustainable natural resource management increases water security and ecosystem functioning in the Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem, supporting key species, reducing conflict, increasing human wellbeing, and adaptation to climate change		
Outcome indicator 0.1a: By end of project (EOP), vegetation cover on 8,070ha of Mt. Kenya catchment forest has increased by at least 50% against Y1 baselines as a result of active restoration, natural regeneration and increased protection (Native tree species to be planted include *Prunus africana* (VU-on CITES appendix II), *Ficus thonningii, Olea africana, Ficus sur, Podocarpus latifolius, Syzygium guineense, Hagenia abyssinca, Podocarpus falcatus and Dombeya rotundufolia.*	All the 370Ha of the targeted Mt. Kenya catchment forest area for active regeneration has been restored achieving 100% of the target within Y2. This has been achieved by planting cumulatively 507,478 seedlings with 205,352 seedlings having been planted in Y1 and another 302,126 seedlings in Y2 (Annex 015). Monitoring patrols continued in the 7,700 Ha marked for natural regeneration. In Y2, the monitoring team recorded and destroyed 162 snares and intercepted 117 illegal logging cases. This represents a decrease in illegal activities compared to Y1 directly attributable to enhanced monitoring for natural regeneration. The increase in wildlife encounters signify increased habitat health (Annex 039)	Monitoring impacts of 370Ha actively restored and 7,700Ha natural regeneration areas to continue in Y3. Sharing lessons learned to continue.
Outcome indicator 0.1b: By EOP, vegetation cover on 570ha of rangelands (plant species composition, diversity and groundcover) has increased by 30% against baseline in 4 target conservancies as a result of direct rehabilitation. (Decreaser grass species to be monitored, include: *Themeda triandra, Setaria sphacellata*. Invasive species to be monitored/eradicated, include: *Opuntia Stricta.)*	OPC conducted a detailed mapping and assessment of land degradation within the conservancy, identifying 65 sites and prioritizing 21 selected for immediate intervention. Restoration measures varied depending on the severity of degradation. In some areas, earth-moving equipment was deployed to repair gullies. A total of 12 out of 21 sites were successfully restored. NRT conducted monitoring of the recovery of the opuntia removed and 63.05Ha reseeded with grass seeds (Annex 34)	Monitoring of the impact of these actions to be done in Y3. Active interventions to continue in both OPC and NRT in YR3.
Outcome indicator 0.2: By EOP, the quantity and quality of dry-season water (quantity of nitrates, phosphates and sediments)	Baseline data for water quality and quantity have been collected through river gauge station data and reports	Monitoring of impact of catchment restoration, soil and

flowing in and out of Mt Kenya forest, into and out of OPC community areas, and exiting Laikipia County, increases measurably compared to Y1 baseline, as a result of catchment restoration, soil and water conservation practices, pollution control, and equitable water-demand regulation	compiled. Catchment restoration completed with a total of 205,352 seedlings planted in Y2. 4 water pans have been constructed and actions to lobby against pollution initiated for localised pollution control. Two (2) common intakes (CWI) have been fully designed, authorized and construction nearly completed.	water conservation practices, pollution control and equitable water regulation interventions on quantity and quality of dry season water flows to be availed in Y3 and Y5. water sharing plan to be finalised, validated and adopted by 3 counties.
Outcome indicator 0.3: By EOP, population and diversity of freshwater species in target tributaries increases against baseline as a result of reduced water pollution and sustained river flows, (freshwater species to be monitored, include: frogs, beetles, invertebrates	Baseline survey data for dry season freshwater aquatic species completed by NMK in Y1. Wet season baseline freshwater aquatic survey data and associated water quality assessments done in Y2 (**Annex 069)** 1 fish species, 8 species of amphibians (all frogs) and eight species of reptile including 6 lizard and 2 snake species. and diverse micro-invertebrate species were recorded. Monitoring surveys to continue in Y3-5 to determine population and diversity trends against baselines from sustained river flows	Impact of interventions on populations and diversity of freshwater species in target tributaries to be monitored in Y3 and Y5 and compared with the baselines.
Outcome indicator 0.4: By EOP, populations of key wildlife species in benefiting conservancies are stable or increasing and their distribution/habitat utilisation improves against baseline as a result of habitat restoration and increased water availability. Wildlife species to be monitored include savanna elephant, reticulated giraffe, black rhino, white rhino, common zebra, grevy's zebra, lion and wild dog	Wildlife baselines established for NRT conservancies and report is annexed (Annex 43). OPC's wildlife census for 2024 recorded 8,675 individuals, reflecting a 12.9% increase compared to 2023. This increase was consistent across various sectors, with notable growth in the areas adjacent to the wheat fields, where wildlife counts were 7 times higher than in 2023. The impalas, plains zebras, and buffaloes dominated the population, together accounting for approximately 69% of all animals counted (**Annex 42**)	Wildlife species surveys including photographs expected to be collected in Y3 and Y5 for comparisons against the baselines
Outcome indicator 0.5: By EOP 6,506 vulnerable households / c.32,530 people (approx. 50%W, 50%M) from farming, agropastoral and pastoralists communities are reporting improved wellbeing from diversified climate-smart livelihoods, sustainable agricultural and livestock production, access to market, and improved water security, against baselines.	By EOY2, 5,082 households (~25 510 people) had already benefited from climate smart diversified livelihoods (climate smart agriculture, sustainable livestock management), markets access (Livestock Markets, enterprise development). Additionally, over 1,923 households are expected to benefit from the common water intakes, bringing the total beneficiary numbers to 7005, well above the target 6506 households. Baseline socio-economic surveys completed in Y1 for MKEWP and Y2 for OPC and will act as baselines with Mid-term and end of project	Mid-term (Y3) and end of project (Y5) representative household wellbeing survey reports and Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA) reports will be collected to determine progress towards this indicator

