

Darwin Initiative Main: Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Project Reporting Information Note”: (<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/information-notes-learning-notes-briefing-papers-and-reviews/>).

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

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2023

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Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	DARNV007
Project title	Farming with Alternative Pollinators for Increased Biodiversity and Smallholder Incomes.
Country/ies	Zimbabwe
Lead Partner	Action Against Hunger
Project partner(s)	Nutrition Action Zimbabwe & Environment Africa
Darwin Initiative grant value	£188,841
Start/end dates of project	19/04/2022 - 30/09/2023
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2022 – Mar 2023) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2022 – March 2023, Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Admire Mukorera
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.facebook.com/ActionContrelaFaimZW
Report author(s) and date	Admire Mukorera, Tafadzwa Mavhudzi, Annah Matsika, William Mufuka, 30/04/2023

1. Project summary

75% of food crops and almost 90% of wild plants globally depend, at least partly, on animal pollination for fertilisation. Pollination is one of the most important functions in maintaining and promoting biodiversity, securing agricultural production and food security.

The population of pollinators is being threatened by natural phenomena (climate change and natural disasters) and human activities such as intensive agriculture, use of inorganic fertilisers and chemicals (pesticides, herbicides) and changes in land use patterns (deforestation, expansion of agricultural land, increased human population and settlement). With the increased demand for food, Zimbabwean farmers have abandoned the ecosystem friendly cultural farming methods (conservation agriculture, use of organic manure, integrated pest and disease control), adopting intensive and unsustainable agricultural practices with the intention of increasing production. This has led to unfavourable conditions and poor habitats for pollinators, leading to death, migration and even extinction of some pollinators, as they do not have a conducive habitat. In Zimbabwe, the demand for cheap goods and a modern and competitive economy, pushes the agricultural production system, resulting in high use of insecticides, unsustainable monoculture cropping, cutting of trees for firewood and tobacco curing, and also agricultural expansion by clearing of land, through deforestation, bushfires are affecting the survival and population of

pollinators. Therefore, agriculture is considered the biggest contributor for pollinator loss in Zimbabwe, and yet it is the same sector that requires pollinators for the successful production of crops which rely on pollinators. In addition, forest area has dramatically declined, largely due to land degradation, deforestation, veld fires, livestock pressure; resulting in loss of biodiversity and habitat for wildlife and alternative wild pollinators; impacting on crop productivity. The increase in population has led to humans moving into previously protected areas (conservancies and forest areas) for settlement and agriculture. Consequently, there is a rapid decline of wild pollinators, which provide the majority of pollination services. Without the services of these pollinators, natural plants cannot be pollinated, as well as vital food plants and crops. While this is already having destructive effects on biodiversity, it is also adversely affecting production and food security of resource poor smallholder farmers who rely on ecosystem services for their production.

For smallholder farmers, protecting biodiversity and pollinators is not their priority and not considered profitable, especially as insects are regarded as pests. Government-financed schemes to protect pollinators and ecosystem services are not existent and affordable in Zimbabwe, as it is suffering from a long-term socio-political and economic downturn. The challenge is to motivate farmers to engage in pollinator protection, while at the same time enabling them to maintain and enhance their agricultural livelihoods.

Farming with Alternative Pollinators (FAP) is an approach that dedicates 25% of the cropped area to Marketable Habitat Enhancement Plants (MHEP) that attract pollinators and provide farmers with income. FAP promotes resilience of agro-ecosystems and biodiversity and leads to higher and better quality of crop yields, through improved pollination by a diversity of wild pollinator insects while increasing income per surface through pollinator-friendly habitat enhancement as an incentive for farmers to contribute to pollinator protection. The project seeks to demonstrate the benefits of protecting and conserving wild pollinators to improve crop quality, increase crop yield and income of resource-poor farmers. Farmers plant their fields with different crop combinations of marketable crops that attract and benefit from pollinators. Due to diverse pollination, quality and quantity of such crops increase and consequently farmers' incomes are increased. The demonstrations are done in farmers' fields together with agricultural and environmental advisors. The project is expected to enable farmers to contribute to reversing pollinator loss and supporting the recovery of ecosystem-based service, while increasing the farmers' yield and income.

This approach will address the lack of awareness/appreciation of the role and importance of insects in agriculture by farmers, encouraging habitat protection and enhancement, by promoting good agriculture practices and discouraging the use of insecticides, inorganic fertilisers and chemicals. Introducing MHEP will increase yield and income, which could reduce the need for unsustainable agricultural expansion (such as deforestation) and harmful practices (use of chemicals).

The FAP project is based on a research project carried out by ICRISAT in Morocco and Uzbekistan. The project is currently being implemented in Gokwe North (wards 5, 6 and 7) and Gokwe South (ward 12 and 15) districts in Midlands Province, Zimbabwe, where Action Against Hunger and Nutrition Action Zimbabwe (NAZ) have been working with farmers to promote good agricultural practices in low-input community gardens and crop fields. These districts receive low rainfall resulting in low production, food shortages and higher vulnerability to natural shocks, with 694,000 people in Midlands suffering from insufficient food consumption. Farmers in these areas often resort to cotton production, which requires high use of chemicals and inorganic fertilisers, leading to biodiversity loss, especially of wild pollinators.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The project is managed through the ongoing partnership of Action Against Hunger and Nutrition Action Zimbabwe, with support from Environment Africa. An entomologist from the University of Zimbabwe and Environment Africa (EA) has been engaged to develop a FAP manual, provide technical support, and to give project field teams and extension officers from the Ministry of

Agriculture department of AGRITEX, specific trainings on pollination and identification of suitable crop combinations for the trial. The field teams were trained on the FAP concept, pollination, the FAP field layouts and good agricultural practices for attracting pollinators and preserving their habitats. The trained government extension staff then trained the 50 FAP and 30 control farmers on the same concepts through cascade trainings. Local stakeholders have been engaged through field learning visits to promote scale up and expansion of the approach. Guidance on planting of the crops is provided by Nutrition Action Zimbabwe (NAZ) field teams and department of AGRITEX. NAZ field team jointly conducts crop growth monitoring, insect pollinator monitoring and counting and monitoring of general agriculture practices with ward based AGRITEX Officers.

The partnership with the AGRITEX department and other stakeholders such as Environmental Management Agency (EMA), Forestry Commission, Rural District Council (RDC), District Development Coordinator's (DDC) office is ensuring cross pollination of ideas and easy implementation of the project. The project team regularly shares reports with all relevant stakeholders so that they are up to date with experiences and lessons from the implementation processes.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Piloting performance of main crops and MHEP due to FAP methodology

The project registered and trained 80 (46 male, 34 female) project participants, 50 for the FAP group and 30 for the control group, with 40 participants per district for the two districts (Gokwe South and Gokwe North). Garden materials were distributed to the 80 registered farmers, where each farmer received diamond mesh wire for fencing the garden, treated poles and nails for fencing, a hoe, a watering can, and vegetable seeds i.e., 5 different types (mustard rape, green pepper, tomatoes, cucumbers and watermelon).

