

Darwin Initiative Main & 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 2025

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Darwin Initiative Project Information

Scheme (Main or Extra)	Extra
Project reference	DAREX010
Project title	Thriving together: lasting solutions for collaborative management of tamaraw landscapes
Country/ies	Philippines
Lead Organisation	Re:wild
Project partner(s)	D'ABOVILLE Foundation and Demo Farm, Inc. and Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc.
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Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024 – Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	01/09/2024 - 31/03/2025 Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Dr. Tobias Garstecki
Project website/blog/social media	Under construction
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1. Project summary

This project addresses the urgent conservation crisis facing the Critically Endangered tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*), which is endemic to Mindoro Island in the Philippines. The tamaraw's population, estimated at just 300–400 individuals in 2024 (based on the most recent surveys using customized monitoring techniques), is confined to three isolated landscapes and threatened by land-use pressure, habitat degradation and poaching. These threats also impact broader ecosystems that support a range of globally important biodiversity. The tamaraw's survival is intricately linked with the traditional lands and way of life of the Indigenous Taobuid and Alangan communities, whose cultural and ecological knowledge has helped preserve these landscapes for generations.

The project pursues collaborative tamaraw conservation by addressing the interconnected challenges of multidimensional poverty, food insecurity, erosion of Indigenous culture, weak land governance and poor conservation capacity. Many Indigenous families live in remote, resource-dependent areas and face vulnerability due to diminishing access to usable land and increasingly unstable traditional practices like shifting cultivation. These pressures are compounded by a lack of institutional support and recognition of Indigenous land rights.

Building on successful interventions piloted under the previous Darwin Main project “Creating a sustainable landscape for the Tau-Buid and the Tamaraw”, the project scales from Mounts Iglit Baco Natural Park (MIBNP) to the entire range of the tamaraw a collaborative approach to conservation that emphasizes co-management, Indigenous leadership, science-based planning, and policy alignment. It has been informed by socio-cultural and ecological research, participatory assessments and national frameworks including the Tamaraw Conservation Management Action Plan and the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

The project spans all known tamaraw habitats, including MIBNP, SADIK (Siburan, Aruyan, Dangari, Iyason, Kinarawan; formerly Aruyan-Malati), and well as Mount Patrick and Upper Amnay - Mount Gimparay in Inner Mindoro (Annex 4.01), and is being implemented in partnership with Indigenous institutions, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Local Government Units (LGUs), higher national education institutions and others.

Through five integrated Outputs - improved enabling framework, data and information generation, lasting capacity, threat monitoring and reduction, and collaborative landscape management - the project works to ensure a lasting, community-led conservation model. It is expected to benefit the tamaraw, other associated biodiversity, and human development, creating a scalable model for conservation in culturally and ecologically sensitive landscapes.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

There are three interconnected layers of project stakeholders and partners: At the core are the Indigenous communities who share their living space with the tamaraw and whose daily lives are most closely intertwined with it. Surrounding them are the people, agencies, and organisations directly involved in tamaraw conservation, such as the Tamaraw Conservation Program Office (TCPO), the MIBNP Protected Area Management Office (MIBNP PAMO), other offices of DENR, and LGUs. In the outer layer are individuals and groups who are interested in tamaraw conservation and Indigenous peoples’ concerns but are not directly engaged in work with the core communities.

The project is now in constant communication with the Taobuid in MIBNP and attending their elder-leaders’ regular monthly meetings. In these meetings, issues relevant to tamaraw conservation are discussed, addressed, and agreed upon. Elder-leaders expressed their interest for the project to assist them in:

- Mapping and analysing the relationship between organic Indigenous political structures and those that were introduced by the State, e.g. Indigenous Peoples’ Organisation, the Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative, and Indigenous village leaders associated with the barangay local government unit;
- Conducting awareness-raising on their indigenous knowledge systems and practices internally among the Taobuid and externally with DENR staff with whom they interact;
- Extending to the lowland Indigenous communities the permaculture-related activities started by a previous Darwin-supported project in the uplands of MIBNP;
- Continuing to support their application for a Certificate of Ancestral Domain (CADT).

The Taobuid IPs in SADIK have also welcomed the project, TCPO, and LGUs to meet them regularly every month. The main discussion points in these meetings include the issue on how to address tamaraw damage to their crops, the plan to designate the tamaraw landscape in their area as a Critical Habitat, and the planned biodiversity assessments, which would feed into the establishment of the Critical Habitat.

The Alangan of Inner Mindoro have welcomed TCPO and the project to their community, which is located more than two days' walk from the nearest road, to discuss their customary practices related to their relationship with the tamaraw. In March 2025, the team, together with TCPO, visited Upper Amnay to conduct a community consultation with the Alangan group focused on tamaraw conservation. The visit began with a traditional ritual, which yielded spiritual approval for these communications and paved the way for meaningful dialogue. During the consultation, the community expressed their willingness to collaborate with the project, TCPO and its partners from NGOs and LGUs. They insisted that their customary practices in managing wildlife and the tamaraw be respected, and that these be mutually harmonized with government biodiversity conservation plans. They also requested that the specific activities under this collaboration be further discussed and jointly developed, which we are planning in any case.

Interconnected with these core stakeholders are the institutional actors who provide broader policy and programmatic support. In mid-November, the project team convened with the Regional Executive Director (RED) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) MIMAROPA Region and the Wildlife Resource Division (WRD) of the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the DENR - the two primary government agencies involved in Tamaraw conservation (Annex 4.02). There we discussed coordination mechanisms for effective project implementation. The same was done with a broader group of stakeholders at the project's first Partner Convention in San Jose in November 2024 (Annex 4.03). Fifty (50) persons (36 males, 14 females) from DENR, LGUs, NCIP, Indigenous peoples, and academia attended the convention (Annex 4.03). This also helped make aware those stakeholders of biodiversity-poverty issues, and our approaches to addressing them.

Following the convention, the team conducted a series of partner meetings including the TCPO, the MIBNP PAMO, the NCIP office in Sablayan, and the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Offices (MENRO) of the municipalities of Sablayan and Santa Cruz (Annex 4.04).

These efforts with primary and secondary partners and stakeholders are further complemented by support of actors in the outer layer - those not directly engaged in field activities but who play a role in advocacy and visibility. This includes the British Embassy to the Philippines. The UK-Philippines Climate Reception on 12 March 2025 was attended by the heads of both DAF and MBCFI. Additionally, a representative from the British Embassy participated in a Pause and Reflect meeting with the boards of DAF and MBCFI on 1 April 2025.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

The project's activities during the first year focused on reviewing relevant policy documents, developing links within MIBNP, establishing connections with stakeholders in tamaraw landscapes outside MIBNP, organizing initial coordination meetings, and analysing organisational and governance structures and assessing capacity needs of agencies and groups and individuals involved in tamaraw conservation.

The project posted job adverts, conducted job interviews, and selected qualified applicants. Successful applicants were given an induction checklist (Annex 4.05). A project workshop to discuss and flesh out the logical steps of sub-activities for each output activity was held in December 2024 (Annex 4.06).

Financial management of the project was discussed by the finance units of Re:wild, DAF, and MBCFI. The project rented a project office in San Jose. Vehicles and equipment were procured.

The project met with DENR leaders at both the regional and national levels (see Section 1). The project also held a partner's convention in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, in November 2024 to formally announce the start of the project and discuss coordination mechanisms with various stakeholders (see Section 1).

Output 1: The policy, legal, planning and institutional framework better supports effective management of tamaraw and tamaraw landscapes within indigenous territories

Under **Activity 1.01**, the project reviewed existing tamaraw conservation-related Bills. As several versions of the Bills did not go beyond the Lower House of Congress, the project is preparing an enhanced version of the Bill for refiling when the new Congress (20th) opens in July 2025. The project sought the assistance of the Board members of both DAF and MBCFI (Annex 4.07) to help find Bill sponsors after the midterm elections in May 2025.

Under **Activity 1.02**, instead of aiming for a “stand-alone” Tamaraw Conservation Coordination Group as originally planned, the project prepared a draft Terms of Reference (TOR) (Annex 4.08) for the creation of a Subcommittee on Tamaraw Conservation under the Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee (CAAC) and proposed its creation during the November 2024 regular meeting of the committee (Annex 4.09). This decision was prompted by DENR administrative order that designates the CAAC as the official coordinating body for tamaraw conservation (Annex 4.10). The proposed draft TOR was approved by the committee.

Under **Activity 1.03**, the project learned that the Calintaan LGU has already adopted the TCMAP in 2024. For the other LGUs (Sablayan, Santa Cruz, and Naujan) that have not adopted the TCMAP, the project prepared letters signed by the TCPO Coordinator enjoining them to adopt the TCMAP, integrate TCMAP in their Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP), and declare as Local Conservation Area (LCA) the tamaraw habitats within their area of jurisdiction (Annex 4.11a). The project was invited and participated in an online orientation/meeting regarding the updating of the CLUP of the Sablayan LGU (Annex 4.11b).

Under **Activity 1.06**, the project completed and submitted to DENR Regional Office and TCPO a 98-page assessment and proposal for the designation of SADIK as a Critical Habitat (Annex 4.12). The proposal was done in partnership with the Protected Areas Management and Biodiversity Conservation Section (PAMBCS) of DENR MIMAROPA Regional Office. The proposal is currently being reviewed by the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau. The project also conducted community consultations with the Taobuid groups in the area (Annex 4.13). The Taobuid expressed support to establish the area as a Critical Habitat and requested to be informed and consulted in each step in the process of the declaration.

While only due to be started in April 2026, under **Activity 1.07**, the project took advantage of an invitation to TCPO by the Alangans in Inner Mindoro for a consultation with DENR on their work on tamaraw conservation in the area. The project supported and joined the expedition to the area; it took more than two days to reach the area. The community consultation started with a ritual to determine if the meeting could proceed; the ritual yielded a positive result (Annex 4.14). During the meeting, the elders expressed openness to a collaboration with DENR and the project and required that each specific activity to be conducted in the area still be consulted with them and a written agreement on the collaboration be prepared. The project is discussing with TCPO the drafting of this collaboration agreement.

Under **Activity 1.08**, the project assisted the Taobuid and NCIP in completing the census of Taobuid communities which is one of the requirements in the CADT application. The mapping of the boundary of the ancestral domain has been completed. Some upland Taobuids do not like to be included in the census perhaps because they do not want to share information with the lowlanders. It was agreed that for those who do not want to be included in the census, only the name of the settlements and the estimated population be collected. The census has been completed and submitted to NCIP (Annex 4.15). The project is now waiting for a NCIP Commission En Banc to schedule the final deliberation for the CADT application of the Taobuid.

Under **Activity 1.10**, the project organized two Law Enforcement Forums in November 2024 (attended by 35 participants, 28 male and 17 female) (Annex 4.16) and March 2025 (attended by 37 participants (27 male, 10 female) (Annex 4.17). The forums elicited information on the current operating procedures of the MIBNP-PAMO and TCPO during patrols, in responding to deceased animals (tamaraw and other large-sized mammals, by-products, and derivatives), in emergency situations, and in resolving conflict or engaging with communities (IPs and non-IPs), while ensuring the safety of personnel.

Under **Activity 1.12**, the project prepared a strategic communication plan and discussed this during a workshop in February 2025 (Annex 4.18). There are ongoing revisions to the branding

and preparation of communication materials. During the celebration of the Tamaraw month (October 2024), the project collaborated with the “Gintong Tamaraw Artist Association of San Jose” in mounting an exhibit of paintings of tamaraws and indigenous peoples by San Jose-based painters (Annex 4.19). Part of the proceeds of the sale of some paintings were donated to support the operations of IP organisations.