	surveys scheduled for Y3 and Y5 respectively to monitor impact of these interventions on household wellbeing.	
Outcome indicator 0.6: By EOP, 300 farming households / c.1,500 people report significant reduction in incidents of conflict and kilos of farm produce lost through livestock raiding as a result of equitable access to 2 common water intakes, implementation of an endorsed water-sharing plan, and improved dialogue between water users.	Baseline socio-economic surveys completed to be compared with Y3 and Y5 results. Construction of common water intakes in progress, water sharing plan development to be finalised in Y3.	Household wellbeing and Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA) surveys planned for Y3 & Y5 to determine progress
Outcome indicator 0.7 By EOP, the capacities and leadership for local natural resources management institutions is enhanced, and County and institutional policy and financial plans are informed by ecosystem services assessment and water-sharing plan.	5 CFAs trained in fire prevention and management, with requisite fire response equipment procured and strategically positioned. Capacity development for MKEWP and 7 WRUAs on course with 1 WRUA Sub Catchment Management Plan (SCMP) finalised. All partners trained in social safeguards and donor reporting. OPC trained in grant procurement. Fauna & Flora have supported Laikipia County to develop and finalize County Environment Action Plan (CEAP). Landscape-wide Water sharing plan development on course.	Water sharing plan to be completed and validated in YR3.To finalise 2 SCMP in Y3.
Output 1: Habitat restoration, reduced fuelwood use, equitable water demand regulation and sharing, and climate-resilient cropland management, increases quantity and quality of dry-season river flows, and improves soil, rangeland, and forest habitat health.		
Output indicator 1.1a By EOY5, 8,070ha of Mt Kenya catchment forest are under active management for restoration (370ha for direct tree planting and 7,700ha for natural regeneration).	All the 370Ha of the targeted Mt. Kenya catchment forest area for active regeneration has been restored achieving 100% of the target within Y2. This has been achieved by planting cumulatively 507,478 seedlings with 205,352 seedlings having been planted in Y1 and another 302,126 seedlings in Y2 (Annex 015). Monitoring patrols continue on the 7,700 Ha under natural regeneration.	Monitoring and surveillance of 370Ha actively restored areas and 7700 Ha natural regeneration plots to continue in Y3.
Output indicator 1.1b By EOY3 fuelwood utilization by 1,050 households (c.5,250 people) and 4 schools is reduced by 40% as a result of adoption of energy-saving, low-carbon stoves and biogas.	OPC installed 665 energy saving stoves, bringing the total number of stoves installed so far to 1,065 between Y1 & 2. This is 101% achievement of the initial target. The energy needs survey of 199 sampled out of the initial 400 stoves households conducted by MKEWP show 47% cost reduction in fuelwood consumption and charcoal expenses. The cost of firewood also dropped by 37% (Annex 027). This means so far, the target has been surpassed by 117.5%. 3 biogas constructed to reduce fuel wood use in target schools. Impact monitoring to be done in Y3.	Continued monitoring of the impact of the stoves installed to be done in Y3 and Y5.Impact of biogas construction in schools on fuelwood utilization will be monitored in Y3

Output indicator 1.1c By EOY5, grass and forb cover in 570ha of rangeland in benefiting conservancies increases by 30% as a result of active land rehabilitation, (erosion control, responsible removal of damaging invasive species and use in biogas production, reseeding of cleared areas with indigenous species, and active management of restored sites).	OPC conducted a detailed mapping and assessment of land degradation within the conservancy, identifying 65 sites and prioritizing 21 selected for immediate intervention (Annex 010). Restoration measures varied depending on the severity of degradation. In some areas, earth-moving equipment was deployed to repair gullies. A total of 12 out of 21 sites were successfully restored. NRT conducted monitoring of the recovery of the opuntia removed in the 40 ha where restoration was done by reseeding 63.05Ha	Monitoring of the impact of these actions to be mapped in Y3.
Output indicator 1.1d By EOY3, 2 or more climate-smart agricultural practices adopted on 280ha of cropland.	In Y2, OPC trained 1,118 beneficiaries (502M, 616F) on climate smart agriculture with 500 farmers, and 39 demonstration farms being supported with fast maturing, drought resistant and highly nutritious crop seed varieties to be planted on 139.06 Ha of cropland (Annex 080). This effectively brings the area under climate smart agriculture, supported by the project to 667.36 Ha, over 238% of the initial 280Ha target. The increased acreage is attributed to the larger number of beneficiaries interested in soil quality testing. Results of Y1 production data is under compilation with Y2 production data expected in Y3.	Data analysis and reporting will be done in Y3. Monitoring of impacts to continue in Y3.
Output indicator 1.1e By EOP, there is observed improvement in soil structure and cropland biodiversity in 280ha of cropland compared to Y1 baseline.	MKEWP conducted soil tests for 661 beneficiaries in Y1. Effectively, they conducted soil structure analysis baseline for which subsequent comparisons will be made (Annex 038). In Y2, OPC conducted Baseline soil tests for 850 beneficiaries.	OPC will conduct soil structure and biodiversity analysis in Y3 to form the baselines against which subsequent comparisons will be made. The analysis will cover 667Ha of land under smart agriculture production.
Output indicator 1.2. By EOY5, 2 water intakes are operational upstream and regulating water demand in all the seasons of the year, benefiting 3,600 households / c.18,000 people, and 7 earth-pans/watering pools in 5 conservancies promote groundwater harvesting, providing new dry-season water supply for wildlife.	Two (2) common intakes (CWI) have been fully designed and authorized (Annexes 45, 48 & 49) and construction nearly completed. The CWI will benefit over 3,600 households once completed. 4 out of the 5 earth pans planned for in Y2, were designed and constructed (Annexes 52-56) and are expected to benefit communities and wildlife, especially providing water during dry season for livestock and wildlife.	CWI to be finalised in YR3. Monitoring of impact of the interventions to continue in Y3.

