

DAREX009

Darwin Initiative Extra Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note":

(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources/information-notes/>)

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2024

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

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	DAREX009
Project title	Local Governance of Forest Resources in Mali
Country/ies	Mali
Lead Partner	Tree Aid
Project partner(s)	Sahel Eco
Darwin Initiative grant value	£ 2,799,095
Start/end dates of project	1 Oct 2023 – 30 Sept 2028
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2023 – Mar 2024) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	Annual Report 1 Oct 2023 – March 2024
Project Leader name	Aly Diarra
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.treeaid.org/projects/mali/local-governance-of-forest-resources/ https://www.facebook.com/treeaid/ https://www.linkedin.com/company/tree-aid https://twitter.com/treeaid
Report author(s) and date	Abbi Gutierrez, Programme Officer, Tree Aid with Aly Diarra, Project Coordinator, Tree Aid Mali working with the Sahel Eco team. 3 May 2024

1. Project progress

1.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Progress towards Output 1: Strengthen local forest governance, investment in forests with endangered indigenous species and valorisation of non-timber forest products for the improvement of the livelihoods of 2,550 households in the Segou region

Activity 1.1: Establishment of three inter-municipal syndicates for the management of the natural resources.

The first year of the project has focused on the establishment of good relations with local authorities, baseline for the project and preparation for the Year 1 planting. Delays have occurred due to continued negotiations with the project partner, Sahel Eco over aspects of the budget and how activities should be split between Tree Aid and the partner. Whilst these have now been resolved, the consequence is that some planned activities for Year 1 have not taken place, this includes: 1.6 organisation of an exchange visit for 60 local actors on decentralised forest management in the GEDEFOR area; 1.13 Establishment of 1 consultation framework for Mio, 2.1 Installation of 1 nursery, 2.2 Training of the nursery members of seedling production and grafting techniques; 2.3 plant production in nurseries, M&E 5 baseline ecological survey, M&E 9 M&E workshop, M&E 10 qualitative data analysis and visualisation, M&E 11 qualitative data collection, M&E15 Perimeter & Land Use Survey- ODK module.

As a locally led project which aims to empower local authorities in forest management, it was necessary to make early contact with local authorities who are important stakeholders in the project. These meetings allowed the project coordinator, Aly and Sahel Eco to inform the local authorities on the project and support offer a platform for open dialogue between the project team and the local authorities.

Following the initial interactions with the local authorities, the project launch took place on 21 March 2024 at the Kôre cultural centre in Sébougou. The project launch received national attention as it was broadcast on both public and private TV channels in Mali. This platform not only helped inform local stakeholders of the project, it also provided a national platform for the promotion of decentralised forest governance. The televised project launch was considered a large success and clips from the televised project launch are below.

Activity 1.4: Drafting and signing of partnership protocols between communities, technical services and cooperatives for the forest management .

Whilst Tree Aid worked previously in the Mio Forest, it has been over three years since there has been a funded project within the zone. It was therefore necessary to conduct an initial diagnostic mission in the Mio area to update the data. The Mio forest, as a classified state forest, cannot be transferred to local authorities, therefore Tree Aid will carry out a diagnostic mission from 29 April to 5 May 2024. This will enable us to update the current situation of the Mio classified forest and to identify a buffer zone that can be transferred to the communities. Mio already has a PAG drawn up with the support of Tree Aid during a previous project, which will be extended to include the new buffer zone which will be transferred to the community.

Activity 1.5: Support to community operations for local governance of forest resources within the framework of transferred competence.

In preparation for the transfer of forest and wildlife resource management powers from the state to local authorities the project team has been preparing for the diagnostic mission. Forest Management Plans known as PAGs (Plan d'aménagement et gestion) have already been developed for Safienso, Sanekuy bloc 1 and Sanekuy bloc forests in Project 28-023, also funded by Darwin. In the case of the Mio classified forest, a buffer zone will be identified and demarcated, followed by the transfer and the development of the management plan.

Activity 1.6: Organisation of an exchange visit for 60 local actors on decentralised forest management in the GEDEFOR area.

As part of the project, Tree Aid will collaborate with the Gestion Durable des Forêts" (Sustainable Forest Management; or GEDEFOR) programme. The programme focuses on various aspects of forestry, including conservation, regeneration, and community involvement. GEDEFOR works with local communities and stakeholders to raise awareness about the importance of forests, develop strategies for sustainable forest management, and implement projects to address deforestation and degradation. Tree Aid contacted GEDEFOR and the terms of reference have now been drawn up and future collaboration has been planned (Annexe 4a).

Output 2: 10,000 ha of forest and agricultural and pastoral land benefiting from land restoration activities, through sustainable land management practices and the planting of 3,5 million trees including endangered native species.

Activity 2.3: Plant production in nurseries.

The production and planting of native seedlings is essential to the restoration of all three forest sites. In preparation for the planting season, which is due to commence in June 2024 the project team have identified the quantity and species required. Plant production groups are currently being identified in the Mio area. Planting is planned to take place in three different land use types; forests, pastures and land identified as farmland (agroforestry).

As part of Tree Aid's strategy to support local businesses and foster local ownership of the forests, Tree Aid will work with nurseries based in Tominan. These nurseries have been established by Tree Aid as part of previous projects and offer a local source of seedlings. An estimate of seedlings of different species available is found in Table 1. With the late start-up of activities, nine private nurseries have also been identified (see Table 2) who are already working with Sahel Eco on other projects to support the production of seedlings for the project (Annexe 4b). There are therefore three sources of seedlings, 210,000 plants from tree nurseries established by Tree Aid in previous projects; 210,000 plants from N'Torosso rural resources centre tree nursery; and 210,000 plants from private nurseries. The seeds will be purchased and sowed in May 2024. The selection of 10 endangered species to be planted as part of this project is still currently being decided, and will be reported on in the half-year report. This is because it has been difficult to source high quality seeds for the species that the project was considering. Work is on-going to identify endangered species seeds that can both be purchased and have a high likelihood of successful germination.