Environment Africa (EA) conducted a training of trainers for the project officers, AGRITEX extension officers from respective operational areas and this was cascaded down to project beneficiaries before the first cropping cycle. The training covered the basics of the FAP concept, biodiversity, pollinator identification and counting, and field designs in FAP.

The first cropping cycle (running from September 2022 to February 2023) was completed and farmers managed to produce the five different crops from their 30m by 10m gardens. The first cropping cycle was heavily affected by unfavourable climatic conditions i.e., the heat wave at the beginning of the cropping cycle and flooding that affected Gokwe North and South communities towards the end of the cropping cycle in January 2023. The extreme heat encountered at the beginning of the rainy season resulted in some misalignment in the synchronisation of flowering, which had an effect on the abundance and diversity of pollinator species at flowering. Following cyclone in January 2023 53% of the farmers had their plots extensively damaged, 23% reported mild damage and 24% reported to have experienced low damage on the plots due to flooding. The crop damage affected both the expected yield and income for both the FAP and control plots. Hence affecting the ability of the project to fully understand the potential yield and income results of the 1st cropping cycle and the full evidence to demonstrate how pollinator abundance/diversity can influence the performance (yield, quality) of a crop on an agricultural plot.

Assessing wild pollinator diversity in and around FAP plots

The project team conducted 2 pollinator counts during the first cropping cycle. Twelve pollinator species limited to family level were identified which included: *Honeybees*, *Andrenidae spp*, *Megachile spp*, *Xylocopa spp*, *Lepidoptera spp*, *Meliponini spp*, *Halictus spp*, *Syrphidae spp*, *apis spp*, *vespidae spp*, *vespula spp*, *diptera spp*, and *coleoptera spp*. Pollinator diversity and abundance increased from the first count to the second count and some of the pollinators

observed were new to the farmers. Honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) were the most dominant flower visitor. Some of the pollinators were captured using an insect net and taken to the University of Zimbabwe, entomology lab for identification under microscope.

Increasing capacity of farmers, AAH, NAZ, Agritex, EA and key stakeholders to deliver biodiversity-poverty reduction outcomes

68 people (8 project staff, 10 stakeholders and 50 farmers) received training of trainers facilitated by Environment Africa (EA), including the project officers, Agritex extension officers from respective operational areas. This was cascaded down to project beneficiaries before the first cropping cycle. The 2-day training covered the basics of the FAP concept, biodiversity, pollinator identification and counting, and field designs in FAP. The first cropping cycle (running from October/November 2022 to February 2023) was completed and farmers managed to produce different crops from their 30m by 10m gardens.

Field Project Officers conducted at least 1 visit per farmer per month during the first cycle to provide support and mentorship to farmers on good agricultural practices and pollinator habitat enhancement for FAP farmers.

Engaging key stakeholders with the innovation to assess potential scale-up and promote inclusion in national agricultural plans and strategies.

Key stakeholders from both districts (Gokwe South and Gokwe North) were engaged with the innovation to assess the potential to scale up if successful. Engagements were also done at national level and the project was observed to align with the Agro-ecology policy currently under development. The field visits gave the stakeholders an opportunity to give comments and ask questions. There was positive interest in the concept and commitment to advocate for it to be scaled up if the research findings proved that the concept works.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Improved performance of main crops and MHEP due to FAP methodology

To achieve the output of improved performance of main crops and MHEP due to the FAP methodology, a total of 80 plots (50 FAP, 30 control plots) were successfully established across the two districts. However, the performance of the main crop and MHEP for the 1st cropping cycle could not be adequately measured due to the destruction caused by flooding in both the FAP and control plots. 53% of the plots suffered significant damage, 27% moderate damage, and 10% of the plots suffered minor damage. The tomato crop suffered the greatest amount of damage, followed by watermelon, cucumber, green pepper, and mustard rape. Crop yield assessments were done for the main crop and MHEP in the remaining plots, which were accessible and had not been significantly affected by the cyclone. The yield loss per crop was estimated as follows: butternut at ± 4 buckets¹, cucumber ± 6 buckets, green pepper $7 \pm$ buckets, mustard rape ± 65 bundles, tomato ± 120 buckets and ± 70 watermelons. Regardless of the damage, farmers have reported that they have observed a positive improvement in the quality, yield per area, shelf life and even texture of their yield especially on tomatoes from FAP plots as compared to their traditional gardens yield quality. The yield results to date are not conclusive enough hence the project will continue to monitor yield increase across the remaining cropping cycles.

Output 2: Increased wild pollinator biodiversity in and around FAP plots

Two pollinator counts were conducted in January and March 2023 across the two districts. There is evidence of increased wild pollinator biodiversity in and around FAP plots. From the pollinator count, 12 different species were identified in the FAP plots and some, which were new to the farmers and were initially perceived as harmful pests. Some of the pollinators observed included

¹ Bucket=20kg

sweat bees, *Halictus* spp. (very abundant especially in mustard rape (tsunga), mining bees (*Adrenidae*), Carpenter bees (*Xylocopa* spp.), Blowflies (*Calliphoridae*), house flies (*Musca domestica*), Beetles (*Coleoptera*) and various species of butterflies (*Lepidoptera*). During the inception trainings most, farmers highlighted that they have limited knowledge of pollinators and their purpose in their fields. However, focus group discussions conducted at the end of the 1st cropping cycle indicate that there has been improved knowledge among farmers in the identification of pollinator species for both men and women. New species, which could not be identified by the farmers and local extension offers, were taken for identification at the University of Zimbabwe. The pollinator count was however affected greatly by the effects of flooding; hence, the project could not conduct a third count, which was scheduled as most crops had been affected in the FAP plots during the flowering stage. Additionally, there has been a reduction in the number of farmers using insecticides in the FAP garden plots, which has improved the pollinator diversity. Feedback from the extension officers during joint reviews indicated that farmers have started demonstrating change in behaviour to pests and use of insecticides in their gardens.

Output 3: Increased capacity of farmers, AAH, NAZ, Agritex, EA and key stakeholders to deliver biodiversity-poverty reduction outcomes

Environment Africa as the technical service provider trained NAZ and Agritex staff from across the operational areas. 26 staff from Agritex, EMA and NAZ were capacitated on Training of the trainers Farming with Alternative Pollinators (FAP) concept. Some of the learning outcomes were for the participants to understand the process of pollination, how it is critical to biodiversity and food security, the current trend of pollinator decline, which practices contribute to the decline, how to reduce, halt or reverse the trend of pollinator decline. Secondly to be able to identify specific pollinators in and around FAP (and normal farmer) fields and pollination-relevant crops and plants. As way of evaluating the understanding of the trained concept, the training started with a “temperature check” assessment to gauge the level of knowledge and ended with the same assessment to determine if there was a marked improvement in knowledge. There was a marked improvement showing that the participants had a better understanding of the concepts and practices associated with the training material. In addition, this was evidenced by how farmers are adopting and applying the FAP concepts such as reduced chemical use in production.