Output indicator 1.3. By EOY1 an ecosystem services assessment is completed, and by EOY3 the assessment has informed the collaborative development and implementation of an equitable water-sharing plan across the landscape.	Ecosystem Service Assessment completed in Y1. Water sharing plan development underway to be completed in Y3.	Water sharing plan to be completed and validated for adoption
Output indicator 1.4 By EOP, quantity and quality of dry-season Ewaso river flows in target tributaries increases compared to Y1 baseline.	Baseline data on river quality and quantity established in Y1.	Monitoring to be done in Y3 & Y5
Output 2. Climate-resilient, nature-based solutions, sustainable land, pasture and water management practices, and improved market linkages, increase wellbeing for 2,906 farming, agropastoral and pastoral households / c.14,530 people (at least 40% women).		
Output indicator 2.1. By EOY2, giving priority to the most vulnerable households, 2,906 households / c.14,530 people: 34% farmers (60%W, 40%M); 33% agropastoral (50%W, 50%M), and 33% pastoralists (30%W, 70%M), are trained in activities to become more resilient to climate change: locally-led ecosystem-based adaptation; climate-resilient agriculture; soil and water conservation; land restoration; rainwater harvesting; installation of energy saving/low carbon stoves, and enterprise development, using gender-responsive approaches.	A total of 5,082 households (~25 510 people) have been trained so far. OPC identified 1,118 beneficiary households (504M, 621F) with 500 farming households and 39 demonstration farms receiving farm inputs. 665 beneficiaries received energy-saving stoves reducing fuelwood utilization and enhancing the benefits of efficient fuel cook stoves. 1,845 pastoralist and agropastoral beneficiaries were trained on livestock husbandry and sustainable fodder production. 6 schools were engaged with 334 students and the 3 community groups with 110 members (60F, 50M) in tree nursery production and management enhances sustainability and guarantees income for those involved. Training of 27 stove builders (18F, 9M) ensured local capacity developed but also improved income potential for those trained. MKEWP also trained 508 farmers (35% M, 65% F) on climate-resilient agronomic practices	Additional training to be done in Y3 to Y4.
Output indicator 2.2. By EOY3, 80% of households participating in the trainings in 2.1 have applied knowledge acquired and are reporting improved benefits, (i.e., yields, income), from either improved climate-resilience or diversified livelihoods.	Measurement for this indicator will be done in Y3 and will be based on comparisons of the baseline figures with subsequent socio-economic and household wellbeing survey reports	To be done in Y3
Output indicator 2.3 BY EOY4, 700 households (c.300 farming HH, c.300 agro-pastoralist HH, and 100 pastoralist HH), (a subset of the 2,906 households in indicator 2.1), have been supported to form and strengthen farmer/pastoralist producer groups, including training and support to purchase inputs in bulk and bulk marketing of produce.	Activities related to this indicator are planned for Y3-Y4. Progress on this will be measured through training reports, farmer-producer groups meeting minutes among other MoVs	To be done in Y3

Output indicator 2.4 By EOY5, 400 HH, (a subset of the 700 in indicator 2.3), are marketing 50% of their produce through producer groups.	Activities related to this indicator will be done in Y3 and Y4	To start in Y3
Output indicator 2.5 By EOY5 2,906 households / c.14,530 people (50%W, 50%M), benefiting from nature-based, climate-resilient solutions, report a 40% increase in produce (crop or milk), improved food security, and 30% increase in income from baseline to EOP. (Nature-based solutions (NBS) include hydroponics, agroforestry/fruit trees, drought-resistant/fast-maturing crops, soil and water conservation approaches, fodder production, ground/rainwater harvesting.)	Crop production data will be analysed in Y3 and progress determined based on value chain analysis and subsequent socio-economic surveys to determine impact	
Output indicator 2.6 By EOP members of 656 HH have developed small enterprises as a result of access to microfinance (as outlined in Output 3) and are paying taxes/levies to county governments of Laikipia.	This will be verified after the beneficiaries are grouped and supported to market formally their products and ensure that part of the income pay taxes as required by law from Y3.	Planned for Y3
Output 3. Conservation CBOs (6 WRUAs and 5 CFAs) and local civic organisations (MKEWP, OPC, LCA, NRT, MKT) have the capacity and capability to jointly, equitably, and sustainably manage natural resources.		
Output indicator 3.1 By EOY1, 90 staff and community members from MKEWP, OPC, and MKT (30 from each, 50%W, 50%M) are trained to provide training on nature-based approaches for addressing water and livelihood challenges, marketing, microfinance, safeguarding and governance, and represent their organisations in county decision making processes. (NBS include agroforestry/fruit trees, hydroponics, drought resistant/fast maturing crops, soil and water conservation approaches, fodder production, ground/rainwater harvesting, and land restoration.)	MKEWP trained 18 ToTs (13M, 5F) on farmer record keeping (Annex 082). Another 24 ToTs (17M,7F) were trained on soil testing for correct decisions on the choice of crops to improve yields at the demonstration plots. These ToTs together supported beneficiaries in Y2 on Nature-based approaches. OPC together trained 45 TOTs with 18 (7M, 11F) expected to support interventions around agriculture and livestock production while 27 (18F, 9M)) trained to support installation of energy saving stoves.	Additional trainings to continue in Y3 using the training manual
Output indicator 3.2 From Y2 to EOP, 1,100 farmers, 600 agropastoralist, and 100 pastoralist households (c.1,800 HH, 50%W, 50%M) are trained in the topics listed under 3.1a, by the trained trainers.	Training by the ToTs reported in indicator 3.1 above to proceed in Y3. Training manual has been developed and validated.	ToTs to progress training using the manual developed
Output indicator 3.3 By EOY2 at least 356 HH (included in 2.3 above) are accessing conservation microcredit (60%W), and there is a 40% increase in households benefiting from a revolving fund, for long-term financing to support NBS, from baseline to EOP.	378 (180M,198F) households accessed conservation microcredit in Y1. In Y2, MKEWP facilitated 64 beneficiaries (58M, 6F) from two farmer groups involved in high-value crops to access Kshs 452,000 (£2,739) to purchase potato tubers. 3 individual farmers also borrowed	Monitoring of impact to progress in Y3