Output 2: Reliable and up-to-date information is available to stakeholders about the species, ecosystems, communities, culture and land/resource use in the tamaraw landscape

Under **Activity 2.01**, the project corresponded with several Philippine universities (University of Santo Tomas, University of the Philippines Los Banos, and the two academic institutions in Mindoro), and started developing several collaboration and training plans. DAF already has a scientific collaboration with the University of Lyon in France (Laboratory of Biometry and Evolutive Biology) to work on tamaraw population monitoring.

Under **Activity 2.02**, after the approval of the CAAC in November 2024 of the transition to the use of Ecological Change Indicators (ECI) as alternative tamaraw census method in MIBNP, (see Section 3.1, Output 1, Activity 1.02 and Annex 4.20 for the draft CAAC Resolution on ECI) the project organized a workshop on the ECI in February 2025, which was attended by 26 persons (21 male, 5 female) from TCPO, MIBNP PAMO, DAF, and MBCFI (Annex 4.21). A description of the method is available as a separate document (Annex 4.22). The transition period will take three years, which means that the dung transect operations will be carried out alongside the traditional point count and the double observer point count methods, while the two other proposed indexes (reproduction success and habitat pressure) will be progressively established and tested, starting this year. Camera traps, together with planned patrols and interviews with Taobuid are under consideration to monitor tamaraw population in SADIK. Specific monitoring designs are in preparation.

Under **Activity 2.03**, preparatory activities have been conducted, including community consultations with Alangan communities in the inner Mindoro area. This progress will help fast-track Activity 2.03 in Inner Mindoro.

Activity 2.04 is slated for the second year only. A joint planning workshop jointly with ZSL and the IUCN SSC Asian Large Mammals Specialist Group was conducted on 24 March 2025.

While only planned to be started in April 2025, **Activity 2.05** is already underway. Coordination meetings with DENR, NCIP, and LGUs have been conducted, and specific biodiversity assessment designs and protocols have been elaborated. We have also procured field equipment and commenced recruitment of biodiversity assessment specialists, specifically for bats and birds, for the SADIK site. Information from previous projects on wildlife depredation of crops in relation to indigenous political structure and traditional farming systems in the area has been compiled. A technical report has been drafted (Annex 4.23) and is awaiting validation by concerned Taobuid for public sharing.

Under **Activity 2.06** (only planned from October 2025 onwards), the project took advantage of a community consultation (see Section 3.1, Output 1, Activity 1.07) to gather information on the political structure of the Alangan in the area, their general land use, farming system, and other traditional practices and reviewed the documentation of previous missions.

Output 3: Indigenous communities, authorities, and other stakeholders have lasting capacity to maintain and extend effective tamaraw conservation and indigenous management across all tamaraw landscapes

Under **Activity 3.01**, the project leveraged existing knowledge of individuals who are involved in the project, to help ensure that subsequent activities respond to the realities of working with IPs. The project was given a slot in the regular monthly meetings of the Taobuid indigenous political structure, which serve as a forum for discussion and unobtrusive data gathering on capacity needs of the IP leaders (Annex 4.24).

Under **Activity 3.04**, the project reviewed the situation of rangers in TCPO and PAMO and learned that there are five types of rangers. The high school qualification is legally required for

three of these. The qualifications are set by the Civil Service Commission and are difficult and almost impossible to change. The qualification standards are applied nationwide and are based on the principle of equality which is enshrined even in the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act. For the other two types, however, the qualifications are set by the concerned government agency, such as the DENR, and are easier to modify with a policy review. The project has prepared this review and policy recommendation for submission to the DENR Regional Office (Annex 4.25).

Under **Activity 3.07**, the project organized a capacity needs assessment workshop in February 2025, attended by 51 participants (30 male, 21 female) (Annex 4.26). The workshop identified stakeholders' existing capacities, capacity gaps, and explored potential areas for collaboration. The result of the workshop will inform the project's capacity building and training initiatives.

The project is still crafting the mentoring system under **Activity 3.08** but took advantage of existing training activities for project staff to attend and be trained. Two (2) DAF staff participated in the Basic Permaculture Design Course in October 2024 and three (3) MBCFI staff participated in the same course in March 2025. One of the DAF staff was trained to become a permaculture mentor (Annex 4.27).

Under **Activity 3.09**, project staff and consultants visited Mindoro and conducted a competency assessment for TCPO and MIBNP PAMO. The assessment was done through a group discussion with office management and field personnel. It focused on key competency areas such as communication and interpersonal skills, conservation and natural resource management, law enforcement and security, field operations and survival skills, and community engagement and education (Annex 4.28). Information gathered from this assessment will be considered for the possible adoption/localization of the URSA competency framework targeted for the upcoming fiscal year (see Section 3.1, Output 4, Activity 4.01).

Output 4: An integrated, effective framework to monitor and address immediate threats to tamaraw, other wildlife and natural resources is operational

Under **Activity 4.01**, the project organized two LEFs (see Section 3.1, Output 1, Activity 1.10) and conducted competency assessments to review current law enforcement-related practices and procedures, and assess competency levels (see Section 3.1, Output 3, Activity 3.09).

While not planned for this year, under **Activity 4.02**, the project collected locations of key landmarks that would be added as a geographical layer in the SMART database for Upper Amnay, conducted SMART capacity assessments with the current staff of TCPO and MIBNP PAMO, and developed an initial SMART training curriculum that was submitted to the MIBNP Protected Area Superintendent for review and approval (Annex 4.29).

The project also prepared a concept note for a workshop on enhancing involvement of IPs and their communities in the protection of the tamaraw and conservation of its habitats under **Activity 4.03**. A copy of this concept note was given to TCPO and was discussed with them (Annex 4.30). This topic will be the theme for a future LEF.

Under **Activity 4.04**, the project took advantage of the opportunity presented by the plan of the TCPO to develop a ranger station in Carindan, Santa Cruz, Occidental Mindoro, where TCPO was asking for assistance. This station acts as the hub of Alangans from Upper Amnay, and the jump off point of rangers for their trek to Upper Amnay. A masterplan proposal is being crafted to be presented and discussed with DENR in April 2025. This includes infrastructure design for rangers/staff accommodation, community center, Alangan house, as well as food production system and ideas for thematic workshops and connecting with other structures nearby.

Under **Activity 4.05**, the project used data collected in a previous Fondation Segre project (since 2023). This was on poaching of tamaraw for bushmeat and local trade by non-IP hunters using firearms within the tamaraw core zone of monitoring and opportunistic hunting of tamaraw using snares and spear traps by highland Taobuid communities for bushmeat. The analysis of data is ongoing and remains confidential and will feed into the crafting of wildlife crime/harm prevention strategies that can be implemented across agencies and organisations.

Under **Activity 4.06**, the project initially assessed the legal implications of the trans-Mindoro Road specifically as a hindrance to the achievement of Activity 1.07 (legal designation of Inner

Mindoro as conservation area). A legal paper recommending the denial of Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) being applied by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) was drafted for DENR Regional Office (Annex 4.31). At least three (3) other strategies will be explored to stop the road project, namely: (1) higher political support for the Tamaraw Bill under Activity 1.01 as the refined bill will underscore legal protection to tamaraw habitats, (2) seek the denial of Clearance being applied by the DPWH to the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of FB Harrison Game Refuge Bird Sanctuary (FBHGRBS) where the initial line of the road will traverse, and (3) seek the reversal of the Resolution issued by the Regional Development Council (RDC) approving the road project.

Output 5: The bio-cultural approach, which supports wildlife and indigenous livelihoods in MIBNP, is being adapted and applied in natural and agroecosystems in all tamaraw landscapes

Under **Activity 5.01**, the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on the expansion of the tamaraw safe reproduction zone between the Taobuid elder-leaders and the DENR MIMAROPA Regional Office (Annex 4.32), which has been discussed in various meetings for more than a year, was formally signed in October 2024 during the culmination activity of the celebration of Tamaraw month in Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro. The Community Conservation Plan (CCP), has been formally approved for integration in the MIBNP Protected Area Management Plan (PAMP) earlier in November 2023 (Annex 4.33), but it needs to be shared within the PAMO and even among the Taobuid elders themselves as there were changes in the PAMO key staff and the broadening of the involvement of the Taobuid elder-leaders in the CCP.

In December 2024, under **Activity 5.02**, the project conducted an online discussion with experts from other countries in Asia on the topic of grassland fire and wildlife management (Annex 4.34). The link with these experts was facilitated by the Asian Species Action Partnership (ASAP). The project is recruiting a Habitat Restoration consultant and plans to continue and expand the work of a former master's student (now a project staff) on impacts of fire practice on landscape dynamics in MIBNP.

Under **Activity 5.03**, the project's permaculture consultant from the Philippine Permaculture Association, made a four-day technical visit to Station 2 in February 2025 (Annex 4.35). The project used this to review the draft routine maintenance manual that was prepared by the project field staff since January 2025. A project staff used the manual to create an Excel-based checklist of routine maintenance activities that the field team is using to monitor and assess accomplishments of maintenance activities every month (Annex 4.36). The purpose of the manual is to facilitate the participation of rangers and the eventual handover of the system to the Protected Area Management Office (PAMO). The project reviewed the data that were regularly collected on the performance of the seedlings planted in the island mounds and naturally growing in the control area. With an enhanced protocol for monitoring and documentation, the project plans to continue the collection of data.

Under **Activity 5.07**, the project prepared a draft concept note (Annex 4.37) for the grant mechanism which will be discussed in a workshop in May 2025, while still continuing to recruit a project staff who will carry out the grant mechanism later.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

The project started in September 2024. No measurable progress against the Output indicators was expected during the first seven months of implementation, but we observed initial trends towards progress under all Outputs:

Output 1: The policy, legal, planning and institutional framework better supports effective management of tamaraw and tamaraw landscapes within indigenous territories

- Baseline: There was already some collaboration among some partners, facilitated by the previous Darwin Main project.
- General: Successful relationship built with DENR, NCIP, LGUs as a basis for further work on enabling framework from Y2 onwards (evidence: successful meetings, November 2024 Partner Convention, CAAC subcommittee, activity of LEF, etc.).

- Change on I1.1 (Tamaraw House Bill): Partners engaged in the drafting of bills after July 2025 elections; policy champions being engaged (evidence: draft of bill/s) (Annex 4.38).
- Change on I1.2 (TCMAP review): Relationship with partners established, IUCN SSC AWCSG on board, drafting of annual review protocol for “test run” at Y2 (evidence: initial draft of TCMAP annual review protocol) (Annex 4.39).
- Change on I1.3 (legal designations): Relationship built, standing consultation mechanism, baseline surveys, in SADIK (evidence: SADIK meeting reports, assessment report, proposed policy-designation) (see Section 3.1, Output 1, Activity 1.06).
- Change on I1.4 (Taobuid Ancestral Domain): Ancestral Domain title almost certified (evidence: meeting reports, database on population census) (see Section 3.1, Output 1, Activity 1.08).
- Conclusion: Activities well underway (cf. Section 3.1) and likely to achieve Output, but more political support for Tamaraw House Bill needed (cf. Section 3.4).

Output 2: Reliable and up-to-date information is available to stakeholders about the species, ecosystems, communities, culture and land/resource use in the tamaraw landscape

- Baseline: One standard methodology (ECI) was in preparation at the start of the project.
- General: A relatively technical and hence controllable output, which is progressing according to plan so far, given that the relationships with the Taobuid and Alangan are developing well (evidence: monitoring protocols, meeting reports and activity reports).
- Change on I2.1 (standard methodological and best practice guides): One method under finalization (Ecological Change Indicator, MIBNP), one under planning (SADIK) (evidence: species monitoring protocol/s - Annex 4.40, agreements ECI - see Section 3.1, Output 2, Activity 2.02).
- Change on I2.2 (new tamaraw assessments): Activities towards this Indicator not started (planned for late 2025 / early 2026), but no obstacles expected.
- Change on I2.3 (new socio-agro-ecosystem assessments): Not started, one in SADIK initially drafted and results will be validated with the community, one for Inner Mindoro in pre-preparation (evidence: meeting reports in SADIK - see Section 3.1, Output 1, Activity 1.06; mission report in Inner Mindoro - see Section 3.1, Output 1, Activity 1.07).
- Change on I2.4 (online library): Activities towards this output not started; progress expected by end of Y2.
- Conclusion: Change initiated, and Output expected to be met.