Output 4: Engaging key stakeholders with the innovation to assess potential scale-up and promote inclusion in national agricultural plans and strategies.

During the reporting period, 1 visit was conducted with 13 key stakeholders such as Agriculture and Rural Development Advisory Services (AARDS), Environment Management Agency (EMA), Forestry Commission, Rural District Council, District Development Coordination Department and the District’s Office of the President were engaged with the innovation to assess the potential to scale up if successful. They managed to have a tour of the project plots in both districts. The main aim of the visit was for them to have a deeper understanding of the project and give comments, and recommendations on how best the project can be done and potentially scaled up to other wards. The stakeholders showed an appreciation and understanding of the concepts as they gave their recommendation to farmers such as: 1) Plots should be weed free to avoid pests and diseases and 2) Refresher trainings were needed for the farmers. Some of the observations as follows were that they were able to see the effects of pollinators on yield of crops and quality in terms of sizes of produce such as green pepper and cucumber. At one of the sites visited, the stakeholders observed that the farmer’s tomatoes that were at a nearby plot had a better harvest due to presence of more pollinators. In addition, the selected farmers were fully utilising their land set for pilot project, were committed and showing interest in adopting the FAP concept.

Learning visits have also been initiated with organisations and networks such as ‘Participatory Ecological Land Use Management’ (PELUM), ‘Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre’ (FPC), ‘Zimbabwe Association for the Practice and Promotion of Agroecology’ (ZAPPA) and others. The FAP approach has also been presented by the project team during a pollinator symposium

organised by the Agricultural College and attended by different players involved in similar topics (23rd Aug 2022).

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The main outcome of the project is to pilot and demonstrate an innovative approach (FAP) to increase biodiversity (wild pollinators and plant diversity) and reduce poverty (increased income at household level) in Gokwe North and Gokwe South. 50 farmers are practising the FAP concept. Results from the yield and income assessment report from the first cropping cycle showed that 40% of the farmers had an increase in income from the main crop in the FAP demo plot compared to farmers' income from the main crop in the control plot. In addition, 50 farmers experienced a 30% increase of income from MHEP in the FAP demo plot compared to farmers' income in the control plot on completion of the project (see Annex 5 for more details). However, the yield was affected by floods in the two districts thereby affecting income.

There is evidence being noted in the different plots, which shows an increase in wild pollinators. Due to the different crop combinations, farmers are noticing an influx of new and different pollinators that were not available before. Crops like coriander and mustard rape were the hub of pollinators due to their sweet-smelling flowers and brightly coloured petals. By the end of the funding, the project should be able to achieve the outcome, given the early indications and progress seen so far, despite the flood event.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumptions	Comments
FAP farmers are open to implement a new farming approach and are ready to learn	All the 80 farmers from FAP and control have shown their willingness to implement the approach and were ready to learn. They worked hard from setting up the garden, crop management and harvesting. No attrition has been recorded yet in any of the plots.
The project team and farmers closely monitor performance of crops (main crop + MHEP) and are flexible to adapt field layouts to attract diverse and abundant pollinators	The project team managed to work closely with the farmers and they are monitoring performance of crops and giving technical advice to farmers. The farmers have adapted the field layouts for cycle 1 and 2.
Identified crop combinations (main crop + MHEP) and application of good agricultural practices for pollinator habitat attract diverse and abundant pollinators for pollination of main crop	The identified crop combinations and adoption of good agricultural practices managed to attract diverse and abundant pollinators for pollination of the main crop. Moreover, this has resulted in good yield in some farmers plots.
Key district stakeholders approve the implementation of the project	District stakeholders approved the implementation of the project in both districts and are providing mentoring and support.
No major pests and diseases outbreak or climate hazard affects crop production	The project was affected by climatic hazard, where the plots were affected by floods 53% of the farmers had their plots extensively damaged, 23% reported a mild damage and 24% reported to have a low damage on the plots.

Targeted farmers are collaborative and participate actively	Farmers are collaborating and actively participating in the project as evidenced by implementing the FAP concept well.
Implementation of FAP leads to increased yield, which in turns leads to increased income	Partial results from the first cropping cycle yield have shown some increase in yield and income as compared to their traditional garden of the same size.
Up to 90% of Agritex and NAZ agriculture officers and farmers are able to attend training courses	The attendance was good for the first training and refresher trainings will be conducted during the 2 nd cropping cycle

3.5 Impact: Local communities and stakeholders, including governments, demonstrate sustained improvement in policy and practice, which results in gains for biodiversity and reduced poverty

Yield and income assessment analysis has shown that there is an increase in yield, biodiversity and incomes for the FAP farmers. Beneficiaries were trained on good agricultural practices that minimises the negative effects of agricultural activities on the environment and discouraged farmers from using pesticides, chemicals and inorganic fertilisers. These trainings have raised awareness on the importance of protecting the environment, the importance of pollinators on crop yield and quality, and educate farmers not to view all the insects as harmful pests. This has led to farmers utilising integrated pest and disease management practices where they prioritise use of non-chemical control measures and only applying the less toxic green-labelled pesticides under extreme situations. When these pesticides were applied, precautions were taken to minimise harm to the environment and humans i.e., using the correct dilution instructions, applying when it is not windy and during the evening when insect pollinator activity is at its minimum. Farmers did not use any artificial/inorganic fertiliser during the first cropping cycle; they used well-decomposed organic manure, which improves soil fertility and soil structure without polluting the environment.

FAP farmers managed to earn more income from selling the main and MHEP crops compared to control farmers. FAP farmers earned an average of \$133.63 from main crop (tomato and mustard rape) compared to control farmers who earned an average of \$106.40 from the same main crops. FAP farmers also earned an average of \$76.51 from MHEP crops (watermelon, cucumber and green pepper). Therefore, there was a 66% difference in the income of FAP farmers compared to control farmers.

FAP farmers also recorded more yield from main crops compared to control farmers. In FAP plots farmers recorded an average of 129.33kg of tomato yield compared to 106kg in control plots. For mustard rape FAP farmers recorded an average of 64.75 bundles against an average of 43.75 bundles for control plots, a 39% difference in the yields.

13 key stakeholders from across government departments have been engaged including Agriculture and Rural Development Advisory Services (AARDS), Environment Management Agency (EMA), Forestry Commission, Rural District Council, District Development Coordination Department and the District's Office of the President. It is too early to contribute to sustained improvement, but the project is contributing to the conversation with these stakeholders concerning the interlinkages of gains for biodiversity and sharing yield and income evidence that can contribute significantly to poverty reduction in the communities.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project contributes to the achievement of national and international strategies and policies on the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems. It is aligned to the following national policies and strategies:

- National Climate Policy (2017)
- Climate Smart Agriculture Framework (2018-2028)
- Zimbabwe National Agriculture Policy Framework (2018-2030)
- National Environmental Policy and Strategies (2009)
- Environmental Management Act
- Zimbabwe Climate Smart Agriculture Investment Plan (2019)

The National Environmental Policy and Strategies aims to maintain essential environmental processes, and preserve the broad spectrum of biological diversity to sustain the long-term ability of natural resources to meet basic human needs, enhance food security, reduce poverty, and improve living standards of Zimbabweans. The project supports these objectives as it seeks to preserve biological diversity and contribute to improved income and food security.