Table 1: Seeds to be purchased for seedling production

Species		Forest planting	Agroforestry planting	Pasture planting	Total number of plants	Quantity to be purchased taking losses into account (kg)
<i>Acacia Sénégal</i>	Kamaro sun	20 000		30 000	50 000	15
<i>Adansonia digitata</i>	Sira		30 000		30 000	24
<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>	Anacardier		60 000		60 000	240
<i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i>	Zèkènè	60 000			60 000	240
<i>Bombax costatum</i>	Bumbu	60 000		40 000	100 000	120
<i>Ceiba pentandra</i>	Bana	60 000			60 000	72
<i>Detarium microcarpum</i>	Tabakuba	50 000		40 000	90 000	270
<i>Mangifera indica</i>	Magoro	60 000	60 000		120 000	480
<i>Moringa oleifera</i>	Moringa		60 000		60 000	72
TOTAL		310 000	210 000	110 000	630 000	1533

Table 2: Lists of private nurseries that are producing seedlings for the project.

First name	Surname	Villages	Communes	Telephones

Activity 2.7: Restoration of 5,000 ha of forest by planting 2,000,000 trees.

The first steps have been taken to construct the boulis for the restoration of 5,000 of land. This has involved the identification of degraded land where the plantations will take place this year. The team have subsequently identified suitable sites for the construction of boulis in the forests. These sites need to meet specific hydrological requirements. Once completed, these boulis will offer a source of water that is near the plantation zones, supporting the seedlings in planting site and increasing the survival rate of the trees planted. The construction of the boulis will also reduce pressure on other water sources and provide a source of water in the forest site well into the dry season. The first boulis are planned for constructed in June 2024.

Activity 2.8: Restoration of 2,000ha of farmland.

The project team will work with local farmers to plant trees part as part of the agroforestry planting. To ensure that there is a high rate of survival amongst the seedlings it's essential to work with highly engaged members of the community. The first step of selecting these members of the community is currently underway. This has involved a census of volunteer agroforesters in all of the 46 project villages. The census will identify the trees that are desired by the agroforesters, the reasons they want to participate in the forest and look at the available degraded land for the agroforestry.

Activity 2.9: Rehabilitation of 3,000ha of pastoral land

The identification of degraded pastoral land and areas suitable for the creation of boulis in forests is underway. This process will provide us with sites for the upcoming planting campaign.

Output 3: Increasing income of 2,550 households through sustainable NTFP exploitation.

Activity 3.1: Carrying out a diagnosis of stakeholders and value chains of promising NTFP.

To alleviate poverty within the project area the project will increase the incomes of the households which rely on the forests. This will be achieved through the sustainable exploitation of non—timber forest products (NTFPs). The first step is to understand what value chains currently exist within the project area and understand how the project can intervene in the value chain to increase income for the beneficiaries. In April 2024, a consultant will be recruited to conduct the study. By the week of the 22 April 2024 the diagnostic tools will be validated by both Sahel Eco and Tree Aid and the consultant will begin the data collection phase of his mission.

1.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Strengthening of decentralised forest management at local level (in six communes of the Segou region) as well as at national level.

- Information and awareness-raising meetings are under way in the Tominian area on the establishment of inter-municipal syndicates. The initial diagnosis will be carried out in the Mio forest area in May area.

Output 2: 10,000 ha of forest and agricultural and pastoral land benefiting from land restoration activities, through sustainable land management practices and the planting of 3,5 million trees including endangered native species.

- Meetings to identify agroforesters in the villages, degraded land and pastoral land in the massifs are underway in the Tominian zone. Nursery workers are being identified in the Mio forest area.

Output 3: Increasing income of 2,550 households through sustainable NTFP exploitation.

- As requested by Darwin during the project proposal stage, Tree Aid have recruited livelihood two consultants. Abdoulaye Ouedraogo based in Ouagadougou, is the international consultant. He has travelled once to Bamako to meet the project team in person and understand the project Monitoring and Evaluation in more detail, he has also attended meetings at the Tree Aid office in Ouagadougou to meet the regional management team for West Africa. The national consultant is Bakary Germa from Malian consultancy firm, SADEC Consult SARL. These consultants have worked together to review and analyse the theory of Change, Logical framework and indicators and draw up a new monitoring and evaluation plan . This will result in an RFC during the next quarter for amendments to be made to the project to strengthen the delivery and monitoring of the livelihoods component, increasing the income of 2550 households through sustainable NTFP exploitation.

1.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Outcome: Strengthen local forest governance, investment in forests with endangered indigenous species and valorisation of non-timber forest products for the improvement of the livelihoods of 2,550 households in the Segou region.

It is too early to measure contribution towards the project Outcome.

1.4 Monitoring of assumptions

All assumptions remain valid.

Outcome Level Assumptions

Assumption 1: Climate conditions do not disrupt activities

Assumption 2: Communities are willing to participate in the project

Assumption 3: No significant political instability affects the project region.

Comments:

Climatic conditions within the area remain unpredictable. Mali, like much of the Sahel has experienced extreme heatwaves in 2024. The IPCC highlights that climate change is expected to have a significant impact and multifaceted impact on the drylands of Africa. Due to the early stage of the project, the heatwaves did not impact project activities. A very important climatic condition is the strength and date of arrival of the rainy season. This is yet to be known and the project team will have a better understanding in June 2024. The meetings with local authorities

have highlighted the willingness of communities to participate in the project. Features of the project on national television has have put a positive spotlight on the communities, increasing enthusiasm for the project. Overall, Tree Aid and Sahel Eco have a long-established presence in the forest sites, having previously collaborated with local communities to establish the PAGs. Going forward, community participation will be further solidified through the drafting of partnership protocols and training of members of the different forests. Political instability continues to impact Mali and on a regional level the area remains insecure, with the UK advising against all travel to the area. However, our strong ties with local authorities within the Segou region means we are confident that work can continue in the area.

Output level assumptions

Output 1

Assumption 1: Households and communities allow women to participate in forest governance activities.

Assumption 2: Laws on forest governance remain favourable.