	for dam liners for 3 water pans with a storage capacity of 2.4 million litres (**Annex 092**).	
Output indicator 3.4 By EOY4 the community producer groups are allocating at least 5% of all proceeds from NBS towards a community-managed conservation fund that supports natural resource management.	The beneficiaries supported in Y1 (indicator 3.3 above) continued to repay the value of the seeds/funds received to their individual group owned account with the Ewaso Maji Users (EMU) SACCO as part of their savings and share capital. The funds will be used as seed money and will be available to the respective groups in the coming years. The capital/seed money obtained from the repayments of the value of the seeds received along with group investments are expected to earn 12% interests as the SACCO does business. Each group has committed to contributing 5% of the interest received to a water conservation fund to be managed by MKEWP. OPC livestock scheme will also be allocating 5% of the net profits to the rangelands restoration actions within the community areas	Repayment of funds to continue in Y3
Output indicator 3.5 By EOY1, the capacity of 12 monitors (50%W, 50%M) drawn from 6 WRUAs, is built to collect and manage data (water flows, abstraction, pollution, biodiversity, crop production, fuel consumption and micro-credit utilisation), and from year 2 to EOP data management is carried out by these monitors in collaboration with project partners.	The 12 monitors recruited and trained in Y1 continued to monitor river systems including collecting data on river flows (where manual gauges exist), illegal abstraction points, biodiversity concerns and other data sets vital for the project (Annex 072b)	Data collection and monitoring of impact to continue in Y3
Output indicator 3.6 By EOY4, the institutional capacity of local partners is increased, including proposal development and accessing funding opportunities, (e.g., the water sector fund), safeguarding, and governance.	MKEWP and WRUAs Capacity Assessments completed in Y1. In Y2, 1 WRUA trained and supported to develop a Sub Catchment Management Plan (SCMP), a critical governance and resource mobilization tool (Annex 106). 2 other SCMPs to be developed in Y3. Fauna & Flora trained 19 OPC staff (14M,5F) on critical grant management issues including grant procurements and reporting. All partners trained in social safeguarding in Y1.	2 SCMPs to be developed in Y3
Output 4 The value of project outcomes, (biodiversity conservation, human-wildlife co-existence, economic productivity, water security, climate resilience), is evidenced and ready to be scaled up, through local stakeholder commitment and larger-scale investment.		
Output indicator 4.1 By EOP, local community members (including members of WRUAs, CFAs, farmer/pastoralist producer groups and conservancy members), and target county officials have improved awareness and greater support of conservation activities in the area, including evidence of	In Y2, more WRUAs engaged in discussions around water resource conservation within the landscape up from the initial 7 in Y1 to 15 in Y2 (**Annex 68).** WRUAs initiated on their own requests for support to develop critical governance documents including development/review of	Continued implementation of the stakeholder development plan in Y3

increased membership (of WRUAs and CFAs) and participation in conservation activities.	SCMPs. 2 WRUAs conducted elections within Y2 and embarked on recruitment drives	
Output indicator 4.2 From Y3 onwards, through project engagement with county environment executives, KFS and KWS (including with CBD point of contact), project lessons and recommendations are mainstreamed into county plans, policy and legislative processes, including national reports (e.g., NDC, NAP) to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (e.g., CBD, UNFCCC) policies and programmes.	This exercise will commence in Y3.	Project lessons to be mainstreamed into county plans
Output indicator 4.3 By EOP, the benefits of sustainable land management and biodiversity are promoted to specialist audiences and general audiences to encourage further replication of project approaches, including through MKEWP, NRT and LCA, whose work covers a wider landscape beyond this project's geographical area, and presentations at national (Natural Resource Forum, Kenya Forest Working Group, County Devolution Conference) and regional (UNEA 2024 and UNCCF 2023) levels.	This is based on lessons learnt and this information will be packaged and shared to the larger audience including within the principal implementing partners. Documentation of lessons learnt began in Y2.	Documentation and sharing of lessons learnt to progress in Y3
Output indicator 4.4 Scoping studies, market analysis and recommendations on using ecosystem services to generate income for conservation are complete (EOY1-2); a sustainable financing plan is developed (EOY3), and business cases and/or funding proposals co-created with key partners are shared with the government of Kenya, international bodies, and/or potential private sector investors (EO4), with at least one funder/investor secured to progress implementation of the sustainable financing plan (EOP).	LCA completed its scoping study report in Year 1. The scoping study informed the development of LCAs Strategic plan (2025-2030). The strategic planning has identified ecosystem services as a potential revenue stream to support conservation efforts. Over the period, LCA conducted 2 meetings in the preparation of the development of the strategic plan. Market analysis on financial mechanisms for conservation and development in the Upper Ewaso Nyiro Ecosystem is underway to inform the development of a business plan in Y3.	Business plan to be developed in Y3