Zimbabwe has also developed a country strategy and plan, which is aligned to the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (UNCBD). Some of the objectives captured in the plan are: address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society; improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, and; enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building. The project is contributing to these objectives by combining indigenous knowledge, research and innovations to conserve biodiversity and enhance the habitat of different crop pollinators.

The project also contributes to the National Agriculture Policy Framework (NAPF) 2018-2030 and the National Climate Change Response Strategy (ZNCCRS) through promotion and strengthening biodiversity. This in turn will contribute to the international policy frameworks on the environment and conservation of biodiversity which Zimbabwe is a signatory of, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

5. Project support to poverty reduction

The project is piloting an innovative approach i.e., Farming with Alternative Pollinators (FAP) that is aimed at improving yield and quality of pollinator-dependent crops, thereby increasing income and food and nutrition security of smallholder farmers. The concept entails planting a main crop in association with MHEPs that automatically lets the farmers diversify, resulting in increased diversity, improved nutrition, increased income and reduced risk of complete crop failure.

The initial results of the first cropping cycle have shown an improvement of crop yield and income. Data collected during the first cropping cycle indicated an increase in the yield and income from the FAP plots as compared to the Control plots. Tomato yields in the FAP plots had an average of 129.33kgs as compared 106.31kgs in control plots, while mustard rape yields had 64.75 bundles in FAP plots versus 43.75 in control plots. In a similar manner, FAP farmers reported an increase in income of 11% and 36% for tomatoes and mustard rape compared to farmers in control plots. MHEP crops conferred additional yield and income to the FAP farmers with an average of 73.98 kg for cucumber, 138kg for butternut and 22.5kgs of butternut.

Such yields and incomes will significantly contribute to poverty reduction and improved livelihoods for vulnerable smallholder farmers. Increased crop production and productivity will result in improved food security as it has potential to address the four pillars of food security i.e., access, availability, stability and utilisation. The project is expected to contribute towards achievement of 10 out of 17 SDGs i.e. SDG 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 and 17 as it aims at reducing poverty and hunger by promoting biodiversity and sustainable production of food.

The project is expected to increase the numbers and diversity of pollinators, the diverse wild pollinators on the FAP plots will also pollinate natural and agricultural plants in the surroundings (for neighbouring farmers), contributing to increased biodiversity and food security of more

households (non-participants). For example, one FAP farmer in Gokwe South testified that the FAP plot increased the yield, quality and income of his tomato crop that was located a few meters from his FAP crop of mustard rape (main crop) and green pepper, tomato, cucumber and water melon (MHEPs). Increase of wild pollinators and visibility of good crop performance on FAP fields may lead to more non-project farmers adopting the FAP methodology in the project operational area. Along with improving incomes and livelihoods, pollinator populations and pollinator diversity in communities will increase due to the enhancement of pollinator habitat, having a positive effect on the ecosystem services and biodiversity as a whole.

6. Gender equality and social inclusion

<p>Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board².</p>	<p>The senior management of the implementing partner NAZ is composed of 60% women; with the FAP Program Manager and MEAL Manager being. The MEAL team of Action Against Hunger has 4 out of 5 female staff. The District Crop Specialists of the key stakeholder (Agritex) are all female for the two operational districts.</p> <p>On the part of project participants, the project has 40HH (20F; 20M) in Gokwe North, which is 50% Female and 50 % Male as beneficiaries. In Gokwe South, 40 HH (14F; 26M) is 35% Female and 65% Male. However, there is need to note that the project areas are patriarchal, thus, even if women are the main active participants of the project, they normally register the man as the participant/household head.</p>
<p>Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women³.</p>	<p>The District Crop Specialists are all female for the two operational districts. These offer technical assistance to the field teams. The District Development Coordinator (DDC) for Gokwe South is a woman, whilst the Gokwe North DDC is a male. The field supervisor for ward 15 in Gokwe South and ward 5 in Gokwe North are Female. The District Forestry Commission Officer who covers both districts is a Female.</p> <p>The senior management of the implementing partner NAZ is composed of 60% women; with the FAP Program Manager and MEAL Manager being female. The MEAL team of Action Against Hunger has 4 out of 5 female staff, which is 80%.</p>

7. Monitoring and evaluation

The project MEAL Officer and ward-based Agritex extension workers in the area of operation, were supported by the partner MEAL Manager and Action Against Hunger MEAL HOD to develop a MEAL strategy and execute activities timely. The MEAL Officer was the one responsible for

² A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

³ Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

implementation of the NAZ monitoring and evaluation system at field level; working hand in hand with the program focal person in implementing the project activities. The AAH MEAL department was responsible for oversight, development of tools and data quality assurance and final reporting. During beneficiary registration, means of verifications in the form of registration forms were used and collected for filing. When training on the FAP concept was done, attendance registers were used as means of verification. Activity reports were generated after the activity had been completed. When some of the risks highlighted in the project document, such as the cyclone that affected the project area of implementation, assessments were done and reports generated. The activity reports were then shared with relevant stakeholders including the district level stakeholders and project partners. There were no changes made to the M&E plan over the reporting period. The project partners share the monitoring and evaluation work, and the comments and recommendations from partners are discussed and implemented where possible. Weekly, monthly and quarterly reports are shared between the stakeholders and partners involved in the project. The reports include qualitative and quantitative reports, as well as activity reports.

Joint visitation of plots, assessment and documentation of: - crop performance on FAP plots (monthly) and control plots (bi-monthly) - plot yield and income assessments after each cropping cycle (2 assessments) - quality of pollinator habitat and development of pollinator in FAP plots (quarterly) - proper application of good agricultural practices (FAP and control) and FAP elements (FAP plots) (monthly).

8. Lessons learnt

- Farmers who have Individual garden plots are doing better than those who have individual plots within community gardens. The issue of governance and ownership will need to be addressed and strengthened by the project for community gardens to thrive better.
- Existing surrounding plants/trees that attract pollinators may enhance pollination of control crops, thereby causing unintended effects and affecting results. These need continuous monitoring to assess the extent in which they affect results.
- Market linkages are critical for crops that the communities are not very used to e.g. green pepper. The common crops that the farmers are familiar with, do better in terms of acceptance and marketability. Cucumbers, tomatoes and mustard rape were selling very well in both districts. There may be a need to adopt a market-led/demand-led production approach.
- The field teams observed on the ground during monitoring that some plants attract more pollinators than the others, in terms of numbers and diversity e.g., the coriander plant attracts more pollinators (diversity and numbers) than cucumbers.
- Some of the MHEP plants are prone to diseases and pests, which has meant that farmers have used pesticides for the control of these. This is particularly the case for tomatoes, in which cases have farmers ended up using green label agro-chemicals, which although the least toxic, is a concern for the project and the impact on biodiversity.