Comments:

Women play a pivotal role in the success of the project, particularly within a societal context where they often face disempowerment. Ensuring the active inclusion of women in project activities is a core principle, vital for both the effective implementation of ground-level initiatives and their increased involvement in forest resource management. Past projects have shown progress in enhancing women's participation in forest management. While no issues regarding the involvement of women in forest governance have been raised thus far, close monitoring of this aspect will remain a priority. The national policy towards decentralised forest governance continues to be supportive. Tree Aid maintains its advocacy efforts for decentralised forest governance throughout the Sahel region. Together with our partners, we have taken significant strides in promoting this methodology across the Sahel, and there is ongoing momentum in favor of this approach.

Output 2

Assumption 1: Climatic conditions are favourable to chosen species.

Assumption 2: No major droughts, bushfires, or floods affect tree survival.

Assumption 3: Participants engage with natural resource management technique training activities.

Assumption 4: Participants adopt the techniques taught.

Assumption 5: Community members are available for planting days.

Comments:

As highlighted in the outcome indicators, the climatic conditions continue to be unpredictable, and the country has experienced extreme drought. It is still premature to assess the impact of the heatwave on the availability of certain species. Additionally, due to the absence of planting activities thus far, it is too early to determine the effects of natural disasters on tree survival. The training on natural resource management has not been conducted yet, hence it is premature to gauge the community's participation or their adoption of techniques. Similarly, it is too early to comment on their availability during the scheduled planting days.

Output 3:

Assumption 1: Households and communities allow women to engage in VTE and nutrition garden groups.

Assumption 2: Climatic conditions favour produce chosen by VTE groups and the production of the nutrition gardens

Comments:

It is too soon to assess the participation of women in the VTE and Nutrition garden groups at this stage. Similarly, it is too early to evaluate the production within these groups.

1.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty reduction

Improving biodiversity and reducing poverty in the Ségou region by promoting and implementing decentralised forest governance. It is too early to comment on the project's contribution to the high-level impact on biodiversity conservation, human development and well-being. Project activities have only just begun.

2. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

It is too early to comment on the project's support for conventions, treaties or agreements. Project activities have only just begun.

3. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

It is too early to say to what extent the project will help to reduce poverty. Project activities have only just begun. The baseline has now been established. Mean household income is 1,226.98 US\$ with a mean NTFP income of 136.66 US\$. The aim is to increase household income by 100% to 2,453.96 US\$ and NTFP income by 175% to 375.815 US\$. The poverty rate (cash income) is 97.03%. The aim is to reduce this by 10% to 87.03%. See section 7 for more details on the M&E activity from this year.

4. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	0
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women ² .	In terms of project staff, we have 2 female facilitators (1 for Tree Aid and 1 for Sahel Eco). This means that 50% of the field staff are women.

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	

¹ A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

² Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	x
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It is too early to comment on the project's support for gender equality and social inclusion. Project activities have only just begun. However, the project is built on the principal of 'do no harm' and project design is based on a thorough understanding of the broader context in the intervention area to mitigate potential negative consequences from activities. Women across Mali are impacted by gender inequality, with Malian society being highly patriarchal and unequal. Women in Mali are traditionally absent from natural resources management decision-making and lack access to credit, information and technical training. Therefore, women are disproportionately affected by extreme poverty.

The project will actively target women and ensure inclusion in project activities and outcomes, tackling barriers around the perceived traditional roles of women. To ensure women's participation, techniques such as sensitising community leaders and project stakeholders on gender issues will be utilised. To ensure women can effectively participate and access training, activities will take place at times and locations that facilitate women's attendance.

To ensure greater inclusion in the decentralised governance structures, the project will develop a gender strategy. The strategy will support women's active participation in the forest management process to increase their sense of ownership over natural resources. The project will target 50% women in cooperatives, which is a realistic target given the context of the area. More globally the gender strategy will allow us to advocate for more inclusive forest governance at the national level.

Women will be empowered through participating in enterprise development (50% membership) and nutrition gardens (100% membership), contributing to household income, increasing skills and confidence through training, and taking up leadership positions within the organisations. This will increase women's voice in household and community decision-making and control over their lives.

Ensuring meaningful participation and women's leadership in VTEs, nutrition gardens and forest management cooperatives is crucial to success. By improving gender equality and empowering women to be more active in communal decision-making, local communities are more likely to monitor and assess long-term risks and manage and work with nature for long-term benefits.

Previous Tree Aid projects have found as women's contribution to household income increases so does their decision-making power and control over household savings. The Rural Household Multi-Indicator Survey (RHoMIS) survey done in 2020 at the end of the Ref. 24-022 project showed that 87% of women reported a moderate to equal ability to choose how to spend their own income (compared to 29% from a control group of households as measured in the baseline of a new project in a neighbouring region of Mali). 56% of women also reported that their suggestions are considered in the household and 59% in the community. 75% of women said they had moderate to equal control over household savings (compared to 29% from a control group of households as measured in the baseline of a new project). From this, we can ascertain that the project appears to have supported women to have more say and control over their resources and is likely to have improved the status of women in the communities

5. Monitoring and evaluation

M&E 1: Project Launch. On 21 March 2024 a workshop to formally launch the Local Governance of Forest Resources in Mali project, known in Bambara as "Anw Ka Siguida", which means 'Our Land' was held in the conference room of the Kôrè cultural centre in Sébougou. The event was chaired by the Legal Affairs Adviser to the Governor of Ségou. A total of 65 people, including 7 women, took part. Further details and the videos can be found in Activity 1.1.



M&E 2: Baseline Rhomis.

To understand the improvement of livelihoods of the project beneficiaries, we will monitor the household income and the percentage of the income which is derived from NTFPs and the percentage of households which are living below the poverty line. The data was collected via the Tree Aid socio-economic bespoke data collection survey, Rural Household Multi-Indicator Survey (RHoMIS). Data was collected in March 2024 and analysed in April 2024 with a total of 239 households taking part. Some of the key findings are outlined below:

- Mean household income is 1,226.98 US\$ with a mean NTFP income of 136.66 US\$. The aim is to increase household income by 100% to 2,453.96 US\$ and NTFP income by 175% to 375.815 US\$.
- The poverty rate (in terms of cash income) is 97.03%. The aim is to reduce this by 10% to 87.03%.
- 62% of respondents report good forest governance in their communities, the aim is to increase to 82% by the end of the project.
- 64% of women report equal or more power than their partners. The aim is to increase this by 15 percentage points to 79%.