Output 3: Indigenous communities, authorities, and other stakeholders have lasting capacity to maintain and extend effective tamaraw conservation and indigenous management across all tamaraw landscapes

- Baseline: Demo areas at MIBNP with about 25 Taobuid visitors per year (pre-project).
- General: participatory capacity needs assessment, and analytical mission of ZSL/Re:wild consultants on law enforcement capacity needs, conducted as basis for all capacity building, well attended and with the desired results (evidence: Permaculture visitors, Status report and policy proposal and capacity needs assessment).
- Change on I3.1 (use of new skills by training participants): no external training conducted so far.
- Change on I3.2 (visitors to permaculture and restoration learning areas): The Year 2 visitation target of I3.1 for the MIBNP learning area has almost been reached in Year 1 already (46 visitors, of which 8 are female). A further increase of visitation is expected. (evidence: Annex 4.41).
- Change on I3.3 (IP rangers): Drafted one policy proposal to DENR to maintain and/or increase the 52 IP rangers deployed through employment or volunteerism as of January 2025 (evidence: report and policy proposal) (see Section 3.1, Output 3, Activity 3.04).
- Change on I3.4: The Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA) revealed a 91% willingness among participants from both Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and the Department of Education (DepEd) to engage in collaborative management efforts under the project.

One of the initial outcomes of the discussions was the proposal to form a working group, with one of the HEIs proactively offering a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) template to help initiate this collaboration. (evidence: draft capacity needs assessment report - Annex 4.42; activity/workshop report - see Section 3.1, Output 3, Activity 3.07).

- Conclusion: Change initiated and Output expected to be met.

Output 4: An integrated, effective framework to monitor and address immediate threats to tamaraw, other wildlife and natural resources is operational

- Baseline: No common surveillance, law enforcement and crime prevention framework and no formal Indigenous initiatives in this field in place, systematic SMART use in patrolling <5%, 11 direct threats to tamaraw identified in TCMAP, recent trends in tamaraw abundance appear stable in Iglit but transition towards new monitoring methodology may result in downward correction of abundance estimates.
- General: The first months of the project have laid the foundation for the creation of an integrated, effective framework for threat monitoring and control (see discussion on activities), but no progress towards the overall Output can be measured yet.
- Change on I4.1 (common surveillance, law enforcement and crime prevention framework): collaborative design started with DENR during Year 1 and on track, support of DENR secured (evidence: competency needs assessment report) (see Section 3.1, Output 4, Activity 4.01).
- Change on I4.2 (percentage of SMART patrolling): 10/11 patrols of the Tamaraw Conservation Project and 0/28 patrols of the MIBNP PAMO between September 2024 and March 2025 conducted using SMART, corresponding to 26% SMART use overall (evidence: TCPO and MIBNP PAMO, pers. comm.).
- Change on I4.3 (No. of Indigenous initiatives against harmful activities supported): No activities towards this Indicator planned for Year 1, no change. (evidence: concept paper on how to involve IPs in law enforcement in sites outside MIBNP) (see Section 3.1, Output 4, Activity 4.03).
- Change on I4.4 (No. of direct threats to tamaraw reduced or removed): No threat reduction foreseen after Year 1, but engagement of Taobuid and Alangan, as well as progress of patrolling, surveillance and wildlife crime prevention consistent with threat reduction by end of project (evidence: see Section 3.2, Output 1, evidence I1.3; Output 3, evidence I3.2; and Output 4, evidence I4.1).
- Change on I4.5 (stabilized tamaraw population in MIBNP): No stabilization foreseen for Year 1 - foundation to measure stabilization from Year 2 onwards created through improvements of tamaraw monitoring approach in MIBNP (evidence: see Section 3.2, Output 2, evidence I2.1).
- Conclusion: Change initiated, and Output expected to be met, as far as the partner organisations can tell at this early stage.

Output 5: The bio-cultural approach, which supports wildlife and indigenous livelihoods in MIBNP, is being adapted and applied in natural and agroecosystems in all tamaraw landscapes

- Baseline: One cooperative land and resource use agreement in preparation, no tamaraw safe reproduction zones, 1,600 ha foreseen as restoration area, no integration of locally adapted use practices in Indigenous land management.
- General: During Year 1, preparations and relationship building to form the foundation for scaling the biocultural approach beyond MIBNP proceeded as planned, but no measurable uptake or restoration impact was foreseen (evidence: see below).
- Change on I5.1 (areas with agreed cooperative land and resource use): Taobuid Community Conservation Plan for 5,000 ha in MIBNP adopted (evidence: adopted plan - see Section 3.1, Output 5, Activity 5.01); dialogue with Taobuid at SADIK initiated (evidence: records of SADIK Taobuid meetings - see Section 3.1, Output 1, Activity 1.06). No communications with Alangan of Inner Mindoro on land management foreseen for Year 1, but first contact was established (evidence: records of Alangan meetings - see Section 3.1, Output 1, Activity 1.07).

- Change on I5.2 (area of voluntary tamaraw safe reproduction zones): MOA on tamaraw safe reproduction zone in Iglit signed between Taobuid and DENR Regional Office in October 2024. The area comprises 600 ha of delineated zone and approximately 1,800 ha of fallow land (evidence: signed MOA - see Section 3.1, Output 5, Activity 5.01).
- Change on I5.3 (areas under active restoration): Change related to habitat restoration neither foreseen nor observed during Year 1.
- Change on I5.4 (households that integrate improved land use): Change related to uptake of improved land use methods neither foreseen nor observed during Year 1.
- Conclusion: Some change on some aspects of Output 5 has been initiated. The Output is expected to be met. The degree to which Output 5 can be reached in the new areas of Inner Mindoro will depend on the extent to which we continue to build good relationships with the Alangan there.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Measurable progress towards the Outcome was neither expected nor observed between September 2024 and March 2025. We did not detect change in any of the Outcome indicators.

All Outcome indicators remain adequate for measuring the intended Outcome. Those indicator baselines that were already defined at the proposal stage were confirmed during Year 1. Detailed protocols for measuring Indicators 0.3, 0.5, 0.6 and 0.7 are under preparation. For Indicators 0.6 and 0.7, the project team will produce baselines during Year 2, based on newly developed protocols, as per our initial monitoring schedule.

Considering the implementation of activities, monitoring of assumptions, and first trends towards the delivery of Outputs, the project is likely to achieve its Outcome.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Almost all Outcome and Output level assumptions as listed in the logframe have held true over the first seven months of the project. This includes the following assumptions, but additional steps have been taken to ensure they will be met across the project lifespan:

Outcome Assumption 1: There is continued high-level political will to support Indigenous communities and to conserve tamaraw.

Comment: To ensure continued high-level support, the project is preparing an enhanced version of the Tamaraw House Bill for refiling when the new Congress (20th) opens in July 2025 and seeking the assistance of the Board members of both DAF and MBCFI to help find Bill sponsors after the midterm elections in May 2025.

Output 1, Assumption 1: The policy, legal and planning framework is effectively implemented.

Comments: As a result of the capacity needs assessments under Activity 3.07 and initial conversations with the relevant DENR offices under Activities 3.09 and 4.01, the project has identified additional opportunities for improving the organisational capacity of DENR MIBNP PAMO and DENR TCPO for effective surveillance and law enforcement. The project is working with these partners to inform an enhanced collaboration on organisational capacity building within the framework of Output 4.

Output 5, Assumption 2: The tamaraw populations and landscapes are not irreversibly degraded in the short term before the biocultural approach can be adapted and applied.

Comments: The planned trans-Mindoro Road might compromise Activity 1.07 but also seriously jeopardize the overall suitability and conservation status of the tamaraw habitats of Inner Mindoro. Therefore, additional steps as per Activity 4.06 have been taken to support DENR in its communications with the Department of Public Works and Highways (cf. Activity 4.06).

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

The intended impact of the project is that *“Indigenous peoples, government institutions and other stakeholders collaborate effectively and equitably to manage the tamaraw landscapes of Mindoro with their biodiversity in an environmentally and socio-economically sustainable way”*.

Beyond the conservation of the critically endangered and at the same time highly symbolic tamaraw, the project's higher-level impact on **biodiversity conservation** is threefold:

- **Conservation of tamaraw landscapes:** The project advances landscape conservation of dry seasonal tropical forest, limestone forest, rainy tropical forest, mountain forest and montane grasslands through Indigenous-led governance, habitat restoration, sustainable land use, and strengthened legal frameworks, fostering collaborative management and resilience of ecosystems critical not only to the tamaraw but also to remote Indigenous livelihoods.
- **Conservation of associated biodiversity:** The tamaraw landscapes are home to at least 34 additional globally threatened species of various taxa (see additional questions during interview phase, supporting information). This is a minimum estimate because very few cross-taxonomic surveys have been conducted there, and substantial numbers of undocumented and/or undescribed species are likely to occur.
- **Developing and promoting a more broadly applicable model of collaborative conservation with Indigenous partners:** Our approach is relevant beyond Mindoro. It has potential for adaptation and application to similar landscapes (e.g. Palawan, Sierra Madre in Luzon or Antique Province in Panay), where other IPs and globally important biodiversity – species populations and ecosystems – are jointly threatened by land degradation and unsustainable resource use. The project team is planning to strengthen or develop relationships with other projects and organisations (e.g. Katala Foundation, Philippine Eagle Foundation, Mabuwaya Foundation, Talarak Foundation, DI project *Investigating hunting causes and implementing community-led mitigations in the Philippines*), to adapt and apply the approach more broadly.

In terms of **multi-dimensional poverty reduction**, the direct beneficiaries of the project are Indigenous Peoples (IPs) sharing territory with tamaraw and the rangers responsible for their protection. Adopting a multidimensional poverty lens, the project will assess Indigenous livelihood assets (human, natural, financial, physical, social, cultural) and vulnerabilities (e.g., debt, food insecurity), to inform conservation policies that support sustainable livelihoods.

Rather than delivering preset livelihood 'packages', the project supports IPs to understand challenges and voluntarily develop culturally appropriate responses through their own traditions and governance. It also promotes habitat restoration to combat ecosystem degradation and resource scarcity, while improving soil fertility, food production, and space for wildlife.

Some Indigenous communities live in voluntary self-isolation, relying on hunting, gathering, and swidden farming. For them, conventional livelihood models are unsuitable. Drawing on our experience in MIBNP, the project integrates Indigenous knowledge with permaculture practices to foster adaptive, respectful, and participatory land management (Output 5). Benefits will include increased food security and sustainable land use.

Communities with stronger lowland ties act as intermediaries, communicating project goals and encouraging broader participation. Through capacity building (Output 3), they can become rangers and project leaders, designing and implementing their own initiatives.

Overall, the project aims to build Indigenous resilience, enabling communities to live with dignity on their lands while supporting biodiversity and cultural preservation. For rangers, Output 1 strengthens working conditions, while Output 5.03 boosts their financial well-being by reducing food expenses through organic food production at ranger stations.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project has submitted to the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and DENR Regional Office an assessment report and policy proposal (i.e., DENR Administrative Order) declaring one (i.e., SADIK CH) (see Section 3.1, Output 1, Activity 1.06) of the two (2) legally unprotected tamaraw landscapes as a conservation area, specifically as a Critical Habitat (CH) compliant with the Philippines' Republic Act No. 9147 (*Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act*). The proposed CH overlaps with two (2) Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in Mindoro Island, namely the Siburan and Malpalon KBAs, and covers a total area of 5,362 ha.