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

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: A water-secure Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem supports thriving biodiversity and people, providing a scalable model for human-wildlife coexistence, climate-resilient livelihoods, nature-based solutions and sustainable economic development for other water-stressed landscapes.			
Outcome: Sustainable natural resource management increases water security and ecosystem functioning in the Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem, supporting key species, reducing conflict, increasing human wellbeing, and adaptation to climate change.	0.1a By end of project (EOP), vegetation cover on 8,070ha of Mt. Kenya catchment forest has increased by at least 50% against Y1 baselines as a result of active restoration, natural regeneration and increased protection (Native tree species to be planted include *Prunus africana* (VU-on CITES appendix II), *Ficus thonningii, Olea africana*, *Ficus sur*, *Podocarpus latifolius*, *Syzygium guineense*, *Hagenia abyssinca*, *Podocarpus falcatus* and *Dombeya rotundufolia.* 0.1b By EOP, vegetation cover on 570ha of rangelands (plant species composition, diversity and groundcover) has increased by 30% against baseline in 4 target conservancies as a result of direct rehabilitation. (Decreaser grass species to be monitored, include: *Themeda triandra*, *Setaria sphacellata*. Invasive species to be monitored/eradicated, include: Opuntia Stricta.) 0.2 By EOP, the quantity and quality of dry-season water (quantity of nitrates, phosphates and sediments) flowing in and out of Mt Kenya forest, into and out of OPC community areas, and exiting Laikipia County, increases measurably compared to Y1 baseline, as a result of catchment restoration, soil and water conservation practices,	0.1a Vegetation survey data, land cover maps and dated photographs. 0.1b Vegetation survey reports, land cover maps and fixed-point photography (dated). 0.2 River gauge data, smart meter records and reports, based on measuring points at Mt Kenya forest and upper catchment. 0.3 and 0.4 Wildlife survey data and reports, aquatic species surveys reports, photographs. 0.5-0.6 Baseline, mid-term and end of project representative household wellbeing survey reports and Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA) report. 0.7 Institutional capacity and technical/skills assessments, County Annual Development and sectoral Plans, County/institutional annual	County and national governments remain supportive of a balanced approach to natural resource management in the landscape. Continued support and cooperation from targeted communities. Communities are already supportive, targeted engagement will be done to ensure communities remain willing to participate. Kenya remains politically stable throughout and beyond the project period. Reduced water abstraction upstream, through equitable allocation and sustainable water use, would increase water flows downstream, where wildlife conservancies and pastoralists are located, resulting in reduced water-access conflict and human-wildlife conflict. COVID-19 restrictions do not affect project activities, e.g. socioeconomic surveys, in- person training of partners and beneficiaries, markets and demand for agricultural, fodder and livestock products. We are confident that the trainings and other in

	pollution control, and equitable water-demand regulation 0.3 By EOP, population and diversity of freshwater species in target tributaries increases against baseline as a result of reduced water pollution and sustained river flows, (freshwater species to be monitored, include: frogs, beetles, invertebrates). 0.4 By EOP, populations of key wildlife species in benefiting conservancies are stable or increasing and their distribution/habitat utilisation improves against baseline as a result of habitat restoration and increased water availability. Wildlife species to be monitored include savanna elephant, reticulated giraffe, black rhino, white rhino, common zebra, grevy's zebra, lion and wild dog. 0.5 By EOP 6,506 vulnerable households / c.32,530 people (approx. 50%W, 50%M) from farming, agropastoral and pastoralists communities are reporting improved wellbeing from diversified climate-smart livelihoods, sustainable agricultural and livestock production, access to market, and improved water security, against baselines. 0.6. By EOP, 300 farming households / c.1,500 people report significant reduction in incidents of conflict and kilos of farm produce lost through livestock raiding as a result of equitable access to 2 common water intakes, implementation of an endorsed	budget, ecosystems services assessment report, sustainable financing plan, business case/proposal for upscaling targeting UK ODA portfolio and multilateral donors.	person activities will happen because the Kenya government has made great strides in containing COVID-19 infections including mass vaccination. All COVID-19 protocols will be observed during such meetings.

	water-sharing plan, and improved dialogue between water users. 0.7 By EOP, the capacities and leadership for local natural resources management institutions is enhanced, and County and institutional policy and financial plans are informed by ecosystem services assessment and water-sharing plan.		
Output 1 Habitat restoration, reduced fuelwood use, equitable water demand regulation and sharing, and climate-resilient cropland management, increases quantity and quality of dry-season river flows, and improves soil, rangeland, and forest habitat health.	1.1a By EOY5, 8,070ha of Mt Kenya catchment forest are under active management for restoration (370ha for direct tree planting and 7,700ha for natural regeneration). 1.1b By EOY3 fuelwood utilization by 1,050 households (c.5,250 people) and 4 schools is reduced by 40% as a result of adoption of energy-saving, low-carbon stoves and biogas. 1.1c By EOY5, grass and forb cover in 570ha of rangeland in benefiting conservancies increases by 30% as a result of active land rehabilitation, (erosion control, responsible removal of damaging invasive species and use in biogas production, reseeding of cleared areas with indigenous species, and active management of restored sites). 1.1d By EOY3, 2 or more climate-smart agricultural practices adopted on 280ha of cropland. 1.1e By EOP, there is observed improvement in soil structure and cropland biodiversity in 280ha of cropland compared to Y1 baseline.	1.1a Reports from Y1, Y3 and Y5 vegetation surveys, land cover maps and fixed- point photographs (dated). 1.1b Reports from Y1, Y3 and Y5 household and institutional surveys on energy use. 1.1c Reports from Y1, Y3 and Y5 vegetation assessment reports, land cover maps and fixed-point photographs (dated). 1.1 d Baseline and annual monitoring reports and reports from soil tests. 1.1 e Soil structure photos and soil assessment reports. 1.2 Photos of water intakes, earth-pans/watering pools, and regulations on water access/use and water supply. 1.3 Ecosystem Services Assessment report endorsed water sharing plan. 1.4 Water flows and quality monitoring reports.	County and national governments remain supportive of a balanced and sustainable approach to water, forest, riparian, rangeland and cropland management in the landscape. We are confident that county and national governments will collaborate because FFI and partners are already cooperating with the government in ongoing programmes. Continued support and cooperation from targeted communities. MKEWP, MKT, OPC, and NRT have ongoing programmes with communities, and we are confident that this will continue.