M&E 5: Baseline Ecological Survey.

A consultant will be recruited from ICDI SARL (*Ingénieurs Conseils pour le Développement Intégré*). The scoping meeting for the start of activities will be held at the Tree Aid AID Mali office in Bamako on 16 April 2024. The study is planned to be conducted in the May 2024.

M&E 8 : Follow up Tree Aid Mali.

From 28 February to 2 March 2024, a mission of the Mio area was conducted, consisting of the Country Programme Manager of Tree Aid Mali, the Project Coordinator, Project Facilitator and Driver. The overall objective was to assess the status of forest management structures in the classified forest of Mio and to meet with tree nurseries in the area. Specific objectives included holding meetings with the municipal councils of Kolongo and Sibila to introduce the project and discuss forest management structures, meeting with the administration and technical services of the Mio area, meeting with tree nurseries, and introducing the staff to authorities. Results of the mission included meetings with the municipal councils, the prefecture, the Office du Niger, and the presentation of the project to various authorities. Achievements included positive responses from the municipal councils, the prefecture, and the Office du Niger, but challenges such as forest degradation, permit issues between Kolongo and Macina, land management by the Office du Niger, and insufficient village representation from Kolongo were noted. Recommendations included involving Office du Niger representatives, writing to the Office du Niger's general directorate for support, and mobilizing funds to include all villages adjacent to the forest.

M&E 9: M&E workshop.

From April 4th to 5th, 2024, the annual planning meeting for the Anw Ka Siguida project took place at the Tree Aid Mali office in Bamako. Attendees included various project coordinators, administrative and financial assistants, as well as representatives from Sahel Eco. The objectives of the two-day meeting were to present and explain project activities, discuss implementation issues, and plan the year's activities. Detailed discussions covered topics such as validating PAGs, diagnosing the Mio area, establishing forestry services, creating collaborative agreements with nurseries, purchasing supplies, planting in designated villages, awareness-raising in communities, and revising uncompleted activities. Recommendations included creating demonstration sites for protected plantations and training individuals in agroecological practices.



6. Lessons learnt

The project was slow to get started due to delays with the signing of the contract by the implementation partner Sahel Eco. The process took longer than expected due to discussions on modes of delivery and salaries for staff. The contractual process was more complicated than expected, with the implementation partner querying certain aspects of the contract. The resolution of these issues took longer than we expected as they were raised at different times, so the contracting process went through several rounds of discussions. In December and January, we were hoping to be able to make up for lost time, but it wasn't until early February that we realised the delay with starting has made it hard for us to spend all the first six months of the Year 1 budget. In addition, we are working with an international livelihood consultant, as recommended by Darwin Extra, to review the Theory of Change and Log Frame to ensure all activities make the most impact possible on the livelihoods of the beneficiaries. We thought it prudent to wait for this exercise to be conducted before starting activities in case the consultant recommends any changes. The consultant has now reviewed the TOC and Logframe which have been agreed with stakeholders.

What worked well was the anticipation of certain activities such as the baseline studies and the hiring of consultants for certain project studies. If we did the project again, we would ensure the project design was worked on more closely with the partner to ensure we could sign the contract with the implementing partner as quickly as possible so as not to delay project activities. We would do everything possible to start project activities early. We're going to use this learning throughout the implementation of the project by anticipating activities as much as possible. We're not going to make the same mistake of signing the implementing partner's contract late.

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

N/a

8. Risk Management

There were no other risks over the past year.

9. Sustainability and legacy

It's too early to say anything about sustainability and legacy. Project activities have only just begun.

10. Darwin Initiative identity

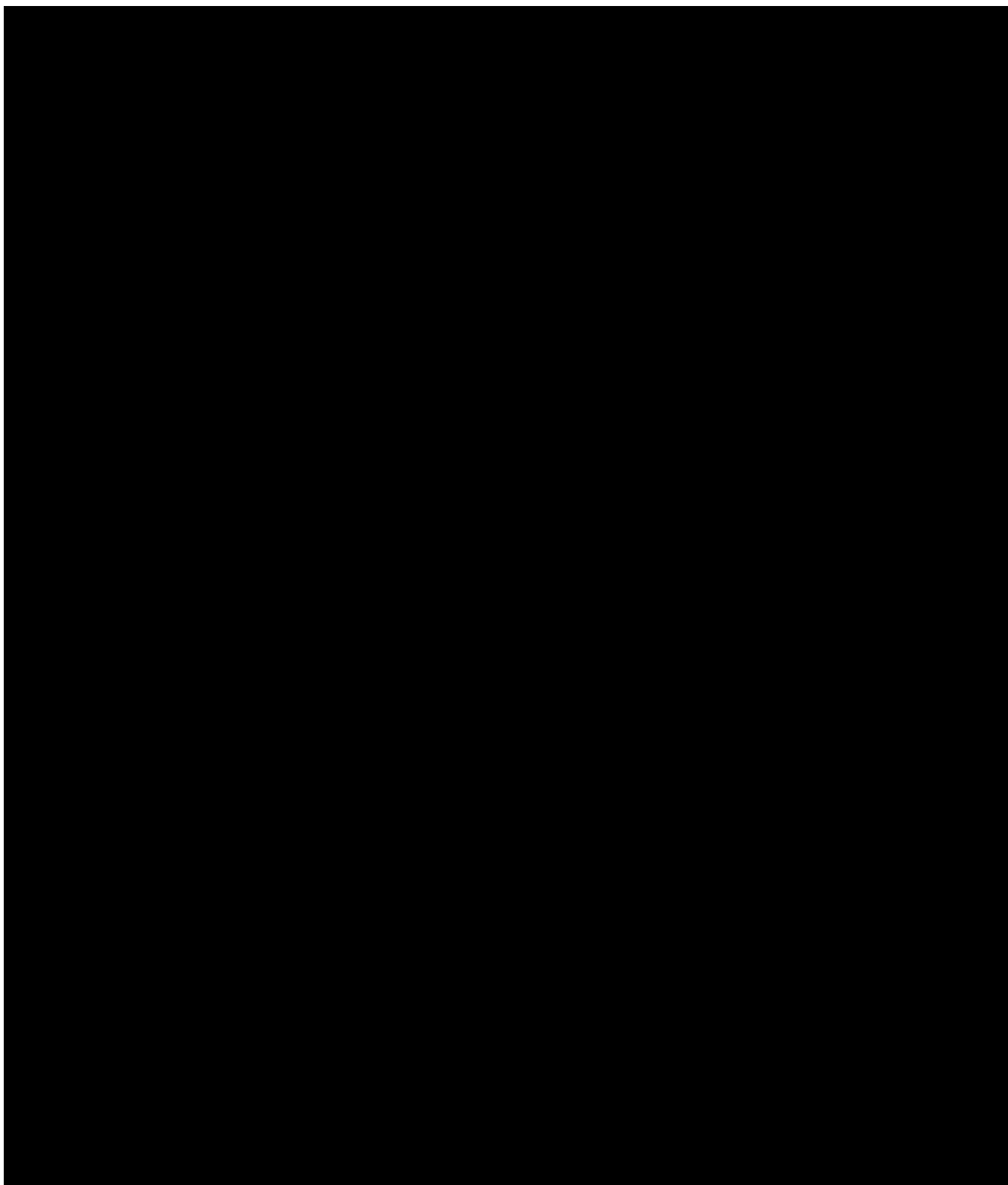
The Darwin initiative was widely publicised at the launch of the project in Ségou with t-shirts, caps and banners. In addition, the launch of the project was filmed and recorded in audio and broadcast on national television and radio (Office de Radiotélévision du Mali: ORTM) on 23 March 2024 as well as a private television channel, Renouveau TV on 26 March 2024.