The proposed CH policy is a direct contribution to Target 19 of the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP) 2015-2028, which states that *“By 2028, there will be a 10% increase in total area from 2015 levels of terrestrial including inland wetlands, PAs managed through NIPAS, and other conservation measures (indigenous community conserved areas, local conservation areas, critical habitats) that overlap with KBAs.”* The PBSAP embodies the country’s commitment to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) specifically the 30x30 target which calls for 30% of the earth’s land and water to be conserved through the establishment of protected areas (PAs) and other area-based conservation measures (OECMs). Critical Habitat declaration is one form of declaring an OECM under Philippine policy/law.

The proposed CH policy will also indirectly contribute to the target of *“promoting human and social development”* by *“establishing livable communities”* under the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028. The PDP integrates the country’s commitment to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), although conservation-related SDGs are heavily undermined in the PDP as the plan is centered on the economic, social, and infrastructure advancement of the country. The PDP’s target on *“establishing livable communities”* serves as the aligned target for SDG 15, but the expected outcomes and outlined strategies are anthropocentric. Nevertheless, the proposed CH will directly contribute to SDG 15 (*Life on Land: protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss*).

5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The project addresses multidimensional poverty by empowering the Indigenous Taobuid and Alangan communities of Mindoro, whose livelihoods, food security, cultural identity, and governance are deeply intertwined with the conservation of tamaraw and tamaraw landscapes. These remote, resource-dependent communities face challenges beyond income poverty, including land degradation, encroachment by outsiders, limited access to sustainable livelihoods, weakened cultural practices, food insecurity, and exclusion from decision-making.

Through the biocultural approach developed during the previous Darwin Main project, the project engages Indigenous peoples as equal partners, ensuring that interventions align with community-defined needs. Participatory planning (Output 1), capacity building (Output 3), and respect for customary governance foster long-term resilience. Direct poverty reduction outcomes include improved food security through sustainable agriculture, agroforestry, and permaculture practices (Output 5), alongside employment opportunities as Indigenous rangers (Activity 3.04) and support to community-led conservation initiatives (Activity 4.03). In addition, enhanced personal security shall arise from strengthened surveillance frameworks that reduce illegal activities threatening both biodiversity and community safety.

Indirectly, the project strengthens Indigenous land rights (Activity 1.08), governance capacity (Activities 1.01, 1.09), and intergenerational knowledge transfer (Activity 3.03), addressing social exclusion and enhancing community agency. Restoration of ecosystems (Activity 5.02) contributes to improved ecosystem services - such as water regulation and soil fertility—supporting sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience without the need to impose “alternative livelihoods”. Gender-sensitive approaches ensure that women benefit equitably from land management and capacity development initiatives (cf. Section 6).

Beyond local impacts, the project contributes to global conservation solutions, by advancing models of rights-based conservation that integrate poverty reduction with biodiversity outcomes. It supports policy innovation through the Tamaraw House Bill and creates scalable frameworks for collaborative landscape management.

Monitoring frameworks are designed to capture both immediate and long-term poverty reduction impacts, ensuring adaptive management and sustainable benefits post-project. By addressing economic, social, cultural, and environmental dimensions of poverty, the project delivers transformative change for vulnerable communities while safeguarding biodiversity.

During the initial seven months of the project, the Taobuid elders from the lowlands who visited MIBNP gave positive feedback to the permaculture system at the station (see Section 3.2, Output 3, evidence I3.2). They stated that the components of the system are similar to some of their traditional practices which are in danger of vanishing, such as the use of firebreaks, planting different types of crops in the same area and the practice of foraging, which they call “*fagnamolan kamayewa*.” The field team at MIBNP at any point in time keeps a list of at least 20 species of edible plants the leaves, fruits, roots, flowers of which can be harvested for cooking. This meets strong Indigenous interest. They were also impressed with the process of soil-making through biomass addition (decaying leaves, twigs, tree branches).

The community consultation with TCPO allowed the project team to obtain an initial understanding of the traditional knowledge system and practices of the Alangans, which the latter insist must be respected. The Alangans in the area have designated a reserve area for the tamaraw, where they have put up fences made of branches of wood tied together by rattan vines, to keep the animals from destroying their crops in the swiddens. While a project staff visited the area in 2018 and TCPO rangers visit occasionally, this is the first formal community consultation conducted with the Alangans in the area and designed to extend the poverty reduction benefits of the biocultural approach from MIBNP to these new project areas (see Section 3.1, Output 1, Activity 1.07).

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

This project is gender sensitive as it deliberately incorporates strategies to promote gender equity in the conservation and collaborative management of tamaraw landscapes. It includes gender-disaggregated socio-agricultural assessments, gender-specific consultation processes and capacity building measures, and the deliberate employment of female community specialists to engage with Indigenous women.

While respecting local customs particularly of the Taobuid and Alangan, we seek to ensure women participate in governance and benefit equally from livelihood improvements. Although not yet gender empowering or transformative, the project's systematic integration of gender considerations into planning, decision-making, and capacity building marks a significant step toward equitable participation across genders in Indigenous communities on Mindoro.

This rating can be broken down further along the GESI core principles:

- **Rights (legal and customary):** The project respects Indigenous gender norms but proactively includes women through culturally appropriate means (e.g. female staff engaging women). We do not aim at advancing women's legal rights, but our approach supports their customary participation rights within evolving frameworks.
- **Practice (attitudes, customs & beliefs):** Our project recognizes that men traditionally dominate leading roles but acknowledges women's significant influence in community life. It works within these norms, having female facilitators to engage women, promoting more inclusive attitudes in a respectful way without confronting norms directly.
- **Environment (stressors & vulnerability):** Land and resource scarcity and poverty impact men and women differently in the project area. Gender-disaggregated assessments are planned to understand specific vulnerabilities. These shall inform interventions that reduce gender-differentiated stressors in resource-dependent livelihoods.
- **Roles and Responsibilities (division of time, space & labour):** We acknowledge that labor among the Indigenous beneficiaries is gendered, especially in agriculture and land management. We aim to align livelihood innovations with actual labor divisions, aiming for fairer distribution of workload and benefits, within cultural norms.
- **Representation (participation, inclusion & power):** The project pledges to enable but not force equitable representation, balancing cultural respect with active facilitation of women's voices. Where possible, the project supports gender-specific consultation groups to promote women's inclusion in planning and governance (e.g. on CCPs, ADSDPPs), and encourages equitable yet culturally appropriate participation in Indigenous People's Organizations and decision-making processes.
- **Resources (access & control of assets and services):** The project aims at equal access to livelihood benefits, training, and innovations for women and men. Capacity-building programs are designed to be gender-inclusive, and benefits (e.g. access to permaculture) are designed to be equitably distributed. Use of gender-disaggregated indicators will track whether women are benefiting from project resources.

Beyond gender, the project ensures inclusive participation and representation across diverse social identities. It affirms Indigenous leadership, actively engaging the Taobuid and Alangan peoples through culturally appropriate, rights-based approaches. Intergenerational inclusion is promoted via youth training, mentoring, and intergenerational knowledge-sharing. Socio-economic equity is addressed by specifically supporting remote, resource-dependent communities with sustainable land management and grant access. Participation spans all identity groups through mechanisms like community planning, Indigenous Peoples Organizations, and multi-stakeholder councils, ensuring that ethnicity, age, and wealth are meaningfully represented in conservation and land management decisions.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

For Year 1, the project focused on establishing arrangements for monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL). This included the development of a MEL Plan (Annex 4.43), reporting systems, the validation of baseline data, and launching participatory evaluation processes.

A MEL Plan was created to monitor the project's outputs, outcomes, and impacts. The plan outlines the project's indicators, data sources, collection tools, responsibilities, and reporting timelines. It serves as a reference for consistent data collection and evidence generation throughout the project period.

Examples of tools that were used include templates for activity reporting and coordination meeting summaries. These tools helped ensure that data is collected regularly and can be used as evidence and further examples such as:

- Use of field and meeting reporting procedures/templates to ensure that activity-level data and observations are consistently documented. These records will serve as ongoing evidence of implementation, progress towards Outputs and decision-making.

These field reports, activity reports, and other documentation also feed into adaptive management including operational planning.

- Data disaggregation by gender, age, and/or location that aids in understanding who the project is reaching and who might be left out.
- Documentation and storage of supporting documents - attendance sheets, meeting minutes, photos, reports - to verify outputs and ensure transparency.
- Activity designs: For each activity, the defined deliverables, sub-activities, timelines and necessary inputs, to be able to track progress towards Outputs more continually.
- Reviews and validations of project baselines, particularly for indicators tied to conservation status and stakeholder engagement. These baselines now offer a solid reference point against which future change can be measured.
- Participatory review and evaluation of progress: Internal review sessions, especially during the Pause and Reflect workshop on 25 to 27 March 2025, created space for field teams and partners to exchange insights, raise concerns, and collectively assess what was working and what needed adjustment.
- Adaptive management decisions were made in response to emerging issues - ranging from logistical constraints to shifts in local political landscapes. These decisions by the evidence gathered through the monitoring activities and documented.

While progress towards outcome or impact can only be measured later in the project, the systems introduced put us in the position to track change effectively.

The introduction of participatory feedback mechanisms also contributed significantly to MEL. By embedding reflection and dialogue within the monitoring process, we have ensured that MEL is not just a compliance requirement, but also a space for learning and adaptive management.

The monitoring so far revealed areas needing further development:

- Some of the methods for measuring Outcome indicators 0.3 and 0.5 may benefit from further refinement, particularly to better capture behavioral change. The baseline data and participatory processes to support this are in place.
- Feedback and insight mechanisms may be further explored, by identifying appropriate methods to share and validate the ongoing analysis of project results. This includes whether results were achieved or not, enabling and hindering factors, and the lessons learned together with local stakeholders.
- Financial monitoring shall be more closely aligned with implementation, to coordinate implementation in a transparent way. Providing the MEL Officer and Output coordinators with regular access available budget for activities and expenditure tracking will enable more efficient planning, timely adjustments, and stronger linkage between results monitoring and resource use.

With a solid MEL system in place, this year's foundational work sets the stage for deepening our focus on outcome and impact monitoring, using the established baselines and MEL plan to generate meaningful insights and guide strategic decision-making and adaptive management.

8. Lessons learnt

As part of our commitment to transparency, continuous improvement, and adaptive management, we reflect on key operational and technical lessons learned during this reporting period. These insights are essential for refining our approach and ensuring long-term success in conserving the tamaraw landscapes of Mindoro.

What worked well:

- **Regular coordination meetings:** Regular core management team meetings (every two weeks via zoom) allowed for timely issue resolution, knowledge sharing, and updates, improving partner accountability.
- **Strengthened stakeholders' coordination:** Regular meetings with stakeholders significantly improved communication and alignment between stakeholders, minimizing the redundancy of efforts such as the monthly meetings with MIBNP PAMO and TCPO and Taobuid in SADIK, and other stakeholders.
- **Community engagement:** The regular coordination greatly improved relationships with Indigenous communities such as with the Taobuid IPO in MIBNP. The IPs voluntarily communicate with project members to request training and learning opportunities related to the project. Monthly meetings have also been established with the Taobuid and Alangan communities. Recently, the IPs have been highly supportive, allowing us to carry out project activities (e.g. biodiversity research in SADIK) without major issues.

What did not work well:

- **Delays in staff recruitment and deployment:** Key technical positions were not filled within the expected timelines because there is a mismatch in skills sets between the project needs and the limited pool of available local applicants. This is particularly true for positions requiring Indigenous culture familiarity or extended field presence.
- **Impact of unforeseen events on activity timelines:** On a few occasions, unintended and unforeseen events might result in an extension of some activities (e.g. impact of national election on the decision making on the Tamaraw House Bill).

Approach to improvement:

- **Improved timeline planning and activity sequencing:** Activity designs that show logical sequence of sub-activities were crafted, where detailed timelines, task interdependencies and implementation/coordination structures are stated.
- **Use of shared project management tools:** The project adopted centralized platforms (e.g., Google Workspace) where partners can track availability of members, review reports simultaneously, Common calendar, etc.