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

This is our first Annual Report, however we are in the process of requesting a change request to our Logframe to improve our Indicators. We have responded to feedback on this, earlier in April, as part of this process.

10. Risk Management

As noted, one of the risks identified has materialised and had an impact on the project. Unfavourable climate affecting crops/cropping – the first cropping cycle was affected by two climatic factors i.e., heat wave and floods. Crop establishment was affected by the heat wave as young seedlings failed to withstand the heat and wilted permanently. The project managed to

procure new seedlings of the crops that dried out. Seedlings have a shorter period until flowering than seeds, by that the project ensured synchronization of flowering as initially planned. Heavy rains, which resulted in flooding, affected the two districts at a critical crop development stage (fruiting for tomatoes), where crops were washed away, thereby affecting crop yield and consequently, affecting the measurement analysis of results of the first cropping cycle for some of the crops. However, data was collected across the fields.

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

N/A

12. Sustainability and legacy

Action Against Hunger and NAZ have previously promoted low-cost input gardens for smallholder farmers and gathered evidence of the learnings, benefits and motivation of farmers to engage. The inclusion of trusted, innovative farmers (lead farmers) in promoting new approaches has proven particularly successful and is being incorporated in this project. Lead farmers are instrumental in awareness raising, monitoring and appreciation of pollinators, especially countering farmers’ fear of being stung, thereby improving adoption and continuity of the practice. The improved yield and quality of crops, as well as earning of income from the plot is acting as a motivational factor and raising interest amongst farmers. The project has been sharing a one pager project update as a way of communicating and sharing progress with stakeholders. In order to increase biodiversity, the farmers must be able to teach fellow farmers about the FAP concept and good agriculture practices, which can be achieved through use of the lead farmer approach. These will cascade the concept to other farmers. Lead farmers will continue working closely with ward-based Agritex officers for technical support.

The project is making use of existing stakeholders and community structures, and through building the capacity of these structures, the community’s knowledge and competency for biodiversity focused extension services is being strengthened. Action Against Hunger uses a community-led participatory approach, which ensures community engagement and participation in identification and prioritisation of needs, project design, monitoring and adjustment throughout the project cycle. This plays a key role in capacity building of the community and enhancing post-project sustainability.

13. Darwin Initiative identity

The project has been using the Darwin Initiative logo on reports registers, communication materials such as the newsletter, social media posts that are being generated and shared. During the project inception meetings at provincial, district and community level, the information about the Darwin Initiative was shared.

14. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes, Annah Matsika, [REDACTED]
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	Yes, provided by Action Against Hunger who are currently updating the local office safeguarding procedures and processes to continue to align to international best practises
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 100% [27] Planned: 100% [27]

Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.

No safeguarding issues have been recorded in the last 12 months however farmer's trainings included safeguarding and protection trainings. Action Against Hunger will roll out refresher trainings for farmers and stakeholders to review current processes and policy.

Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify.

Refresher safeguarding trainings are planned for the national office staff between May and June 2023 which will be cascaded to the district teams in the 3rd quarter of the year.

15. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023) DRAFT FIGURES

Project spend (indicative since last Annual Report)	2022/23 Grant (£)	2022/23 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)				
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	£133,380	122,773.39		

Table 2: Project mobilising of matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

	Matched funding secured to date	Total matched funding expected by end of project
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Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project.	
Total additional finance mobilised by new activities building on evidence, best practices and project (£)	

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

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

Beyond improving crop yield and income for FAP farmers, the farmers reported that they have been introduced to new crops that they never used to grow. Crops such as cucumbers and green pepper were new to Gokwe North and South farmers. The introduction of new crops has not only increased income for the households but also improved their dietary diversity. The new pollinator species have also contributed to good crop quality particularly for MHEP and the main crops.



Picture 1: FAP improving crop quality for farmers in Gokwe North

Picture 2: MHEP crops improving pollinator diversity in FAP plots in Gokwe South

Image, Video or Graphic Information:

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption, country and credit	Online accounts to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
Image	Improving crop quality	Zimbabwe	@ACF_Zim, @actionagainsthungeruk	Yes
Image	Increasing pollinator diversity	Zimbabwe	@ACF_Zim, @actionagainsthungeruk	Yes

- Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2022-2023

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2022-2023

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact: Local communities and stakeholders, including governments, demonstrate sustained improvement in policy and practice, which results in gains for biodiversity and reduced poverty</p>		<p>District stakeholders and local communities have embraced FAP as a nature based solution that seeks to change the way farmers practise agriculture and protect pollinator habitats. Farmers have started embracing good agriculture practices and reducing the use of harmful chemicals to promote pollinator diversity.</p>	

<p>Outcome: To pilot and demonstrate an innovative approach (FAP) to increase biodiversity (wild pollinators and plant diversity) and reduce poverty (increased income at household level) in Gokwe North and Gokwe South.</p>	<p>0.1: 50 farmers commit to adopt FAP on completion of the project (baseline: 0) 0.2: 4 organizations affirm interest in designing projects with a FAP component on completion of the project (baseline: 0) 0.3: 50 farmers experience 40% increase in income from main crop in FAP demo plot compared to farmers' income from main crop in control plot on completion of the project 0.4: 50 farmers experience 30% increase of income from MHEP in FAP demo plot compared to farmers' income in control plot on completion of the project 0.5: 50% increase in wild pollinator species diversity compared to the pollinator baseline (established in Y1) on project completion</p>	<p>0.1 All 50 farmers have committed to using FAP and some have started implementing FAP in their household and individual gardens. No attrition has been recorded to date.</p> <p>0.2: Ongoing. In the 2nd cropping cycle a learning visit will be conducted for evidencing and learning from the 2 cycles.</p> <p>0.3 There was 11% income difference between FAP farmers and control farmers for the tomato crop and farmers in FAP plots had a 36% difference in income from mustard rape crop compared to control plots.</p> <p>0.4 Farmers in FAP plots earned an average of \$76.51 more from MHEP crops (water melon, cucumber, green pepper)</p> <p>0.5 Farmers managed to identify 12 pollinator species during the 1st cropping cycle. 12 species will be used as the baseline comparison at the end of the project.</p>	
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<p>Output 1. Improved performance of main crops and MHEP due to FAP methodology</p>	<p>1.1: 80 plots (50 FAP plots and 30 control plots) are established during the first quarter of project implementation (baseline: 0)</p> <p>1.2: Crop yield assessments after each cropping cycle are conducted for main crop and MHEP in 50 FAP plots and 30 control plots each year</p> <p>1.3: Crop quality assessments after each cropping cycle are conducted for main crop and MHEP in 50 FAP plots and 30 control plots each year</p> <p>1.4: Increase in yield of main crop between FAP and control plot measured after each cropping cycle (Cycle 1: 20%, Cycle 2: 30%, Cycle 3: 40% increase from baseline)</p>	<p>1.1: 80 pots have been established and have completed the first cropping cycle.</p> <p>1.2: 1 crop yield assessment has been completed after the first cycle was completed.</p> <p>1.3: 1 crop quality assessment has been completed after the first cropping cycle</p> <p>1.4 The crop and yield assessment showed that the tomato yields increased by 19.5% on average in FAP plots with tomato as main crop versus Control plots, while mustard rape yields increased by 38.5% in FAP plots with mustard as main crop versus Control plots.</p>	
<p>Activity 1.1: Identification of communities, farmer groups and individual farmers (including lead farmers) for FAP and control plots; sensitization of farmers and communities about FAP pilot and requirements for participation.</p>	<p>Completed: 80 farmers have been identified (50 FAP and 30 Control)</p>		
<p>Activity 1.2. Baseline situational assessment and participatory analysis about biodiversity loss, land degradation, agriculture and poverty issues in communities, and setting of project benchmarks (to be done in alignment with Activity 2.1.). A gender analysis focusing on gender differences in conservation and natural resource use will be included.</p>	<p>1 baseline situational analysis has been completed and relevant issues have been identified in the assessment (e.g., recognized importance of cultural norms and sanctions to overuse of resources, but incomprehension of those in everyday practice). Some topics will be further deepened in discussions with project participants to arrive at a better understanding of local perceptions and knowledge about key issues relevant for FAP implementation.</p>		