Still from the Renouveau TV broadcast showing the Darwin logo.

Beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the British government for funding a project vital amidst climate change, highlighting its timely assistance in forest management. They acknowledged the distinct identity of Darwin funding, recognizing its efforts in biodiversity improvement and poverty reduction for vulnerable communities. The initiative's impact resonates, with beneficiaries understanding its broader objectives and contributions to environmental sustainability and socioeconomic development within the region.

11. Safeguarding



12. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24 Total Darwin Initiative Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)

Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)				
Other: RFC deferral Partner advance				
TOTAL	£247,718	£247,718		

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			Vegfam Trust, Rolfe Charitable Trust, Ypres City
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)	0	0	

13. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

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

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

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

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2023-2024

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact Improving biodiversity and reducing poverty in the Segou region through the promotion and implementation of decentralised forest governance		Too early to report progress.	
Outcome Strengthen local forest governance, investment in forests with endangered indigenous species and valorization of non-timber forest products for the improvement of the livelihoods of 2,550 households in the Segou region	Indicator 1: 100% increase in total household income and 175% increase in household income from NTFPs from the project baseline by the end of the project. Indicator 2: 26,700 hectares benefiting for sustainable management by the end of the project. Indicator 3: 15% increase in tree species diversity in forest areas compared to the project baseline by the end of the project. Indicator 4: 50% increase in the municipal budget for forest governance by the end of the project. Indicator 5: 10% reduction in the number of households below the Poverty Line (\$2.15/MAE/day) from baseline, by the end of the project (based on cash income).	1: Baseline established: Mean household income \$1,266.98, Mean NTFP income \$136.66 2. Too early to report progress. 3. Too early to report progress. 4. Too early to report progress. 5 Baseline established: Poverty rate (cash income) 97.03%.	
Output 1. Strengthening of decentralised forest management at local level (in 6 communes of the Segou region) as well as at national level.	Indicator 1.1: Decentralized forest management applied to three forests by the end of year 2 Indicator 1.2: Three functional and competent cooperatives for the management of the forest area by the end of year 2.	1.1 N/A for this year's reporting 1.2 N/A for this year's reporting 1.3 N/A for this year's reporting	

	<p>Indicator 1.3: 20% increase in good forest governance, for households and communities (as demonstrated through improved access to and control of forest resources, and the development of local management tools)</p> <p>Indicator 1.4: 50% of Mio Forest management cooperative members are women by end of year 1. <i>Year 1 milestone target: 50% women</i></p>	1.4 N/A for this year's reporting	
Activity 1.1 Establishment of 3 inter-municipal syndicates for the management of the natural resources.		Contact has been made with local authorities.	Information/awareness-raising for local stakeholders (village chiefs, representatives of the various management bodies of the different forest management cooperatives, cofo, local authorities, administration, technical services, etc.). Support for the drafting of the texts and regulations of the inter-communal syndicates through a consultant at the general meeting. Organisation of a workshop to set up syndicates for each forest (Safienso, Sanekuy, Mio). Feedback, validation and deliberation by the communities. Approval by the supervisory bodies. Equipment support for syndicates. Training of intercommunal syndicates in intercommunality
Activity 1.2 Facilitation of meetings of the inter-municipal syndicates.		No progress	Organisation of ordinary meetings. Supplying and keeping minutes. Support for approval of resolutions by government supervisory bodies
Activity 1.3: Training of 40 local stakeholders on Malian regulations for natural resource management and decentralisation in the forestry sector.		No progress	Drawing up the ToR and training budget. Organisation of the training workshop.
Activity 1.4: Drafting and signing of partnership protocols between communities, technical services and cooperatives for the forest management.		Diagnostic mission and workshop	Initial diagnosis. Identification and demarcation of a buffer zone in the Mio area