Plans for further improvement in the upcoming Year 2025/26:

- **Build flexibility into scheduling:** We will introduce buffer periods between implementation phases to accommodate delays from procurement, inclement weather, political events, etc. We will also be flexible to exploit opportunities, e.g. to bring forward activities.
- **Integrate contingency planning in work plans:** We will Include "Plan B" scenarios into activity planning in cases of known risks (e.g. typhoon seasons, road inaccessibility, elections) to ensure continuity of critical activities.
- **Synchronization with national and local priorities:** We will align project timelines with government schedules and national legislative developments (e.g., timing of the Tamaraw House Bill), to avoid overlaps or conflicts with key external actors or events.
- **Enhance internal coordination:** From April 2025 onwards, we will include project coordinators in one regular meeting of the Core Management Team per month, to improve coordination between Output teams.
- **Strengthen local recruitment pipelines:** We will partner with local universities, technical schools, and Indigenous organisations to identify and mentor potential applicants, especially for culturally sensitive or location-specific roles.

9. Actions taken in response to previous reviews

Not applicable: This is the first Annual Report of this project. We have not received requests for specific action in response to our Half-Year Report.

10. Risk Management

Two risks were added to the risk register with the half-year report in October 2024: (1) commitment of political partners to collaborative tamaraw conservation as originally envisaged (delivery risk), and (2) construction and operation of trans-Mindoro road (contextual risk).

Actions taken to respond to/mitigate these risks include the following:

1. Direct engagement with DENR and Parliament (will be in recess from June 6 until early July because of the midterm elections in May). The matter was discussed during the last joint Board meeting of DAF and MBCFI, where members of both boards committed to, after the midterm elections, helping in finding house representatives and Senators who could sponsor the bills;
2. Engagement with the authorities to ensure a sound tamaraw inclusive EIA/SEA is conducted, and that the mitigation hierarchy is applied fully according to Philippine law and international good practice. This may involve IUCN experts on the matter. The issue was also discussed during the last joint meeting of the Boards of DAF and MBCFI. The project helped the DENR Regional Office to prepare a draft letter to the DENR Secretary citing legal and biophysical related reasons and arguments for the Secretary to deny the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) application of the proponent of the road construction.

Upon review prior to submission of the annual report, the likelihood of the risk of (insufficient) “effectiveness of law enforcement” materializing was elevated from “unlikely” to “possible.” The visit of the project’s law enforcement consultants from Re:wild and ZSL, who conducted a law-enforcement-related competency assessment of TCPO and MIBNP-PAMO, revealed that current law enforcement capacity needs enhancement, and that improvement will require structural adjustments. The project will discuss this issue at the local and upper levels of DENR.

The other risks enumerated in the proposal remained unchanged since project start and no additional risks have been added since the Half-year Report in October 2024. No adaptation of the project logframe has been necessary in response to these updated risks.

11. Scalability and durability

As a Darwin Extra project, the project is aimed at scaling the bio-cultural approach to collaborative landscape management from MIBNP to the entire range of the tamaraw in Mindoro. For this, the project deliberately employs multiple scaling approaches including landscape scaling, replication scaling, system change scaling and capacitation scaling.

The project has so far been successful in attracting the attention of the intended adapters of the biocultural approach, i.e. the Taobuid and Alangan. The Year 3 target for engagement with the permaculture demonstrations in MIBNP has almost been met in Year 1 already (c.f. Indicator 3.2), and the Alangan have so far welcomed the project and expressed interest in the approach (c.f. Activity 1.07). The same is true for secondary stakeholders such as DENR PAMO & TCPO. The new methods for tamaraw monitoring are attractive to DENR because of their reliability and reduced environmental impact (no burning), and consultative processes are welcomed by LGU staff; being able to participate in training is welcome by all.

The entire Output 1 is dedicated to incentivizing key organisations (DENR, NCIP, LGUs, Indigenous representations) to improve the enabling environment for collaborative landscape management, and to improve key policies, laws, plans and collaboration mechanisms.

Beyond this, the project has further scaling potential outside Mindoro, through adaptation and application of the same approach to similar landscapes elsewhere. These will be landscapes where other IPs and globally important biodiversity – species populations and ecosystems – are jointly threatened by land degradation and unsustainable resource use. We have explained our plans to realize this potential in response to a written question during the interview phase of the project evaluation in December 2023.

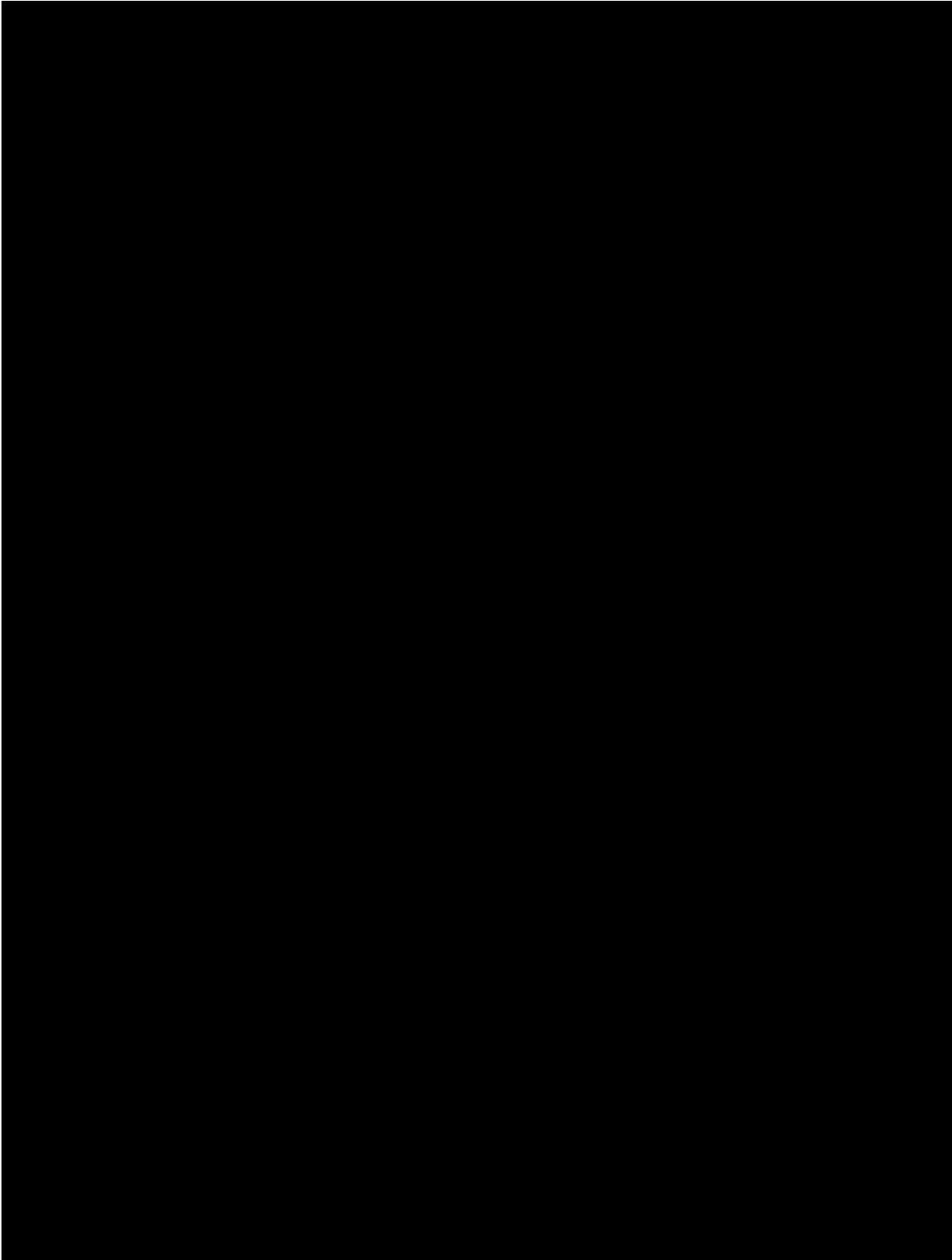
The project seeks durability through legal integration (Tamaraw House Bill), institutional capacity building (DENR/NCIP/LGUs), Indigenous leadership development, and long-term educational partnerships with Higher Education Institutions. It will establish knowledge-sharing platforms and continue developing demonstration sites for sustainable land management, while training a skilled local cohort to sustain efforts.

12. Darwin Initiative identity

The project has acknowledged and promoted the Darwin Initiative through the consistent use of its logo across key communication materials, including the project brochure (Annex 4.44), to raise awareness of its funding support and objectives. The UK Government's contribution has been formally recognized during events such as the Partners' Convention, several stakeholder meetings, and in printed materials (Annex 4.44). The project *Thriving together: lasting solutions for collaborative management of tamaraw landscapes* is implemented as a distinct project, separate from other ongoing programs. In terms of visibility within the host country, there is a notable level of awareness of the Darwin Initiative among key institutions such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and various conservation NGOs. Additionally, efforts are underway to align the project's digital communication strategies with the Darwin Initiative's branding, including linking to its social media platforms in accordance with the updated guidelines.

13. Safeguarding





14. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 September 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 (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
Audit Costs				
TOTAL	504,200	504,200		

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

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			Re:wild; MBCFI; MIBNP-PAMO; Segre Foundation; ZSL; ZGAP; AFdPZ; Tamaraw Conservation Programme
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

We have no other comments on progress which are not covered elsewhere.

16. Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far

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).


The project recognizes and promotes the critical role of Indigenous peoples in safeguarding the remaining populations of the critically endangered Tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*). Among these key partners are the Taobuid and Alangan communities, whose ancestral domains encompass the remaining tamaraw habitats.

Engaging these communities requires considerable effort, and approaches in coordinating and communicating with different ethnolinguistic groups in Mindoro may differ depending on cultural differences and dynamics. The Taobuid and Alangan Indigenous communities hold deep-rooted traditions. They value communal decision-making and the wisdom of elders and possess knowledge systems and practices shaped by reverence of spirits. They are almost fully dependent on the produce within their natural territories, and often deeply suspicious of the motives of non-Ips who visit their territories. As such, conventional conservation outreach methods have proven insufficient with them in the past.

Harnessing the success and experience from the DARWIN Main project, and its inclusive and culturally sensitive approach, the team was able to make quick progress in building relations and gaining the trust of the IP communities to move forwards projects' objectives. Keys of success include consistent presence, respect for customs, and open dialogue. To be granted active participation in the Taobuids' and Alangans' monthly internal meetings is a proof that Ips sees us and the project as a genuine ally who can help them moving forwards some of their important agendas such as the completion of their Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) and Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan (ADSDPP).

This also highlights how the existing staff, who had gained experience with the Darwin Main, were able to integrate and coach new staff, especially those coming from different provinces to the project's unique approach and singular Mindoro context.

The gradual engagement of the Taobuid and Alangan Indigenous communities, which already led to the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) on the Tamaraw Safe Reproduction Zone in October 2024, highlights the importance of culturally responsive conservation. Through mutual respect and partnership, the project will continue to not only enhance biodiversity protection but also strengthen Indigenous roles as custodians of Mindoro's natural heritage.