<p>Activity 1.3. Identification of main crops, Marketable Habitat Enhancement Plants (MHEPs), potential pollinators to be attracted, and agreement about optimal field layouts to attract a diversity of pollinators and facilitate improved pollination. This will be jointly done by the farmers in the same locality together with NAZ, EA and Agritex (to be done after Activities 2.1 and 2.2)</p>	<p>3 possible field layouts were agreed for each of the 2 seasons (winter May-Aug, summer Sep-Apr).</p>	<p>Layouts can be revised and information expanded according to learnings on main crops, MHEPs, pollinators in 1st and 2nd cropping cycle.</p>
<p>Activity 1.4. Setting up of fifty (50) FAP demonstration plots with the following crop coverage: 75% main crop, 25% different identified MHEP</p>	<p>50 FAP demonstration plots with the following crop coverage: 75% main crop, 25% different identified MHEP have been set up for the first and second cycle</p>	<p>Working in the 2nd cropping cycle</p>
<p>Activity 1.5. Setting up of thirty (30) control plots which will consist only of the main crop (100%).</p>	<p>30 control plots which consist only of the main crop (100%) have been established for the first and second cycle</p>	<p>Working in the 2nd cropping cycle</p>
<p>Activity 1.6. Monthly crop performance assessments – both FAP and control – by farmers, NAZ and Agritex officers.</p>	<p>Monthly crop performance have been conducted</p>	<p>Ongoing for the 2nd cropping cycle</p>
<p>Activity 1.7. Plot yield and income assessments after every cropping cycle to determine yield, crop quality, market value and income realised when selling, jointly conducted by the respective farmer, NAZ and Agritex officers, and together with a lead farmer.</p>	<p>1 Plot yield and income assessments has been completed</p>	<p>A second one will be conducted after the second cropping cycle.</p>
<p>Output 2. Increased wild pollinator biodiversity in and around FAP plots</p>	<p>2.1: 12 community focus group discussions (1 in each operational community) on traditional knowledge about natural resources and ecosystems, agriculture, pollinators and crops have been held during the first quarter of project implementation</p>	<p>2.1: 12 community focus group discussions (1 in each operational community) on traditional knowledge about natural resources and ecosystems, agriculture, pollinators and crops have been held during the first quarter of project implementation</p>

	<p>2.2: 12 community focus group discussions (1 in each operational community) held with the aim of assessing the state of pollinators and biodiversity in the first quarter of project implementation.</p> <p>2.3: Overall increase of 50% by project end in wild pollinator species (=diversity) in FAP plots compared to pollinator baseline established in Y1 (Cycle 1: 30%, Cycle 2: 40%, Cycle 3: 50% increase from baseline)</p> <p>2.4: 50 FAP plots show a 100% increase by project end in wild pollinator population (= abundance) compared to pollinator baseline established in Y1</p>	<p>2.2: 12 community focus group discussions (1 in each operational community) held with the aim of assessing the state of pollinators and biodiversity in the first quarter of project implementation.</p> <p>2.3 Ongoing</p> <p>2.4 Ongoing</p>	
<p>Activity 2.1. Participatory assessment of traditional knowledge about natural resources and ecosystems, agriculture, pollinators and crops. Including identification of suitable crops that are highly dependent on pollinators and of MHEPs that can best attract pollinators and suit farmers' capacities and preferences.</p>	<p>1 participatory assessment has been conducted and relevant issues have been identified in the assessment (e.g., recognized importance of cultural norms and sanctions to overuse of resources, but incomprehension of those in everyday practice). Some topics will be further deepened in discussions with project participants to arrive at a better understanding of local perceptions and knowledge about key issues relevant for FAP implementation.</p>		
<p>Activity 2.2. Awareness raising about pollinator conservation and their benefits to ecosystem services and agriculture.</p>	<p>Awareness about practices threatening pollinator survival has been raised in trainings and community assessments and will continue throughout the project.</p>		<p>Radio sessions and messaging through bulk SMS will start during the second cropping cycle.</p>
<p>Activity 2.3. Identification, quantification and documentation of pollinators, habitat conditions and plants preferred by pollinators in communities, jointly by farmers, community members, NAZ and Agritex officers and EA experts (to be done at the beginning, after 1st and after 2nd full cropping and flowering cycles, and at the end of the pilot project).</p>	<p>Completed for the first and second cycle</p>		