Activity 1.5: Support to community operations for local governance of forest resources within the framework of transferred competence.	Preliminary work undertaken relating to the 1.4.	No planned activity
Activity 1.6: Organisation of an exchange visit for 60 local actors on decentralised forest management in the GEDEFOR area.	Contact has been made with GEDEFOR coordination, and the ToRs and budget for the visit are being drawn up.	Drawing up ToR and a budget for the visit. Organisation of the visit
Activity 1.7: Capacity building of Mio brigade members in ecological monitoring.	No progress	No planned activity
Activity 1.8: Training of 60 members of the local consultation framework on participatory conflict management.	No progress	No planned activity
1.9- Revitalization of resource management cooperative of Mio and the surveillance brigade	No progress	Organisation of a meeting to reorganise the committee. Setting up a central natural resources surveillance brigade. Setting up/ revitalising the Mio forest natural resource management cooperative. Support for committee equipment. Support for periodic meetings of the monitoring committees. Setting up a system for managing disputes and reporting information to departments
1.10- Training of cooperative members on governance, organisational management, market access and marketing	No progress	No planned activity
1.11- Training of Mio cooperative members on management tools and implementation of forest management plans	No progress	No planned activity
1.12- Support to the cooperatives and the surveillance brigades with equipment for forest development and surveillance	No progress	No planned activity
1.13- Establishment of 1 consultation framework for Mio	No progress	Contacting the players. Drawing up ToR and budget. Setting up the Mio consultation framework
1.14- Facilitation of meetings of the consultation framework	No progress	No planned activity
1.15- Organise a national workshop to present the results of the study on the contribution of forests to the local economy	No progress	No planned activity

1.16- Development of a communication strategy for the promotion of the forest governance		No progress	No planned activity
1.17- Organisation of communal training workshops on leadership techniques and advocacy for the local governance of forest resources in local planning		No progress	No planned activity
1.18- Development of a gender strategy		No progress	No planned activity
1.19- Organisation of communal training workshops on gender and social inclusion		No progress	No planned activity
Output 2. 10,000 ha of forest and agricultural and pastoral land benefiting from land restoration activities, through sustainable land management practices and the planting of 3,5 million trees including endangered native species.	Indicator 2.1: 10,000ha of land (Ha) in and around the Mio, Safienso and Sanekuy Forests benefiting from restoration activities by end of project. Indicator 2.2: 3,500,000 of trees planted on 10,000ha by year the end of year 4 Indicator 2.3 :10 native endangered species introduced by the end of the project Indicator 2.4: 3 sustainable land management techniques used by 2,300 farmers (#) - disaggregated by Biological, Soil Water Conservation, and Gully Control. Baseline: Using any: 59 (24.7%), Using bio: 53 (22.2%), Using SWC: 45 (18.8%), Using gully: 10 (4.2%)	2.1 Too early for results. 2.2 Too early for results. 2.3 Too early for results. 2.4 Too early for results.	
2.1- Installation of 1 nursery		Seeds quantities estimated by planting site.	Identification of plant production groups in the Mio area. Search for space. Recruitment of a civil engineering firm to drill a solar well and fence off the nursery. Nursery equipment
2.2- Training of the nursery members on seedling production and grafting techniques		No progress	Drawing up a ToR and training budget. Training session on seedling production
2.3- Plant production in nurseries		Estimating on seedlings in nurseries in progress. Private nurseries identified to support production	Purchase of inputs (pots, seeds and herbicides). Monitoring and maintenance of plant production.

		Estimation of plants already available from partner nurseries in the Tominian area
2.4- Installation of 3 seed production groves of endangered plant species	No progress	No planned activity
2.5- Training of the seed production groves members	No progress	No planned activity
2.6- Installation of 3 seed banks for endangered forest species	No progress	No planned activity
2.7- Restoration of 5,000 ha of forest by planting 2,000,000 trees	Identification of degraded land and areas suitable for boulis in forests is underway	Identifying the needs of species to be planted in the Mio forest. Identification and demarcation of 500 ha of reforestation areas. Purchase and distribution of mechanical drilling machines. Identification of suitable areas or locations in the forests with the communities for the creation of boulis. RDT for the recruitment of a service provider for boulis
2.8- Restoration of 2,000ha of farmland	A census of volunteer agroforesters in the 46 project villages is currently underway	Identification of species to be planted by volunteer farmers. Training of 4600 beneficiaries at village level in good agroecological practices. Identification of volunteer farmers with 400 ha of degraded land. Equipment support CES DRS
2.9- Rehabilitation of 3,000ha of pastoral land	The identification of degraded pastoral land and areas suitable for the creation of boulis in forests is underway	Identification of species to be planted on pastoral land with communities. Identification and demarcation of 500 ha of pastoral land. Securing planting sites. Identification of areas or locations on pastoral land with communities that are suitable for boulis. Recruitment of service providers for boulis
2.10- Organisation of an annual competition to reward communities with the best reforestation survival rates	No progress	No activities planned.
2.11- Opening and maintenance of 3,000 km of firebreaks	No progress	No activities planned.

<p>Output 3.</p> <p>Increasing income of 2,550 households through sustainable NTFP exploitation.</p>	<p>Indicator: 3.1: 30 VTE groups established (where 50% of VTE members are women) by end of year 1 with an Enterprise Development Plans by the end of year 2.</p> <p>Indicator 3.2: 30 nutrition gardens established by year 1</p> <p>Indicator 3.3: 2,175 women involved in income generating activities by the end of the project.</p> <p>Indicator 3.4: Average annual turnover for active VTEs established and increase to \$2,000.</p> <p>Indicator 3.5: 15% increase in the proportion of women who report equal (or more) power than their partner. Baseline: 64% (of women report equal or more power than their partners).</p>	<p>3.1 <i>Too early for results</i></p> <p>3.2 <i>Too early for results</i></p> <p>3.3 <i>Too early for results</i></p> <p>3.4 <i>Too early for results</i></p> <p>3.5 <i>Too early for results</i></p>	
<p>3.1- Carrying out a diagnosis of stakeholders and value chains of promising NTFP</p>	<p>A consultant has been recruited to carry out this study.</p>	<p>Data collection during week of 22 April 2024. Monitoring the consultant's work</p>	
<p>3.2- Establishment of 30 VTEs</p>	<p>No progress</p>	<p>Identification of dynamic villages committed to land restoration activities. Setting up groups around promising non-timber forest products</p>	
<p>3.3- Development of 30 Business Development Plans for the VTEs</p>	<p>No progress</p>	<p>No activities planned.</p>	
<p>3.4- Training of groups on NTFP processing and conservation techniques to improve product quality</p>	<p>No progress</p>	<p>No activities planned.</p>	
<p>3.5- Installation of 3 multifunctional solar mini-platforms (solar factories) for various processing uses of NTFPs</p>	<p>No progress</p>	<p>No activities planned.</p>	