	1.2. By EOY5, 2 water intakes are operational upstream and regulating water demand in all the seasons of the year, benefiting 3,600 households / c.18,000 people, and 7 earth-pans/watering pools in 5 conservancies promote groundwater harvesting, providing new dry-season water supply for wildlife. 1.3. By EOY1 an ecosystem services assessment is completed, and by EOY3 the assessment has informed the collaborative development and implementation of an equitable water-sharing plan across the landscape. 1.4 By EOP, quantity and quality of dry-season Ewaso river flows in target tributaries increases compared to Y1 baseline.		
Output 2 Climate-resilient, nature-based solutions, sustainable land, pasture and water management practices, and improved market linkages, increase wellbeing for 2,906 farming, agropastoral and pastoral households / c.14,530 people (at least 40% women).	2.1 By EOY2, giving priority to the most vulnerable households, 2,906 households / c.14,530 people: 34% farmers (60%W, 40%M); 33% agropastoral (50%W, 50%M), and 33% pastoralists (30%W, 70%M), are trained in activities to become more resilient to climate change: locally-led ecosystem-based adaptation; climate-resilient agriculture; soil and water conservation; land restoration; rainwater harvesting; installation of energy saving/low carbon stoves, and enterprise development, using gender-responsive approaches. 2.2. By EOY3, 80% of households participating in the trainings in 2.1 have applied knowledge acquired and	2.1 Training reports, training manuals, demonstration plots/sites, and dated photographs of training events. 2.2 Socio-economic and household wellbeing survey reports. 2.3 Training reports, farmer producer groups meeting minutes.	Pastoralist households and community conservancies in focal community areas are willing to engage with OPC on community cattle fund. Communities are already supportive, and FPIC and targeted engagement will be carried out to ensure communities are willing to participate. The project proposes to increase returns to communities through better access to markets. COVID-19 restrictions will not affect in-person training of partners and beneficiaries, markets and demand for agricultural, fodder and livestock products.

	are reporting improved benefits, (i.e., yields, income), from either improved climate- resilience or diversified livelihoods. 2.3 BY EOY4, 700 households (c.300 farming HH, c.300 agro- pastoralist HH, and 100 pastoralist HH), (a subset of the 2,906 households in indicator 2.1), have been supported to form and strengthen farmer/pastoralist producer groups, including training and support to purchase inputs in bulk and bulk marketing of produce. 2.4 By EOY5, 400 HH, (a subset of the 700 in indicator 2.3), are marketing 50% of their produce through producer groups. 2.5 By EOY5 2,906 households / c.14,530 people (50%W, 50%M), benefiting from nature-based, climate-resilient solutions, report a 40% increase in produce (crop or milk), improved food security, and 30% increase in income from baseline to EOP. (Nature-based solutions (NBS) include hydroponics, agroforestry/fruit trees, drought-resistant/fast-maturing crops, soil and water conservation approaches, fodder production, ground/rainwater harvesting.) 2.6 By EOP members of 656 HH have developed small enterprises as a result of access to microfinance (as outlined in Output 3) and are paying taxes/levies to county governments of Laikipia.	2.4 Producer groups' transactions, records of farm yields and sales. 2.5 Value chain analysis, socio-economic surveys. 2.6 Microfinance records, socio-economic surveys reports.	

Output 3 Conservation CBOs (6 WRUAs and 5 CFAs) and local civic organisations (MKEWP, OPC, LCA, NRT, MKT) have the capacity and capability to jointly, equitably, and sustainably manage natural resources.	3.1 By EOY1, 90 staff and community members from MKEWP, OPC, and MKT (30 from each, 50%W, 50%M) are trained to provide training on nature-based approaches for addressing water and livelihood challenges, marketing, microfinance, safeguarding and governance, and represent their organisations in county decision making processes. (NBS include; agroforestry/fruit trees, hydroponics, drought resistant/fast maturing crops, soil and water conservation approaches, fodder production, ground/rainwater harvesting, and land restoration.) 3.2 From Y2 to EOP, 1,100 farmers, 600 agropastoralist, and 100 pastoralist households (c.1,800 HH, 50%W, 50%M) are trained in the topics listed under 3.1a, by the trained trainers. 3.3 By EOY2 at least 356 HH (included in 2.3 above) are accessing conservation microcredit (60%W), and there is a 40% increase in households benefiting from a revolving fund, for long-term financing to support NBS, from baseline to EOP. 3.4 By EOY4 the community producer groups are allocating at least 5% of all proceeds from NBS towards a community- managed conservation fund that supports natural resource management. 3.5 By EOY1, the capacity of 12 monitors (50%W, 50%M) drawn from 6 WRUAs, is built to collect and	3.1 Baseline and repeat capacity assessment reports, training manuals, capacity building plans and training reports, dated photographs. 3.2 Reports by ToTs, community surveys. 3.3 Reports from microfinance facility on borrowing and repayment (baseline and annual), reports from socioeconomic surveys (Y1, Y3 and Y5). 3.4 Records of deposits in revolving funds, minutes/reports from meetings of revolving funds governance structure. 3.5 Training manuals/tools, training reports, records of monitoring data collected and submitted by community monitors, dated photographs. 3.6 Institutional capacity assessments reports.	COVID-19 restrictions will not affect in person training of partners and beneficiaries, markets and demand for agricultural, fodder and livestock products. Communities continue to take up offers for training, livelihoods etc. Access to conservation microcredit would help beneficiaries develop NBS to generate income to meet both household needs and repay loans to sustain a revolving fund for long-term financing. Community producer groups [continue to] support allocating at least 5% proceeds into conservation fund. Socio-political context remains conducive to sustained, effective collaboration. Sustained motivation and high retention of trained trainers (staff and community) and monitors.