<p>Activity 2.4. Bi-monthly qualitative assessment of habitat and pollinators in FAP plots, by NAZ and Agritex officers together with respective farmers</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
<p>Output 3. Increased capacity of farmers, AAH, NAZ, Agritex, EA and key stakeholders to deliver biodiversity-poverty reduction outcomes</p>	<p>3.1: FAP training manual and farmer guide developed and distributed to 50 FAP farmers in the first quarter of project implementation</p> <p>3.2: 10 agriculture extension officers (Agritex), 10 project staff (NAZ, AAH) and 50 farmers trained on the identification, quantification, and maintenance of wild pollinators</p> <p>3.3: 80% of FAP farmers and 100% of Agritex and project staff reporting an increased understanding of good agricultural practices and habitat enhancement for FAP by the second quarter of project implementation (against pre-training evaluation results)</p>	<p>3.1: A draft FAP manual has been developed for the first training of NAZ/Agritex staff and lead farmers. The manual is being reviewed based on the learnings from the 1st cropping cycle and adopted for the utilization of field staff and farmers.</p> <p>3.2: 6 NAZ staff ,16 Agritex officers and 4 lead farmers have been trained on FAP. The training has been cascaded to 50 FAP farmers. A refresher training will be conducted in May 2023 after farmers have tested FAP during the 1st cropping cycle.</p> <p>3.3 To be measured following the refresher training</p>
<p>Activity 3.1. Development of FAP training manual and practical guidance for farmers.</p>	<p>A draft manual has been developed for the first training of NAZ/Agritex staff and lead farmers. The manual is being reviewed based on the learnings from the 1st cropping cycle and adopted for the utilisation of field staff and farmers.</p>	
<p>Activity 3.2. Training of fifty (50) FAP farmers and thirty (30) control farmers on good agricultural practices.</p>	<p>50 FAP farmers and 30 control farmers were trained with match funding from BHA. Refresher trainings are conducted through lead farmers with Agritex and NAZ field staff providing extension services support to farmers on an ongoing basis.</p>	
<p>Activity 3.3. Training of ten (10) NAZ and Agritex officers and fifty (50) FAP farmers on wild pollinators, their identification, quantification and pollinator health and habitat maintenance, including conservation agriculture practices such as zero tillage and reduced pesticide use.</p>	<p>6 NAZ staff ,16 Agritex officers and 4 lead farmers have been trained on FAP. The training has been cascaded to 50 FAP farmers. A refresher training will be conducted in May 2023 after farmers have tested FAP during the 1st cropping cycle.</p>	

<p>Activity 3.4. Monthly visits to FAP plots by NAZ and Agritex officers to advise and encourage farmers to follow the FAP methodology (and document discussions, learning).</p>	<p>NAZ and Agritex visit and advise farmers on the establishment of FAP plots and will continue monitoring, backstopping and advising during the cropping cycles.</p>		
<p>Activity 3.5. Bi-monthly visits to control plots to follow up and advise on the 'usual' good agricultural practices for the main crop.</p>	<p>NAZ and Agritex visit and advise farmers in the establishment of control plots and will continue advising during the cropping cycle. 1 this cropping cycle</p>		
<p>Activity 3.6. Quarterly exchange visits between FAP farmers and on-field discussion on identified well-performing FAP plots.</p>	<p>These are to be started in the next period</p>		
<p>Output 4. Key stakeholders are engaged with the innovation to assess the potential to scale up if successful</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="925 692 1193 1417"> <p>4.1: Learning visits to FAP and control plots conducted quarterly by key stakeholders (research institutions, donors, government ministries or agencies, NGO, UN)</p> <p>4.2: A 1-page project update is shared with key stakeholders by email and published on AAH and NAZ social media channels (Facebook, Twitter) on a monthly basis</p> <p>4.3: FAP findings presented to working groups and national level meetings by end of project (target: 4 meetings)</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1193 692 2123 1417"> <p>4.1: Learning visits have been initiated with organizations and networks such as 'Participatory Ecological Land Use Management' (PELUM), 'Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre' (FPC), 'Zimbabwe Association for the Practice and Promotion of Agroecology' (ZAPPA) and others.</p> <p>4.2: 1-page project update shared monthly</p> <p>4.3 The FAP approach has been presented by the project team during a pollinator symposium organised by the Agricultural College and attended by different players involved in similar topics (23rd Aug).</p> <p>4.4 and 4.5 to happen in the next phase</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>4.1: Learning visits to FAP and control plots conducted quarterly by key stakeholders (research institutions, donors, government ministries or agencies, NGO, UN)</p> <p>4.2: A 1-page project update is shared with key stakeholders by email and published on AAH and NAZ social media channels (Facebook, Twitter) on a monthly basis</p> <p>4.3: FAP findings presented to working groups and national level meetings by end of project (target: 4 meetings)</p>	<p>4.1: Learning visits have been initiated with organizations and networks such as 'Participatory Ecological Land Use Management' (PELUM), 'Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre' (FPC), 'Zimbabwe Association for the Practice and Promotion of Agroecology' (ZAPPA) and others.</p> <p>4.2: 1-page project update shared monthly</p> <p>4.3 The FAP approach has been presented by the project team during a pollinator symposium organised by the Agricultural College and attended by different players involved in similar topics (23rd Aug).</p> <p>4.4 and 4.5 to happen in the next phase</p>
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	<p>4.4: 1 FAP workshop conducted at national level to present findings of the pilot project at the end of the project</p> <p>4.5: 1 Comprehensive documentation about FAP pilot is compiled and shared on Action Against Hunger's website and with key stakeholders incl. Darwin Initiative by email on completion of the project</p>	
<p>Activity 4.1. Identification of and networking with stakeholders with interest in promoting or funding initiatives with biodiversity-poverty-reduction outcomes (research institutions, donors, government ministries or agencies, NGO, UN).</p>		<p>Exchanges have been initiated with organizations and networks such as 'Participatory Ecological Land Use Management' (PELUM), 'Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre' (FPC), 'Zimbabwe Association for the Practice and Promotion of Agroecology' (ZAPPA) and others. Players on policy and funding level will be contacted now with the commencement of the 1st cropping cycle on the ground.</p>
<p>Activity 4.2. Participation and presentation of FAP approach in regular working groups and sector meetings, as well as in national higher-level fora (e.g. National Biodiversity Forum, agricultural groups, Head of Agency FSL group) as well as presentations to the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment).</p>		<p>Exchanges have been initiated with organizations and networks such as 'Participatory Ecological Land Use Management' (PELUM), 'Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre' (FPC), 'Zimbabwe Association for the Practice and Promotion of Agroecology' (ZAPPA) and others. Players on policy and funding level will be contacted now with the commencement of the 1st cropping cycle on the ground.</p>
<p>Activity 4.3. Organize at least four (4) field visits with interested stakeholders to learn from FAP plots and methodology, discuss with farmers about the approach and how they experience the performance of the crops and changes in pollinator diversity (and visit control plots for comparison).</p>		<p>2 visits has been conducted and district stakeholders now have an appreciation of what is on the ground because they have visited sites at district level.</p>

Activity 4.4. Organize follow-up meetings after each field visit to discuss findings of the visits and document lessons learnt, good and poor practices and give recommendations for implementation and analysis.	No yet completed
Activity 4.5. Exchange meetings and workshops with different stakeholders.	Planned after the 2 nd cropping cycle
Activity 4.6. Production and sharing of monthly update/newsletter documenting highlights and learnings from the field.	2 newsletters have been published
Activity 4.7. Compilation of a comprehensive report, documenting findings and lessons learnt during FAP implementation. The report will be compiled towards the end of implementation and made available to diverse stakeholders to support awareness.	Not yet completed
Activity 4.8. Organization of a workshop at national level for relevant government ministries and departments, donors, national and international NGOs, research institutions, to present results of pilot project in order to promote learning and upscaling.	Not yet completed