3.6- Training of beekeepers in modern beekeeping techniques	No progress	No activities planned.
3.7- Equip producers with 150 modern beehives and other beekeeping equipment	No progress	No activities planned.
3.8- Installation of 2 NTPF sales points/stores to promote NTFP marketing	No progress	No activities planned.
3.9- Equip NTFP processing units with modern packaging and labelling materials to facilitate packaging and marketing of their products	No progress	No activities planned.
3.10- Support producers and processors to participate in various national and state fairs and other trade events	No progress	No activities planned.
3.11- Installation of 30 nutrient gardens with solar drainage systems	No progress	No activities planned.
3.12- Support to production in the gardens	No progress	No activities planned.
3.13- Training of women in nutrition garden production	No progress	No activities planned.
3.14- Workshop to connect with buyers	No progress	No activities planned.
3.15- Support for transplantation of nutrition garden plant	No progress	No activities planned.

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: Improving biodiversity and reducing poverty in the Segou region through the promotion and implementation of decentralised forest governance .			

<p>Outcome:</p> <p>Strengthen local forest governance, investment in forests with endangered indigenous species and valorization of non-timber forest products for the improvement of the livelihoods of 2,550 households in the Segou region</p>	<p>Indicator 1: 100% increase in total household income and 175% increase in household income from NTFPs from the project baseline by the end of the project . Baseline: Mean household income \$1,266.98, Mean NTFP income \$136.66</p> <p>Indicator 2: 26,700 hectares benefiting for sustainable management by the end of the project</p> <p>Indicator 3: 15% increase in tree species diversity in forest areas compared to the project baseline by the end of the project. Baseline: xxxx</p> <p>Indicator 4: 50% increase in the municipal budget for forest governance by the end of the project. Baseline: xxxx</p> <p>Indicator 5: 10% reduction in the number of households below the Poverty Line (\$2.15/MAE/day) from baseline, by the end of the project (based on cash income). Baseline: (Poverty rate (cash income) 97.03% , Poverty rate (total value of activities) 69.9%</p>	<p>RHoMIS (Rural Household Multiple Indicator Survey).</p> <p>Management plans, by-laws, Ecological Survey (tbc),</p> <p>Ecological Survey (including PMPs); Land restoration Survey; PCQ Survey</p> <p>Plan d'Action Annuel de Commune; Published annually.</p> <p>RHoMIS (Rural Household Multiple Indicator Survey);</p>	<p>Climatic conditions do not disrupt activities</p> <p>Communities are willing to participate in the project</p> <p>No significant political instability effects the project region.</p>
<p>Output 1</p> <p>Strengthening of decentralised forest management at local level (in 6 communes of the Segou region) as well as at national level.</p>	<p>1.1: Decentralized forest management applied to three forests by the end of year 2</p> <p>1.2: Three functional and competent cooperatives for the management of the forest area by the end of year 2.</p> <p>1.3: 20% increase in good forest governance, for households and communities (as demonstrated through improved access to and control of forest resources, and the development of local management tools)</p> <p>1.4: 50% of Mio forest management cooperative members are women by end of year 1.</p>	<p>1.1: Management contract between the state and the communities</p> <p>1.2: Organisational Capacity Assessments (OCAT) survey; Project records</p> <p>1.3: Forest Governance survey (RHoMIS)</p> <p>1.4: Organisational Capacity Assessments (OCAT) survey; Project records</p>	<p>Households and communities allow women to participate in forest governance activities.</p> <p>Laws on decentralised forest governance remain favourable</p>

<p>Output 2</p> <p>10,000 ha of forest and agricultural and pastoral land benefiting from land restoration activities, through sustainable land management practices and the planting of 3,5 million trees including endangered native .</p>	<p>2.1: 10,000ha of land (Ha) in and around the Mio, Safiensa and Sanekuy Forests benefiting from restoration activities by end of project.</p> <p>2.2: 3,500,000 of trees planted on 10,000ha by year the end of year 4</p> <p>2.3: 10 native endangered species introduced by the end of the project</p> <p>2.4: Three sustainable land management techniques used by 2,300 farmers (#) - disaggregated by Biological, Soil Water Conservation, and Gully Control. Baseline: Using any: 59 (24.7%), Using bio: 53 (22.2%), Using SWC: 45 (18.8%), Using gully: 10 (4.2%).</p>	<p>2.1: Land Restoration Survey</p> <p>2.2: Land Restoration Survey and project records.</p> <p>2.3: Land Restoration Survey and project records.</p> <p>2.4: Agroforestry Survey)</p>	<p>Climatic conditions are favourable to chosen species.</p> <p>No major droughts, bush fires, or floods effect tree survival rates</p> <p>Participants engage with natural resource management technique training activities. Participants adopt the techniques tough.</p> <p>Community members are present for the planting days</p>
<p>Output 3</p> <p>Increasing income of 2,550 households through sustainable NTFP exploitation.</p>	<p>3.1: 30 VTE groups established (where 50% of VTE members are women) by end of year 1 with an Enterprise Development Plans by the end of year 2.</p> <p>3.2: 30 nutrition gardens established by year 1</p> <p>3.3: 2,175 women involved in income generating activities by the end of the project.</p> <p>3.4: Average annual turnover for active VTEs established and increase to \$2,000.</p> <p>3.5: 15% increase in the proportion of women who report equal (or more) power than their partner. Baseline: 64% (of women report equal or more power then their partners),</p>	<p>3.1: Product & Value Chain survey; OCAT survey; Project records</p> <p>3.2: Product & Value Chain survey; OCAT survey; Project records</p> <p>3.3: Organisational Capacity Assessments (OCAT) survey, Project records</p> <p>3.4: VTE sales records; Enterprise Development Plan (EDP) assessment survey (ODK form)</p> <p>3.5: Voice, Choice and Control module (Rhomis)</p>	<p>Households and communities allow women to engage in VTE and nutrition garden groups.</p> <p>Climatic conditions favour produce chosen by VTE groups and the production of the nutrition gardens</p>
<p>Activities</p> <p>1.1- Establishment of 3 inter-municipal syndicates for the management of the natural resources</p> <p>1.2- Facilitation of meetings of the inter-municipal syndicates</p> <p>1.3- Training of 40 local stakeholders on Malian regulations for natural resource management and decentralisation in the forestry sector</p> <p>1.4- Drafting and signing of partnership protocols between communities, technical services and cooperatives for the forest management</p> <p>1.5- Support to community operations for local governance of forest resources within the framework of transferred competence</p>			