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)
Image, JPG File	01 Tamaraw Month MOA Signing 2024.jpg 	During Tamaraw Month 2024, DENR Mimaropa Regional Executive Director Felix Mirasol and Taobuid leader Fausto Novelozo signed a MOA to expand the tamaraw safe reproduction zone in Mts. Iglit- Baco Natural Park. Witnessed by local officials and Taobuid <i>fagtainans</i> (elders).	https://www.facebook.com/dabovillefoundation https://www.facebook.com/MindoroBiodiversity	Yes / No




		<p>this expansion is a key strategy in tamaraw conservation and a core part of the Taobuid's Community Conservation Plan.</p> <p>Country: Philippines</p> <p>Photo credit: Bryan Villanueva</p>		
Image, JPG File	<p>02 CADT Map Signing 2024.jpg</p> 	<p>In 2024, the final map of the Taobuid ancestral domain produced through ground delineation was officially signed by the <i>fagtainans</i> (elders) and NCIP Mimaropa Regional Director Dr. Marie Grace Pascua, CESO III, during an event led by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p>Country: Philippines</p> <p>Photo credit: Juanita Saet</p>	<p>https://www.facebook.com/dabovillefoundation</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/NCIPportal/</p>	Yes / No
Image, JPG File	<p>03 Taobuid elders' meetings.jpg</p> <p>Link:</p> 	<p>The monthly meetings with the Taobuid elders serve as crucial platforms for dialogue, clarity, and collaboration among Indigenous leaders, NGOs, and government agencies. These gatherings have enabled the exchange of knowledge, fostered support for initiatives in the Community Conservation Plan, and reinforced the importance of cultural practices in shaping conservation strategies. By holding space for collective reflection, these meetings help ensure that tamaraw conservation remains grounded in the lived realities and leadership of the Taobuid.</p> <p>Country: Philippines</p>	<p>https://www.facebook.com/dabovillefoundation</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/MindoroBiodiversity</p>	Yes / No

		Photo credit: Ronet Santos		
Image, JPG File	04 Inner Mindoro community consultation.jpg 	<p>Members of the project team journeyed deep into Inner Mindoro to consult with Alangan communities living in areas with Tamaraw presence. The mission began with a ritual led by Alangan elders; this is an important milestone in fostering collaborative management of this specific landscape involving the Alangan communities in the area that directly share living space with the tamaraw.</p> <p>Country: Philippines</p> <p>Photo credit: Ronald Amada</p>		Yes / No

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

Project summary	Progress and Achievements September 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact: Indigenous peoples, government institutions and other stakeholders collaborate effectively and equitably to manage the tamaraw landscapes of Mindoro with their biodiversity in an environmentally and socio-economically sustainable way.	Foundation for improved collaboration of Indigenous Taobuid and Alangan, State institutions, Civil Society, higher education institutions and other stakeholders laid through relationship building, analysis of needs and institutionalization of participatory consultation mechanisms.	
Outcome Indigenous communities, authorities and civil society are collaborating and learning, and have lasting capacity to manage sustainable landscapes with their biodiversity across all tamaraw range sites on Mindoro.		
Outcome indicator 0.1 Number of annual meetings of tamaraw Conservation Coordination Group/Council (TCCG/TCCC) involving all three stakeholder groups, relevant to all three sites, and considered successful by at least 75% of participants. (Baseline 0; 1 after Year 2, 2 per year from Year 3 onwards; target for participation of women in all fora >40%)	Reporting on this indicator to start in Year 2 (2025-2026).	Convene the CAAC sub-committee on tamaraw conservation (Activity 1.02).
Outcome indicator 0.2 Number of Indigenous community members with participation in TCCG/TCCC, Law Enforcement Forum, and similar participatory fora [DI B05]. (Baseline 0, 30 per year from Year 3 onwards)	Reporting on this indicator to start in Year 3 (2026-2027).	Ensure IP participation in CAAC sub-committee meeting and Law Enforcement Forum (Activities 1.02, 1.10)
Outcome indicator 0.3 Number of local communities (barangays), government agencies/units and education institutions with improved capability and capacity as a result of this project [DI-A03]. (Baseline 0; 3/7 barangays, 3/6 branches of natl. govt.institutions, 1/2 Local Government Units, 1/3 educational institutions at end of Year 3/5, respectively)	Reporting on this indicator to start in Year 3 (2026-2027).	Continue to implement training activities under Output 3 as per logframe and Gantt Chart.

Project summary	Progress and Achievements September 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Outcome indicator 0.4</p> <p>Area of tamaraw habitat under sustainable management practices as defined by agreed and operational collaborative conservation and management plans [DI-D01]. (Baseline 1,600 ha; 3,000 ha at MIBNP at end of project; Baseline 0, 2,500 ha at Aruyan-Malati at end of project; Baseline and target to be defined in Year 1 for Inner Mindoro)</p>	<p>Reporting at the end of the project. Baseline in Inner Mindoro is 0 ha; initial target there is 5,000 ha.</p>	<p>Implement socio-agro-ecosystem assessment and conduct biodiversity assessment in SADIK and socio-agro-ecosystem assessment in Inner Mindoro (Activities 2.03, 2.05, 2.06).</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 0.5</p> <p>Number of households/clans reporting improved livelihoods as result of the uptake of locally adapted, improved land use, agriculture techniques and land restoration practices [DI-D16]. (Baseline 0, 10 after Year 3 and 25 by end of project in MIBNP, 10 each by the end of project in AM, IM)</p>	<p>Reporting on this indicator to start in Year 3 (2026-2027). Long list of potential households/clans prepared already.</p>	<p>Conduct socio-agro-ecosystem key informant interviews and focus group discussions with identified potential households/clans (Activities 2.05, 2.06).</p> <p>Promote permaculture demonstration site for visits and conduct permaculture-related training activities (Activities 5.03, 5.04).</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 0.6</p> <p>Number of hectares where deforestation / degradation has been avoided with project support (D1-D09). (Baseline: 0; all existing project areas).</p>	<p>Reporting on this indicator will be done at the end of the project.</p>	<p>All project activities.</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 0.7</p> <p>Stabilised or improved populations of Mindoro warty pig, Philippine deer, Mindoro hornbill, Long-tailed macaque and Common palm civet (occupancy) [DI-D04]. (Baseline: to be determined by Year 2; no deterioration by the end of the project).</p>	<p>Reporting on this indicator will be done at the end of the project.</p>	<p>All project activities, especially Activity 4.02, 4.03, and 4.04.</p>
<p>Output 1 The policy, legal, planning and institutional framework better supports effective management of tamaraw and tamaraw landscapes within Indigenous territories.</p>		

Project summary	Progress and Achievements September 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Output indicator 1.1</p> <p>1.1 The Tamaraw House Bill is adopted with support of the project and enacted [DI-D03]. (Baseline 0; by the end of the project)</p>	<p>Past tamaraw bills that were filed in the Congress reviewed. Review disclosed anthropocentric conservation approaches centered on strengthening the role of the government. The Partners Convention on November 18, 2025, and monthly meetings with Taobuid Indigenous Political Structure (IPS) leaders elicited ideas and recommendations to shift and combine the conservation approach on ecocentrism by adding provisions focused on habitat legal protection and role of IPs.</p>	<p>Drafting of the House Bill that will be refiled in the House of Representatives and Senate Bill that will be filed in the House of Senate. [Filing/ refiling of bill will have to wait until the opening of next Congress, as the current Congress will close in June 2025]. Inclusion in the bill of the salient features of Republic Act (RA) 9147 (Wildlife Act) and RA 8371 (Indigenous Peoples Rights Act or IPRA). Translation of the bill to Filipino language and presentation to the IPs (Activity 1.01).</p>
<p>Output indicator 1.2</p> <p>The comprehensively improved and updated TCMAP is available and endorsed [DI-B02]. (Baseline 0; by the end of the project)</p>	<p>TCMAP was officially adopted and approved by the DENR Secretary on January 8, 2025, by issuing a DENR Administrative Order (DAO).</p> <p>Three municipalities engaged in the process of adopting TCMAP as of March 2025.</p>	<p>Conduct exploratory talks with representatives after midterm elections</p> <p>Presentation/ lobbying to the Municipal Councils of three (3) municipalities i.e., Sablayan, Santa Cruz, Naujan, pending response to the letters sent by TCPO (Activity 1.03).</p>
<p>Output indicator 1.3</p> <p>Number and area of tamaraw habitat areas with legal protective designation outside existing PAs.(Baseline 0, 1 of 3,000 ha for AM after Year 3, another of 6,000 ha for IM by the end of the project)</p>	<p>Legal protective designation (as Critical Habitat) for SADIK (previously named Aruyan-Malati) covering 5,362 ha drafted and submitted to the DENR for approval.</p>	<p>Presentation/lobbying to the Municipal Council of Sablayan the updating of legal designation over SADIK (Activity 1.06).</p>
<p>Output indicator 1.4</p>		

Project summary	Progress and Achievements September 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
Ancestral Domain Title of Taobuid officially certified [DI-B06]. (Baseline 0, by end of project)	Taobuid supported in completing all requirements for the Ancestral Domain Title application, ready for the deliberation by the NCIP's Commission En Banc (CEB).	Close coordination with NCIP for the schedule of deliberation by the NCIP's CEB of the Ancestral Domain Title application of Taobuid (Activity 1.08).
Output 2. Reliable and up-to-date information is available to stakeholders about the species, ecosystems, communities, culture and land / resource use in the tamaraw landscapes.		
<p>Output indicator 2.1</p> <p>Number of standard methodological and best practice guides for surveying and monitoring tamaraw published and adopted [DI-C01]. (Baseline: 1 in preparation; 2 finalized after Year 3, total 4 by the end of the project)</p>	Reporting on this indicator to start in Year 3 (2026). Concept paper on the use of "ecological change indicator" as an alternative method approved by DENR for pilot testing.	The results of the recently concluded dung distance sampling will be prepared for publication (Activity 2.02).
<p>Output indicator 2.2</p> <p>Number of new tamaraw assessments produced and published [DI-C02]. (Baseline 0, 3 after Year 3)</p>	Reporting on this indicator to start in Year 3 (2026-2027).	Develop with TCPO plans for assessments in unsurveyed areas (Activity 2.03).
<p>Output indicator 2.3</p> <p>Number of new community-based socio-agro-ecosystem assessments of tamaraw landscapes [DI-C04]. (Baseline 0, 1 for AM after Year 2, another one for IM after Year 3)</p>	Reporting on this indicator to start in Year 2 (2025-2026).	Finalize initial socio-agro-ecosystem assessment in SADIK (Activity 2.05).
<p>Output indicator 2.4</p> <p>Number of technical reports, publications and ethnographic documents about Mindoro biological and cultural heritage, and management practices made available through the new online library [DI-C16]. (Baseline 0, 50 after Year 2, 100 after Year 3, 250 after Year 4)</p>	<p>Reporting on this indicator to start in Year 2 (2025-2026).</p> <p>Mock-up of project website where documents will be initially stored has already been completed.</p>	Store compiled list of relevant documents for inclusion (Activity 2.07).