	manage data (water flows, abstraction, pollution, biodiversity, crop production, fuel consumption and micro-credit utilisation), and from year 2 to EOP data management is carried out by these monitors in collaboration with project partners. 3.6 By EOY4, the institutional capacity of local partners is increased, including proposal development and accessing funding opportunities, (e.g., the water sector fund), safeguarding, and governance.		
Output 4 The value of project outcomes, (biodiversity conservation, human-wildlife co-existence, economic productivity, water security, climate resilience), is evidenced and ready to be scaled up, through local stakeholder commitment and larger-scale investment.	4.1 By EOP, local community members (including members of WRUAs, CFAs, farmer/pastoralist producer groups and conservancy members), and target county officials have improved awareness and greater support of conservation activities in the area, including evidence of increased membership (of WRUAs and CFAs) and participation in conservation activities. 4.2 From Y3 onwards, through project engagement with county environment executives, KFS and KWS (including with CBD point of contact), project lessons and recommendations are mainstreamed into county plans, policy and legislative processes, including national reports (e.g., NDC, NAP) to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (e.g., CBD, UNFCCC) policies and programmes. 4.3 By EOP, the benefits of sustainable land management and biodiversity are	4.1 Stakeholder map, stakeholder engagement plan, minutes of awareness meetings with stakeholders, training reports, survey reports. 4.2 County and national plans, policy documents and programmes, correspondence and reports. 4.3 Presentations, awareness raising materials, correspondence, reports, article submitted to a peer-reviewed journal for publication. 4.4 Scoping study reports, written business case and/or funding proposal, contract with donor for secured funds.	Conservation and sustainable practices create economic benefits that motivate communities and other stakeholders to continue contributing time/funds. We assume that government bodies at different levels remain committed to evidence-based policies and engaged with this project. This assumption is supported by the significant Letters of Support from government stakeholders. We assume that new local enterprise owners abide by local laws and pay taxes as required. We assume no shocks to the international market that reduce business interest in the landscape produce and services, and ongoing international donor commitment to safeguarding biodiversity and international development.

	promoted to specialist audiences and general audiences to encourage further replication of project approaches, including through MKEWP, NRT and LCA, whose work covers a wider landscape beyond this project's geographical area, and presentations at national (Natural Resource Forum, Kenya Forest Working Group, County Devolution Conference) and regional (UNEA 2024 and UNCCF 2023) levels. 4.4 Scoping studies, market analysis and recommendations on using ecosystem services to generate income for conservation are complete (EOY12); a sustainable financing plan is developed (EOY3), and business cases and/or funding proposals co-created with key partners are shared with the government of Kenya, international bodies, and/or potential private sector investors (EO4), with at least one funder/investor secured to progress implementation of the sustainable financing plan (EOP).		

Activities

Output 1

1.1 Produce wet and dry season land-use and landcover maps for Mt. Kenya catchment and rangeland, to identify and monitor areas that require restoration (Y1-2).

1.2 Support 2 CFAs (17,200 people) to establish native tree nurseries (Y1, Y2) and plant seedlings in degraded forest land.

1.3 Train 5 CFAs on fire prevention and management (Y1), provide equipment (Y1, Y4), and support ongoing patrols and monitoring of forest areas under natural regeneration.

1.4 Identify energy use/needs of households and schools. Train 30 youths (50%W, 50%M) to install energy-saving stoves in 1,050HH (Y1-2) and biogas in 4 schools (Y2).

1.5 Monitor the uptake and impact of energy saving stoves and biogas, and disseminate results (Y3, Y5).

1.6 Restore c.570ha of degraded rangeland through active interventions and natural regeneration, including erosion control, responsible removal of invasive species, reseeding with adaptable/indigenous grass species (Y1-5).
1.7 Conduct annual Ecological Outcome Verifications at OPC (baseline Y2) to monitor soil, biodiversity and ecosystem health, including training 10 OPC staff (Y2).
1.8 Annually monitor the impact of restoration interventions on forest cover, rangeland health, indicator species, and wildlife (including freshwater), against Y1 baselines, and share lessons learned.
1.9 Support WRUAs/communities in the construction and operation of 2 approved water intakes, based on collaborative site selection, expert input, and environmental impact assessments (Y1-5).
1.10 Support WRUAs/communities in the construction/desilting of 7 earth-pans/watering pools and collaboratively develop governance and access guidelines (Y1-3).
1.11 Based on an Ecosystem Services Assessment (Y1), produce a catchment water-sharing plan (Y2). Advocate for formal adoption by County governments (Laikipia, Meru and Nyeri) (Y2-3).
1.12 Support MKEWP and 12 WRUA scouts to monitor water offtake, quantity, quality, and water-use compliance, within targeted catchment tributaries, with technical support from Water Resources Authority (WRA), (baselines Y1).
Output 2
2.1 Identify 6,506 households (WRUAs, CFAs, farmers, pastoralists, agropastoralists) to benefit from sustainable livelihoods support and establish baselines for wellbeing, yields, income and climate vulnerability (Y1, Y2).
2.2 Based on learning needs assessments (Activity 3.3), conduct training-of-trainers (TOTs) for 90 individuals from partner institutions and community groups (Y1, Y3).
2.3 Facilitate TOTs to conduct soil test assessments to inform crop selection and climate-smart agriculture and livestock practices, (baseline Y1, repeat Y3 and Y5).
2.4 Develop training manuals (Y1) and facilitate TOTs to train c.15,000 people on climate-smart agriculture, land restoration, low-carbon stoves/biogas, and nature-positive livelihood diversification (Y1–3).
2.5 Facilitate 700 households to form, and strengthen, farmer-producer groups, for production, bulking and marketing (Y3-5).
2.6 Facilitate approx. 656 households (subset of 2.1) to access the microfinance scheme, (see Activity 3.10), including youth and women (Y2-4).
2.7 Conduct training for 5 pastoralist community groups neighbouring OPC (2,400 households: c.12,000 people, 30% W, 70%M) on the livestock- to-market scheme (Y2).
2.8 Facilitate 5 pastoralist community groups (see 2.7) to establish 5 producer groups, with governance structures, to facilitate buying/selling of cattle, and to access inputs (Y2-3).
2.9 Support OPC to establish a revolving fund to purchase, fatten and sell c.1,670 steers from the 5 communities, benefiting c.100 pastoralist households (Y2).
2.10 Facilitate 56 pastoralist youth and women to select business opportunities (e.g., welding, masonry, tailoring) and conduct tailored vocational and entrepreneurial training (Y2).
2.11 Conduct a feasibility study to identify suitable scale-up of NBS, (e.g., agroforestry/fruit trees, hydroponics, fodder production), and prepare an NBS-business plan and financial model (Y2-3).
2.12 Informed by the 2.11 study and plan, conduct market analysis for NBS products from beneficiary households (Y3), and develop marketing strategies targeting bulk buyers (Y4).