- 1.6- Organisation of an exchange visit for 60 local actors on decentralised forest management in the GEDEFOR area
- 1.7- Capacity building of Mio brigade members in ecological monitoring
- 1.8- Training of 60 members of the local consultation framework on participatory conflict management
- 1.9- Revitalization of resource management cooperative of Mio and the surveillance brigade
- 1.10- Training of cooperative members on governance, organisational management, market access and marketing
- 1.11- Training of Mio cooperative members on management tools and implementation of forest management plans
- 1.12- Support to the cooperatives and the surveillance brigades with equipment for forest development and surveillance
- 1.13- Establishment of 1 consultation framework for Mio
- 1.14- Facilitation of meetings of the consultation framework
- 1.15- Organise a national workshop to present the results of the study on the contribution of forests to the local economy
- 1.16- Development of a communication strategy for the promotion of the forest governance
- 1.17- Organisation of communal training workshops on leadership techniques and advocacy for the local governance of forest resources in local planning
- 1.18- Development of a gender strategy
- 1.19- Organisation of communal training workshops on gender and social inclusion

- 2.1- Installation of 1 nursery
- 2.2- Training of the nursery members on seedling production and grafting techniques
- 2.3- Plant production in nurseries
- 2.4- Installation of 3 seed production groves of endangered plant species
- 2.5- Training of the seed production groves members
- 2.6- Installation of 3 seed banks for endangered forest species
- 2.7- Restoration of 5,000 ha of forest by planting 2,000,000 trees
- 2.8- Restoration of 2,000ha of farmland
- 2.9- Rehabilitation of 3,000ha of pastoral land
- 2.10- Organisation of an annual competition to reward communities with the best reforestation survival rates
- 2.11- Opening and maintenance of 3,000 km of firebreaks

- 3.1- Carrying out a diagnosis of stakeholders and value chains of promising NTFP
- 3.2- Establishment of 30 VTEs

- 3.3- Development of 30 Business Development Plans for the VTEs
- 3.4- Training of groups on NTFP processing and conservation techniques to improve product quality
- 3.5- Installation of 3 multifunctional solar mini-platforms (solar factories) for various processing uses of NTFPs
- 3.6- Training of beekeepers in modern beekeeping techniques
- 3.7- Equip producers with 150 modern beehives and other beekeeping equipment
- 3.8- Installation of 2 NTFP sales points/stores to promote NTFP marketing
- 3.9- Equip NTFP processing units with modern packaging and labelling materials to facilitate packaging and marketing of their products
- 3.10- Support producers and processors to participate in various national and state fairs and other trade events
- 3.11- Installation of 30 nutrient gardens with solar drainage systems
- 3.12- Support to production in the gardens
- 3.13- Training of women in nutrition garden production
- 3.14- Workshop to connect with buyers
- 3.15- Support for transplantation of nutrition garden plant

M&E 1-Launching the project

M&E 2-Baseline (RHoMIS)

M&E 3-Endline(RHoMIS)

M&E 4-Mid-term evaluation

M&E 5-Baseline Ecological Survey

M&E 6-Endline Ecological Survey

M&E 7- Study on the contribution of forests to the local economy

M&E 8- Follow up by Tree Aid Mali

M&E 9- M&E workshop

M&E 10- Qualitative Data Analysis & visualization

M&E 11- Qualitative Data Collection

M&E 12- Land Restoration Survey-ODK module

M&E 13- VTE Assessments-ODK modules

M&E 14- PCQ Assessments- ODK models

M&E 15- Perimeter & Land Use Survey- ODK module

M&E 16- Data storage/management

M&E 17- Follow up by TAWA and Tree Aid UK

M&E 18- Organisation of a national workshop to disseminate the results

M&E 19- External evaluation

M&E 20- Audit

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-E03	0.1 - 100% increase in total household income and 175% increase in household income from NTFPs from the project baseline by the end of the project	CFA	None	No data collection budget	TBC	Mean hh income \$ 2,533.96 Mean NTFP income \$239.155	0	Mean hh income \$ 2,533.96 Mean NTFP income \$239.155
DI-D01	0.2 - 26,700 hectares benefiting for sustainable management by the end of the project	Hectares	None	No data collection budget	No data collection budget	26,700	0	26,700
DI-B03	1.1 Decentralized forest management applied to three forests by the end of year 2	Plans	None	0	3	3	0	3
DI-A03	1.2 Three functional and competent cooperatives for the management of the forest area by the end of year 2.	Local/national organisations	None	0	3	3	0	3
DI-D12	2.1 10,000ha of land (Ha) in and around the Mio, Safienssa and Sanekuy Forests benefiting from restoration activities by end of project.	Hectares	Forest, pastoral land, agricultural land	a) year 1: 500ha b) year 1: 500ha c) year 1: 400ha	a) year 3: 4,250ha b) year 3: 3,000ha c) year 3: 2,000ha	a) year 5: 5,000ha b) year 5: 3,000ha c) year 5: 2,000ha	0	a) 5,000 ha of forest b) 3,000ha of pastoral land c) 2,000ha of agricultural land

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-D11	Three sustainable land management techniques used by 2,300 farmers (#) - disaggregated by Biological, Soil Water Conservation, and Gully Control.	People	Biological, Soil Water Conservation, Gully Control	No data collection budget	No data collection budget	2,300	0	2,300

Table 2 Publications

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

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	Yes
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	Yes
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	n/a
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Yes
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 16)?	No
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	No
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	