Project summary	Progress and Achievements September 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
Output 3. Indigenous communities, authorities and other stakeholders have lasting capacity to maintain and extend effective tamaraw conservation and Indigenous management across all tamaraw landscapes.		
<p>Output indicator 3.1</p> <p>Number of members (women and men disaggregated) of Indigenous communities, staff of government agencies and NGOs, junior conservationists and rangers reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 months after training, respectively [DI-A04].</p> <p>(Baseline 0, 75% of 150 trained in service, 25% of 100 trained students; target participation of women >40%)</p>	<p>Trained participant data has been systematically recorded and integrated into the Output Indicator Monitoring Template, contributing to the tracking of progress against project targets.</p>	<p>Hold project discussion on design for monitoring application of skills (Activities 3.07, 3.08).</p>
<p>Output indicator 3.2</p> <p>Number of formal and informal visitors (annually) using the learning areas on permaculture and restoration at MIBNP including during events. (Baseline 25, 50 in Year 2, 100 in Year 3, 250 from Year 4 onwards)</p>	<p>Forty-six persons (38 male, 8 female) visited in Year 1 (2025) because Taobuid regular meeting was held at the demo site at MIBNP and a tour was included in the program of the Annual Tamaraw count which invited non-rangers to the area.</p>	<p>Continue to promote permaculture system, attract, and monitor visitors to the permaculture system (Activity 5.03).</p>
<p>Output indicator 3.3</p> <p>Number of individuals from Indigenous communities deployed as rangers by protected areas, LGUs or others to manage tamaraw habitat. (Baseline 10, 20 after Year 3, 40 at end of project)</p>	<p>Reporting on this indicator to start in Year 3 (2026-2027). Review of the policies related to the issue completed. Policy recommendation prepared by DENR.</p>	<p>Submit to and discuss with DENR recommendations on how to employ more Taobuid and Alangan as rangers (Activity 3.04).</p>
<p>Output indicator 3.4</p> <p>Number of relevant certificated training courses/ modules offered by education/ academic institutions on Mindoro as a result of the project. (Baseline 0, 2 after Year 3, 4 by the end of project)</p>	<p>Reporting on this indicator to start in Year 3 (2026-2027). Academia in Mindoro engaged in the establishment of long-term training programmes for main stakeholders.</p>	<p>Develop customized training plans tailored to each stakeholder group based on their specific roles, responsibilities, and capacity needs.</p> <p>Design training modules for relevant topics, guided by the results of the capacity needs</p>

Project summary	Progress and Achievements September 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
		assessment, ensuring alignment with stakeholder priorities and learning gaps (Activity 3.07).
Output 4. An integrated, effective framework to monitor and address immediate threats to tamaraw, other wildlife and natural resources is operational in all tamaraw landscapes.		
<p>Output indicator 4.1</p> <p>Common surveillance, law enforcement and crime prevention framework endorsed and applied by TCP, DENR, LGUs, and indigenous rangers. (Baseline 0 - only MIBNP PAMP; operative after Year 2)</p>	<p>Reporting on this indicator to start in Year 2 (2025-2026).</p> <p>Competency needs assessment by consultants conducted.</p>	<p>Finalise the report of the consultant and discuss implementation of recommendations with TCPO and MIBNP PAMO (Activity 4.01).</p>
<p>Output indicator 4.2</p> <p>Percentage of patrols of MIBNP, LGUs, Indigenous rangers within tamaraw landscape conducted using SMART technology. (Baseline 0-5% (tbc); 100% after Year 4)</p>	<p>Reporting on this indicator to start in Year 4 (2027-2028).</p> <p>SMART training curriculum drafted and sent to MIBNP PAMO and TCPO for approval.</p>	<p>Discuss with PAMO/TCPO draft SMART training curriculum (Activities 4.01, 4.02).</p>
<p>Output indicator 4.3</p> <p>A number of Indigenous initiatives for addressing illegal and harmful activities in their territory supported. (Baseline 0, 1 per year from MIBNP from Year 3, 1 per year from other areas from Year 4)</p>	<p>Reporting on this indicator to start in Year 3 (2026-2027).</p> <p>Concept paper on this theme completed and sent to TCPO.</p>	<p>Discuss with TCPO the concept paper and potential to become a topic for a Law Enforcement Forum (Activities 1.10, 4.03).</p>
<p>Output indicator 4.4</p> <p>Number of immediate threats to tamaraw and habitat (as per TCMAP) assessed to have been reduced or removed as a result of the project [DI-D18]. (Baseline 0, 4 out of 11 by end of project)</p>	<p>Reporting on this indicator will be done at the end of the project.</p>	<p>See Indicator 4.2 above.</p>
<p>Output indicator 4.5</p> <p>Stabilized tamaraw population (relative abundance) within MIBNP [DI-D04]. (Baseline: trend unclear; No further population decline from Year 2025 onwards)</p>	<p>Reporting on this indicator to start in Year 2 (2025-2026).</p> <p>Existing approaches considered and recommendations initially discussed.</p>	<p>Finalize review of different approaches and agree on method (Activity 2.02).</p>

Project summary	Progress and Achievements September 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
Output 5. The bio-cultural approach, which supports wildlife and Indigenous livelihoods in MIBNP, is being adapted and applied in natural and agroecosystems in all tamaraw landscapes.		
Output indicator 5.1 Number and area (ha) of areas with agreed operative mechanisms for cooperative land and resource use. (Baseline: 1 of 5,000 ha in preparation at MIBNP; 3 of a total of 12,000 ha agreed and operational by the end of project)	Reporting on this indicator will be done at the end of the project. Area at MIBNP is more than 5,000 has; operative mechanisms being strengthened.	Continue working on the new sites and strengthen operative mechanisms in MIBNP (Activities 5.01, 5.05 and 5.06).
Output indicator 5.2 Area (ha) of voluntary tamaraw safe reproduction zones beyond existing Strict Protection Zone of MIBNP approved, reflected in plans and operational. (Baseline 0, 1,200 ha by end of Year 2)	Reporting on this indicator to start in Year 2 (2025-2026). Approved area in MIBNP more than 2,000 ha (600 ha delineated with natural landmarks in a map and 1,800 considered reserved area that is not delineated in a map.	Strengthen operative mechanisms for the management of the area (Activity 5.01).
Output indicator 5.3 Area of degraded or converted ecosystems within the tamaraw safe reproduction zone of MIBNP that are under active restoration [DI-D12]. (Baseline 1,600 ha; 2,800 ha by the end of the project)	Reporting on this indicator will be done at the end of the project.	Recruit an ecosystem restoration specialist consultant (Activity 0.1, 5.02)
Output indicator 5.4 Number of Indigenous households that integrate locally adapted, improved land use and agriculture practices in their traditional management. (Baseline 0, 15 after Year 3 and 40 by end of project in MIBNP, 15 each by the end of project in AM, IM)	Reporting on this indicator will be done at the end of the project. Potential household/clan candidates in MIBNP for inclusion included in the long list.	Conduct assessment of farming system of identified households/clans to inform interventions (Activity 5.04).

- **Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as agreed after approval of the project**

Revised logical framework

11 March 2024

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Indigenous peoples, government institutions and other stakeholders collaborate effectively and equitably to manage the tamaraw landscapes of Mindoro with their biodiversity in an environmentally and socio-economically sustainable way.			
Outcome: Indigenous communities, authorities and civil society are collaborating and learning, and have lasting capacity to manage sustainable landscapes with their biodiversity across all tamaraw range sites on Mindoro.	0.1 Number of annual meetings of tamaraw Conservation Coordination Group/Council (TCCG/TCCC) involving all three stakeholder groups, relevant to all three sites, and considered successful by at least 75% of participants. (Baseline 0; 1 after Year 2, 2 per year from Year 3 onwards; target for participation of women in all fora >40%) 0.2 Number of Indigenous community members with participation in TCCG/TCCC, Law Enforcement Forum, and similar participatory fora [DI-B05] . (Baseline 0, 30 per year from Year 3 onwards) 0.3 Number of local communities (barangays), government agencies/units and education institutions with improved	0.1 Records of TCCG/TCCC, satisfaction survey. 0.2 LoP of meetings of TCCG/TCCC, LEF and similar fora. 0.3 Participatory surveys.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is continued high-level political will to support Indigenous communities and to conserve tamaraw. The overall relationships between Indigenous communities, government and other stakeholders in Mindoro remain constructive. The security situation in the areas where there are still tamaraws remains stable.

	<p>capability and capacity¹ as a result of this project [DI-A03]. (Baseline 0; 3/7 barangays, 3/6 branches of natl. govt. institutions, 1/2 Local Government Units, 1/3 educational institutions at end of Year 3/5, respectively)</p> <p>0.4 Area of tamaraw habitat under sustainable management practices as defined by agreed and operational collaborative conservation and management plans [DI-D01]. (Baseline 1,600 ha; 3,000 ha at MIBNP at end of project; Baseline 0, 2,500 ha at Aruyan-Malati at end of project; Baseline and target to be defined in Year 1 for Inner Mindoro)</p> <p>0.5 Number of households/clans reporting improved livelihoods as result of the uptake of locally adapted, improved land use, agriculture techniques and land restoration practices [DI-D16]. (Baseline 0, 10 after Year 3 and 25 by end of project in MIBNP, 10 each by the end of project in AM, IM)</p>	<p>0.4 Taobuid Community Conservation Plan, MIBNP management plan, other formally recognized management plans, documented customary self-regulation mechanisms, and documentation of implementation.</p> <p>0.5 Household surveys (Indigenous communities not in voluntary isolation), project meetings with clan representatives (Indigenous communities in voluntary isolation).</p>	
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¹ Meaning of “improved capability and capacity” for different entities: government: capability and capacity to develop and implement policy and integrated management of tamaraw landscapes in cooperation with Indigenous communities; education organizations: capability and capacity for implementation of long-term training programmes for main stakeholders (DENR, LGUs, NCIP, NGOs) on landscape scale conservation and equitable management; communities of Indigenous Peoples: to be defined by Activity 3.01.

	<p>0.6 Number of hectares where deforestation / degradation has been avoided with project support (D1-D09). (Baseline: 0; all existing project areas).</p> <p>0.7 Stabilised or improved populations of Mindoro warty pig, Philippine deer, Mindoro hornbill, Long-tailed macaque and Common palm civet (occupancy) [DI-D04]. (Baseline: to be determined by Year 2; no deterioration by the end of the project).</p>	<p>0.6 Remote sensing using satellite imagery.</p> <p>0.7 Systematic camera trapping, transects, point counts, SMART monitoring, and interviews.</p>	
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. The policy, legal, planning and institutional framework better supports effective management of tamaraw and tamaraw landscapes within Indigenous territories.</p>	<p>1.1 The Tamaraw House Bill is adopted with support of the project and enacted [DI-D03]. (Baseline 0; by the end of the project)</p> <p>1.2 The comprehensively improved and updated TCMAP is available and endorsed [DI-B02]. (Baseline 0; by the end of the project)</p> <p>1.3 Number and area of tamaraw habitat areas with legal protective designation outside existing PAs. (Baseline 0, 1 of 3,000 ha for AM</p>	<p>1.1 Tamaraw House Bill and documentation of adoption at Congress (High Chamber).</p> <p>1.2 Improved/updated TCMAP and records of endorsement.</p> <p>1.3 Documents of gazetting and legal designation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy, legal and planning framework is effectively implemented. • There is continued support of LGUs to designated areas.

	<p>after Year 3, another of 6,000 ha for IM by the end of the project)</p> <p>1.4 Ancestral Domain Title of Taobuid officially certified [DI-B06]. (Baseline 0, by end of project)</p>	1.4 Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title.	
<p>2. Reliable and up-to-date information is available to stakeholders about the species, ecosystems, communities, culture and land / resource use in the tamaraw landscapes.</p>	<p>2.1 Number of standard methodological and best practice guides for surveying and monitoring tamaraw published and adopted [DI-C01]. (Baseline: 1 in preparation; 2 finalized after Year 3, total 4 by the end of the project)</p> <p>2.2 Number of new tamaraw assessments produced and published [DI-C02]. (Baseline 0, 3 after Year 3)</p> <p>2.3 Number of new community-based socio-agro-ecosystem assessments of tamaraw landscapes [DI-C04]. (Baseline 0, 1 for AM after Year 2, another one for IM after Year 3)</p> <p>2.4 Number of technical reports, publications and ethnographic documents about Mindoro biological and cultural heritage, and management practices made available through the new online library [DI-C16]. (Baseline 0, 50</p>	<p>2.1 Methodological/guidance publications and endorsement records.</p> <p>2.2 Published assessment reports.</p> <p>2.3 Published assessment reports.</p> <p>2.4 Newly established online library (c.f. Activity 2.7).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant stakeholders are aware of and know how to access and use the available information.