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Local communities and stakeholders, including governments, demonstrate sustained improvement in policy and practice, which results in gains for biodiversity and reduced poverty			
Outcome: To pilot and demonstrate an innovative approach (FAP) to increase biodiversity (wild pollinators and plant diversity) and reduce poverty (increased income at household level) in Gokwe North and Gokwe South	<p>0.1: 50 farmers commit to adopt FAP on completion of the project (baseline: 0)</p> <p>0.2: 4 organizations affirm interest in designing projects with a FAP component on completion of the project (baseline: 0)</p> <p>0.3: 50 farmers experience 40% increase in income from main crop in FAP demo plot compared to farmers' income from main cop in control plot on completion of the project</p> <p>0.4: 50 farmers experience 30% increase of income from MHEP in FAP demo plot compared to farmers' income in control plot on completion of the project</p> <p>0.5: 50% increase in wild pollinator species diversity compared to the pollinator baseline (established in Y1) on project completion</p>	<p>Comprehensive report about FAP performance and learnings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring reports - Plot income assessment in Y1 and at the end of the project - Desk review following project 	<p>FAP farmers are open to implement a new farming approach and are ready to learn</p> <p>The project team and farmers closely monitor performance of crops (main crop + MHEP) and are flexible to adapt field layouts to attract diverse and abundant pollinators</p> <p>Identified crop combinations (main crop + MHEP) and application of good agricultural practices for pollinator habitat attract diverse and abundant pollinators for pollination of main crop</p>
Output 1 Improved performance of main crops and MHEP due to FAP methodology	1.1: 80 plots (50 FAP plots and 30 control plots) are established during the first quarter of project implementation (baseline: 0)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Registration of FAP and control farmers - Registration and GPS location of plots - Distribution list of inputs 	Key district stakeholders approve the implementation of the project Implementation of FAP leads to increased yield, which in turns leads to increased income

	<p>1.2: Crop yield assessments after each cropping cycle are conducted for main crop and MHEP in 50 FAP plots and 30 control plots each year</p> <p>1.3: Crop quality assessments after each cropping cycle are conducted for main crop and MHEP in 50 FAP plots and 30 control plots each year</p> <p>1.4: Increase in yield of main crop between FAP and control plot measured after each cropping cycle (Cycle 1: 20%, Cycle 2: 30%, Cycle 40% increase from baseline)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perimeter walks and pictures of plots - Crop performance assessments (quality, yield) 	
<p>Output 2 Increased wild pollinator biodiversity in and around FAP plots</p>	<p>2.1: 12 community focus group discussions (1 in each operational community) on traditional knowledge about natural resources and ecosystems, agriculture, pollinators and crops have been held during the first quarter of project implementation</p> <p>2.2: 12 community focus group discussions (1 in each operational community) held with the aim of assessing the state of pollinators and biodiversity in the first quarter of project implementation.</p> <p>2.3: Overall increase of 50% by project end in wild pollinator species (=diversity) in FAP plots compared to pollinator baseline established in Y1 (Cycle 1: 30%, Cycle 2: 40%,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting minutes and notes from focus group discussions - Gender disaggregated data collected from focus group and stakeholder engagement activities - Register/inventory of known plant, crop and pollinator species - Wild pollinators log - Activity/monitoring reports 	<p>No major pests and diseases outbreak or climate hazard affects pollinator health</p> <p>Implementation of FAP leads to increase in diversity and abundance of wild pollinators</p>

	<p>Cycle 3: 50% increase from baseline)</p> <p>2.4: 50 FAP plots show a 100% increase by project end in wild pollinator population (= abundance) compared to pollinator baseline established in Y1</p>		
<p>Output 3 Increased capacity of farmers, AAH, NAZ, Agritex, EA and key stakeholders to deliver biodiversity-poverty reduction outcomes</p>	<p>3.1: FAP training manual and farmer guide developed and distributed to 50 FAP farmers in the first quarter of project implementation</p> <p>3.2: 10 agriculture extension officers (Agritex), 10 project staff (NAZ, AAH) and 50 farmers trained on the identification, quantification, and maintenance of wild pollinators</p> <p>3.3: 80% of FAP farmers and 100% of Agritex and project staff reporting an increased understanding of good agricultural practices and habitat enhancement for FAP by the second quarter of project implementation (against pre-training evaluation results)</p> <p>3.4: 7 monthly/bi-monthly monitoring visits conducted by NAZ and Agritex to each FAP plot and each control plot</p> <p>3.5: Exchange visits with FAP farmers and control farmers</p>	<p>3.1 FAP training manual</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAP farmer guidance - Training registers - Monitoring visit reports - Pre and post training evaluations - Lessons learned report from exchange visits - Plot income assessment 	<p>Up to 90% of Agritex and NAZ agric officers and farmers able to attend training courses</p>

	<p>conducted quarterly (1 per each quarter)</p> <p>3.6 50 FAP farmers record a higher overall income (50% higher income) from FAP plots compared to farmers' income from control plots after all 3 cropping cycles</p>		
<p>Output 4 Key stakeholders are engaged with the innovation to assess the potential to scale up if successful</p>	<p>4.1: Learning visits to FAP and control plots conducted quarterly by key stakeholders (research institutions, donors, government ministries or agencies, NGO, UN)</p> <p>4.2: A 1-page project update is shared with key stakeholders by email and published on AAH and NAZ social media channels (Facebook, Twitter) on a monthly basis</p> <p>4.3: FAP findings presented to working groups and national level meetings by end of project (target: 4 meetings)</p> <p>4.4: 1 FAP workshop conducted at national level to present findings of the pilot project at the end of the project</p> <p>4.5: 1 Comprehensive documentation about FAP pilot is</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Field visit reports - Project updates on Facebook/Twitter - Attendance register of workshops and meetings and gender disaggregated data on attendees collected - FAP PPT and briefing notes - Comprehensive report about FAP performance and learnings 	

	compiled and shared on Action Against Hunger's website and with key stakeholders incl. Darwin Initiative by email on completion of the project		
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Annex 3: Standard Indicators

Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-A01	Number of people from key national and local stakeholders completing structured and relevant training.	Number of agriculture extension officers trained on the identification, quantification, and maintenance of wild pollinators	People	Gender	16				10
DI-A07	Number of government institutions/departments with enhanced awareness and understanding of biodiversity and associated poverty issues	Number of Agritex officers who are trained on pollinator monitoring	People	Gender	16				10
DI-B10	Number of individuals / households reporting an adoption of livelihood improvement practices as a result of project activities.	No of farmers who commit to adopt FAP at the end of the project	People	Gender	50				50
DI-C12	Social Media presence	Number of project updates shared with key stakeholders published on AAH and NAZ social media channels (Facebook, Twitter)	One page documents	Number	3				12
DI-D05	Number of people supported to better adapt to climate	Number of people implementing FAP methodology	Number	Gender	50				50

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
	change as a result of the project								
DI-D16	Number of households reporting improved livelihoods.	Number of farmers reporting an increase in income from FAP plots	Households	Income					50

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please 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.	
Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 16)?	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	