2.13 Identify and engage external buyers for each NBS product, establishing links with farmers, agropastoralists, and pastoralists, through identified market hubs (Y4).
2.14 Monitor the impact of livelihoods interventions (Y3, Y5), including carrying out socio-economic surveys, and a Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis.
Output 3
3.1 Undertake organisational capacity assessment for WRUAs and MKEWP and develop institutional capacity development plans to guide tailored trainings, including on governance and fundraising (Y1-2).
3.2 Map existing safeguarding approaches among all 5 project partners and deliver training for TOTs to address identified gaps (Y1).
3.3 Support TOTs to conduct capacity assessments of WRUAs, CFAs, farmers, pastoralists, agropastoralists, and community conservancies, on NBS and sustainable practices, (baseline Y1, monitor growth Y3).
3.4 Support TOTs to use capacity assessments to prepare capacity building plans and revise training materials for project beneficiaries (Y2, Y3).
3.5 Develop monitoring tools for livelihoods interventions, and train TOTs to use them to submit data to MKEWP, OPC and NRT, for analysis/reporting (from Y2).
3.6 Organise exchange visits between identified WRUA representatives and more established/successful WRUAs in the landscape (or beyond) for peer-to-peer learning and mentorship (Y2).
3.7 Facilitate biannual dialogue meetings for water users and managers, led by MKEWP, and agree water-use allocation, and adoption and management of common waters intake (Y1-5).
3.8 Assess existing microcredit facilities among beneficiaries and develop guidelines for targeted promotion of conservation microcredit uptake among communities (Y1).
3.9 Support beneficiaries to develop and strengthen governance structures for conservation microcredit facilities, including training in financial management, leadership, governance, and monitoring, evaluation and learning (Y1-Y4).
3.10 Support targeted microcredit facilities through seed funding (supporting affordable water-harvesting infrastructure, enterprise development for pastoralist youth and women, and cattle purchase scheme by OPC) (Y1-Y4).
3.11 Support farmer-producer groups, CFAs and WRUAs to create a conservation fund (Y1), with governance. Monitor the performance of the fund regarding WRUA/CFA operations (Y3).
3.12 Train 12 WRUA and MKEWP staff in SMART water data collection, analysis and dissemination (Y1-3).
3.13 Based on the landscape-level water-sharing plan, facilitate 3 WRUAs to review, develop and implement sub-catchment management plans (Y3-5).
3.14 Train and facilitate WRUAs to efficiently deter, detect, and take action against, illegal abstractions of river water and illegal activities in Mt Kenya Forest (Y1-2).
3.15 In collaboration with the Water Resources Authority, build the capacity of MKEWP and WRUAs in the collection and dissemination of biodiversity data (Y2).
3.16 Support WRUA communities to lobby against point and non-point pollution within the 3 sub-catchments targeted by the project (Y1-5).
Output 4
4.1 Hold biannual project implementation committee meetings, comprising of key staff from all partners, to evaluate progress and guide implementation and adaptive management (Y1-5).
4.2 Consultatively develop a stakeholder engagement plan, to guide inclusive awareness raising to increase support for conservation, (e.g., Farmer Field Days, radio, World Environment Day) (Y1).

4.3 Facilitate ongoing dialogue processes at County level on conservation, to allow those with different perspectives on land management to have their voices heard (Y1-5).
4.4 Annually, disseminate project findings and recommendations to County governments, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, KFS, KWS (including CBD contact point), WRA and other relevant agencies (Y1-5).
4.5 Disseminate project results and lessons learned at national and regional conferences, meetings and workshops, and submit an article to an open-access, peer-reviewed journal (Y1-5).
4.6 Conduct scoping studies, market-analysis, assessment of income benefits of ecosystem services, and financial mechanisms, (e.g., carbon credits, biodiversity offsets), and engage private sector (Y1-2).
4.7 Based on 4.6, identify sustainable finance options and target stakeholders locally, nationally and internationally, to promote scale-up of project approaches. Develop a business case (Y2-3)
4.8 Informed by 4.7, co-create a proposal to a multilateral funding opportunity, (e.g., GCF, GEF), with other international NGOs (e.g., Conservation International) and national NGOs (Y4-5).

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	Indicator number here	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-D01	Area improved through active restoration.	1.1a	Hectares (Ha)	Forest	201.06Ha	168.94Ha		370Ha	370Ha
DI-D01	Area improved through active restoration and natural regeneration	1.1c	Hectares (Ha)	Rangelands		103.05Ha		103.05Ha	570Ha
DI-A03	Number of local/national organisations with improved capability and capacity	3.1	Number of organisations	Local NGOs	5			5	5
				Government institution		1			
D1-A03	Number of local/national organisations with improved capability and capacity	3.1	Number of organisations	Community organisations (CFAs, WRUAs)		12		12	12
DI-A01	Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	3.1	People	Women	185	2,046		2,231	
DI-A01	Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	3.1	people	Men	163	2,424		2,587	
DI-D03	Number of households reporting an adoption of livelihood improvement practices	2.1	household	Typology of livelihood improvement practice	2,733	4,574		7,707	6,506
DI-B01	Number of new or improved habitat management plans available and endorsed		Number	Improved		1		1	3

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the **correct template** (checking fund, scheme, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and **deleted the blue guidance text** before submission?	✓
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	✓
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please consider the best way to submit. One zipped file, or a download option, is recommended. We can work with most online options and will be in touch if we have a problem accessing material. If unsure, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	✓
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 16)?	✓
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.	