	after Year 2, 100 after Year 3, 250 after Year 4)		
<p>3. Indigenous communities, authorities and other stakeholders have lasting capacity to maintain and extend effective tamaraw conservation and Indigenous management across all tamaraw landscapes.</p>	<p>3.1 Number of members (women and men disaggregated) of Indigenous communities, staff of government agencies and NGOs, junior conservationists and rangers reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 months after trainings, respectively [DI-A04]. (Baseline 0, 75% of 150 trained in service, 25% of 100 trained students; target participation of women >40%)</p> <p>3.2 Number of formal and informal visitors (annually) using the learning areas on permaculture and restoration at MIBNP including during events. (Baseline 25, 50 in Year 2, 100 in Year 3, 250 from Year 4 onwards)</p> <p>3.3 Number of individuals from indigenous communities deployed as rangers by protected areas, LGUs or others to manage tamaraw habitat. (Baseline 10, 20 after Year 3, 40 at end of project)</p> <p>3.4 Number of relevant certificated training courses/ modules offered by education/</p>	<p>3.1 Participatory surveys among training participants.</p> <p>3.2 Records of learning area on permaculture and restoration demonstration site.</p> <p>3.3 Records of PAMO, LGUs and other entities deploying rangers.</p> <p>3.4 Officially validated course curricula.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are continued will and incentives to use capacity for maintaining and extending effective management. • There is sufficient staff continuity (trained people staying on Mindoro) and organizational memory among government agencies and NGOs to ensure a lasting capacity legacy. • There is adequate demand among students for newly established training courses/ modules.

	academic institutions on Mindoro as a result of the project. (Baseline 0, 2 after Year 3, 4 by the end of project)		
4. An integrated, effective framework to monitor and address immediate threats to tamaraw, other wildlife and natural resources is operational in all tamaraw landscapes.	<p>4.1 Common surveillance, law enforcement and crime prevention framework endorsed and applied by TCP, DENR, LGUs, and indigenous rangers. (Baseline 0 - only MIBNP PAMP; operative after Year 2)</p> <p>4.2 Percentage of patrols of MIBNP, LGUs, Indigenous rangers within tamaraw landscape conducted using SMART technology. (Baseline 0-5% (tbc); 100% after Year 4)</p> <p>4.3 Number of Indigenous initiatives for addressing illegal and harmful activities in their territory supported. (Baseline 0, 1 per year from MIBNP from Year 3, 1 per year from other areas from Year 4)</p> <p>4.4 Number of immediate threats to tamaraw and habitat (as per TCMAP) assessed to have been reduced or removed as a result of the project [DI-D18]. (Baseline 0, 4 out of 11 by end of project)</p> <p>4.5 Stabilized tamaraw population (relative abundance)</p>	<p>4.1 Framework document and records of endorsement and application.</p> <p>4.2 Records on patrolling and follow-up to incidents that have been detected from MIBNP, LGUs, Indigenous communities.</p> <p>4.3 Documentation of support granted in response to requests from Indigenous initiatives.</p> <p>4.4 Published assessment of threats, making use of data generated through use of SMART.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring data are acted upon. • Detected incidences are properly followed up. • Indigenous communities allow government staff, particularly rangers, to enter and survey their territory regularly.

	within MIBNP [DI-D04] . (Baseline: trend unclear; No further population decline from Year 2025 onwards)	4.5 Monitoring data from new tamaraw monitoring method, conducted by DENR.	
5. The bio-cultural approach, which supports wildlife and Indigenous livelihoods in MIBNP, is being adapted and applied in natural and agroecosystems in all tamaraw landscapes.	<p>5.1 Number and area (ha) of areas with agreed operative mechanisms for cooperative land and resource use. (Baseline: 1 of 5,000 ha in preparation at MIBNP; 3 of a total of 12,000 ha agreed and operational by the end of project)</p> <p>5.2 Area (ha) of voluntary tamaraw safe reproduction zones beyond existing Strict Protection Zone of MIBNP approved, reflected in plans and operational. (Baseline 0, 1,200 ha by end of Year 2)</p> <p>5.3 Area of degraded or converted ecosystems within the tamaraw safe reproduction zone of MIBNP that are under active restoration [DI-D12]. (Baseline 1,600 ha; 2,800 ha by the end of the project)</p> <p>5.4 Number of Indigenous households that integrate locally adapted, improved land use and agriculture practices in their traditional management. (Baseline 0, 15 after Year 3 and 40 by end of project in MIBNP,</p>	<p>5.1 Agreements on cooperative land and resource use and records of implementation.</p> <p>5.2 Approval/agreement documents and maps of tamaraw safe reproduction zones.</p> <p>5.3 Complete habitat restoration plan and implementation reports.</p> <p>5.4 Participatory surveys.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MIBNP biocultural approach proves adaptable/acceptable and effective in Tamaraw landscapes beyond MIBNP over the project lifespan. • The tamaraw populations and landscapes are not irreversibly degraded in the short term before the biocultural approach can be adapted and applied.

	15 each by the end of project in AM, IM)		
<p>Activities</p> <p><u>Output 1. The policy, legal, planning and institutional framework better supports effective management of tamaraw and tamaraw landscapes within Indigenous territories.</u></p> <p>1.01 Build support for adoption and implementation of the proposed Tamaraw House Bill, including institutionalization of the Tamaraw Conservation Programme and formal establishment of the Tamaraw Conservation Coordination Council.</p> <p>1.02 Establish (with the Tamaraw Conservation Programme) a Tamaraw Conservation Coordination Group (prior to official establishment of the Tamaraw Conservation Coordination Council) and convene regular meetings.</p> <p>1.03 Promote institutional adoption and implementation of the Tamaraw Conservation Management Action Plan (TCMAP) in two relevant Local Government Units in Mindoro.</p> <p>1.04 Conduct an annual review and update of the TCMAP and progress towards its implementation.</p> <p>1.05 Facilitate a comprehensive participatory update of the Tamaraw Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) and a full revision of the TCMAP (based on project findings) for publication in 2028.</p> <p>1.06 Assist the DENR TCP to finalize official legal designation and management planning of the Aruyan-Malati tamaraw habitat.</p> <p>1.07 Prepare a study and proposal (in collaboration with authorities) to secure official legal designation of the Inner Mindoro tamaraw Habitat.</p> <p>1.08 Work with the Taobuid leadership and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to facilitate the final stages of the Taobuid Ancestral Domain Titling process.</p> <p>1.09 Provide information, advice and support to the Taobuid, the Alangan and the NCIP to update their ADSDPPs affecting tamaraw landscapes, based on latest knowledge and policies.</p> <p>1.10 Support regular meetings and workshops of the multi-stakeholder Law Enforcement Forum.</p> <p>1.11 Hold an annual multi-stakeholder Tamaraw Landscapes Symposium (during Tamaraw Month each October).</p> <p>1.12 Conduct awareness/communication campaigns and events aimed at decision makers, communities and the general population on the need to conserve upland landscapes, tamaraw and other biodiversity.</p> <p><u>Output 2. Reliable and up to date information is available to stakeholders about the species, ecosystems, communities, culture and land / resource use in the tamaraw landscapes.</u></p> <p>2.01 Establish with educational institutions a programme of collaborative research, to gather necessary information on biodiversity, culture, governance and resource use in the tamaraw landscapes.</p> <p>2.02 Develop, agree and operationalize standard methods for surveying and monitoring tamaraw in all tamaraw landscapes (in collaboration with the TCP and other stakeholders).</p> <p>2.03 Conduct biodiversity assessments and surveys of tamaraw distribution in un-surveyed areas.</p>			

2.04 Conduct the social feasibility and Indigenous engagement phases of the feasibility study for tamaraw population management (specified in the TCMAP).

2.05 Conduct participatory socio-agro-ecosystem assessments with the Taobuid in Aryan Malate to determine options for sustainable ecosystem management and coexistence with the tamaraw and other wildlife.

2.06 Conduct participatory socio-agro-ecosystem assessments with the Alanagan in Central Mindoro to determine options for sustainable ecosystem management and coexistence with the tamaraw and other wildlife.

2.07 Build and make available online an inventory/library of knowledge from technical reports, publications and ethnographic documents about Mindoro's biological and cultural heritage and management practices.

Output 3. Indigenous communities, authorities and other stakeholders have lasting capacity to maintain and extend effective tamaraw conservation and Indigenous management across all tamaraw landscapes.

3.01 Conduct an assessment of the capacity needs for Indigenous peoples' leaders to engage in, identify, propose and lead project interventions affecting them.

3.02 Design and implement a programme of appropriate capacity building for Indigenous leaders (Based on 3.01).

3.03 Support Indigenous partners to establish a programme of intergenerational learning within their communities.

3.04 Design, propose and seek approval for a system to enable Indigenous rangers to be officially employed by protected areas without High School qualifications.

3.05 Document, celebrate and share Indigenous knowledge and culture (in collaboration with Indigenous communities).

3.06 Create interpretational and learning programmes for the permaculture and restoration demonstration areas in MIBNP, focusing on habitat restoration, sustainable farming and management cooperation with Indigenous peoples.

3.07 Work with educational institutions and DENR to establish long-term training programmes for main stakeholders (DENR, LGUs, NCIP, NGOs) on landscape scale conservation and equitable management with Indigenous peoples.

3.08 Establish a mentoring system by senior project personnel and consultants for students, interns, practitioners and project personnel.

3.09 Design, pilot and implement a long-term capacity building programme for rangers from the DENR and from Indigenous groups (in conjunction with Output 4).

Output 4. An integrated, effective framework to monitor and address immediate threats to tamaraw, other wildlife and natural resources is operational.

4.01 Establish a common competence framework, operational and reporting system for site-based threat monitoring, surveillance and law enforcement (integrating DENR rangers, Indigenous rangers, LGUs).

4.02 Extend use of SMART technology to support monitoring, reporting and adaptive management in each site.

4.03 Support Indigenous initiatives for addressing illegal and harmful activities in their territories.

4.04 Upgrade protection and surveillance infrastructure in tamaraw landscapes.

4.05. Implement and extend an inter-organizational programme of wildlife crime and harmful activity prevention, in conjunction with the Law Enforcement Forum (see Activity 1.10).

4.06 Review the impacts and support official impact assessments of infrastructure projects in tamaraw landscapes (including the proposed trans-Mindoro road) and work with relevant authorities to prevent and mitigate impacts.

Output 5. The bio-cultural approach, which supports wildlife and Indigenous livelihoods in MIBNP, is being adapted and applied in natural and agroecosystems in all tamaraw landscapes.

5.01 Secure the formal recognition and implementation of the Taobuid Community Conservation Plan and the enlarged tamaraw 'safe reproduction zone' in Mounts Iglit Baco Natural Park (MIBNP).

5.02 Formulate and operationalize a complete habitat restoration plan for the wildlife/tamaraw safe reproduction zone expansion at MIBNP in agreement with PAMO and Taobuid.

5.03 Further develop the permaculture and restoration areas in MIBNP as a food source for rangers and a demonstration and learning site for restoration, sustainable farming and cooperation with Indigenous peoples.

5.04 Identify and support specific Taobuid members in MIBNP who are willing to apply new land-use and farming techniques as community demonstration sites on their own land.

5.05 Support review and revision of the MIBNP management plan in collaboration with the PAMO and the Taobuid.

5.06 Work with Indigenous peoples in the Aruyan Malati and Inner Mindoro tamaraw landscapes to establish and manage conservation areas in their territories, both officially and customary designation.

5.07 Establish a grant mechanism to support agreed initiatives to enable effective and sustained management of the tamaraw landscapes and Indigenous livelihoods.

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

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

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	If this links directly to a project indicator(s), please note the indicator number here	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Year 5 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-A01	Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training.		People	Stakeholders, staff	138/150 0/100						150 trained service, 100 trained students
DI-A04	Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.	3.1	People	Gender (target 40% throughout); service/staff vs. students	-						112/150 trained service , 25 of 100 trained students
DI-D01	Area of land under ecological management	0.4	ha	Areas: MIBNP / SADIK / Inner Mindoro	1,600 / 0 / 0						3,000 / 2,500 / 5,000

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)
Unifying bamboo - permaculture video from MIBNP	Online Videos			Filipino		https://youtu.be/UELcneWCwEA?si=L57y3LJy_Dj3F2yK

- **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?	v
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	v
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.	v
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.	v
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	v
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	