



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Darwin Initiative Main Project Annual Report

Important note: *To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders: it is expected that this report will be about 10 pages in length, excluding annexes*

Submission Deadline: 30 April

Darwin Project Information

Project Reference	20-019
Project Title	Wof Washa Forest: Sustainable Management for Resilient Livelihoods
Host Country/ies	Ethiopia
Contract Holder Institution	TREE AID
Partner institutions	SUNARMA, Royal Botanic Gardens
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Reporting period (e.g., Apr 2015 – Mar 2016) and number (e.g., Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	Apr 2014 – Mar 2015, Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Cheru Tessema
Project website/blog/Twitter	http://www.treeaid.org.uk/2013/darwin-initiative-funding-for-our-work-in-wof-washa-ethiopia/ ; http://www.sunarma.org/Wof-Washa-Forest-Project/Projects/
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1. Project Rationale

The Wof Washa forest in Ethiopia has regional biodiversity significance. As one of very few remaining natural forests in Ethiopia, and the only large relict afro-montane juniper forest in Amhara Region, it is home to 193 plant species, including 25 endemics. Whilst the Ethiopian government is implementing Participatory Forest Management in the country, the management of Wof Washa forest is under-resourced. The forest area decreased from 9,200 ha to 8.200 ha within a nine year period between 1993 and 2002. The forest remains under pressure from a growing population, with 14,000 households living around it. A lack of alternative livelihood options for local people exacerbated by insecure tenure rights have encouraged short-term 'mining' of natural resources, especially when land degradation further results in low agricultural productivity.

TREE AID's partner in Ethiopia, SUNARMA, has been working in the area around Wof Washa forest for over a dozen years, and its work thus far with local communities has likely significantly slowed the rate of degradation in the forest. Earlier interventions by SUNARMA prompted the development of Forest User Groups (FUGs), with communities building a sense of ownership and interest in sustainable forest management. However, biodiversity remains at risk due to: insecure access rights for local people with no formal agreements with government on equitable sharing of benefits and responsibilities for biodiversity conservation; lack of local knowledge about natural resource management practices and forest care that could support sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity conservation and a lack of alternative livelihoods associated with sustainable management amongst poor communities.

TREE AID's work elsewhere in sub Saharan Africa demonstrates the crucial link between the perceived economic value of forests and biological resources, and decisions at local and national level on their utilisation and sustainable management. Therefore interventions in the area around Wof Washa forest are needed to assure people of rights and instil a genuine sense of stewardship amongst local communities and government stakeholders. For the sustainability of the forest itself, optimal silvicultural prescriptions need to be explored for Juniper, Olea, *Hagenia abyssinica* and *Ilex mitis* and new approaches researched for the natural regeneration of these species. Project partner, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew has formulated detailed management prescriptions to help local forest users and smallholder farmers in the restoration of the natural forest and its sustainable use for community development.

SUNARMA and TREE AID are implementing the tested and refined Market Analysis and Development methodology (MA&D) which takes forest users through the stages of identifying their local resources, assessing and developing enterprise opportunities based on their resources, and agreeing plans to protect the integrity of natural resources on which their enterprises may then rely. Groups self-select into "Village Tree Enterprise" groups (VTEs) and SUNARMA's work establishing the existing FUGs provides a good basis for these entrepreneurial groups to develop. The inclusion of participatory technology development (to refine local agro-forestry prescriptions, fodder tree management and compost production) is a distinctive feature of this project. This will test options for more diverse and sustainably productive agricultural techniques, supporting biodiversity in the forest whilst also improving livelihood incomes, such as from fruit tree nurseries, apiculture and mixed woodlots. Options about payments for Wof Washa watershed ecosystem services are also to be explored.

In summary, the project is supporting biodiversity conservation in the Wof Washa forest and surrounding landscapes whilst at the same time increasing and diversifying the incomes of those poor communities who otherwise rely on the forest resource for their livelihoods. Specifically, the Darwin Initiative grant is providing crucial core funding to help local people become better organised in groups with rights and responsibilities, to enter into joint management responsibilities for the care and regeneration of Wof Washa forest, to establish viable enterprises from thriving and increased numbers of living trees, and to integrate watershed management (such as soil and water conservation) into their livelihood strategies.

The project work is taking place in 56 villages located in 14 Kebeles, in turn within 3 Woredas in the North Shewa Zone of the Amhara Regional state of Ethiopia (see maps and photographs in Annex 4).

2. Project Partnerships

TREE AID's Ethiopian partner, SUNARMA, has been leading interventions to promote sustainable management of Wof Washa forest and surrounding areas since 2002. SUNARMA has already engaged forest users on rational management of natural resources and diversification of livelihood options, to which end it has supported the initial formation of youth groups, elders groups, and 18 FUGs. The establishment of representative community groups with the understanding and motivation to take control of their biodiversity and forest resources is the most important outcome of this earlier work. This provided an ideal platform on which to build institutional capacity and engage with Regional State and Woreda authorities to implement PFM plans. SUNARMA's invitation to TREE AID to participate in an external review of its achievements led to joint planning to replicate TREE AID's VTE and poverty reduction success in forest governance from West Africa where it has engaged with communities of the rural poor for over 25 years.

The proposal to the Darwin Initiative also enabled TREE AID to subsequently invite Royal Botanic Gardens Kew in the planning stages to bring its expertise to the project in forest ecology, natural forest inventory, forest restoration strategies; management of genetic resources and propagation of native species. RBG Kew's involvement has been realised (see

section 3.1 activities 2.1 and 2.2) Kew is also an important advisor on activities relating to the CBD.

The project is also engaging with Ethiopian research institutes (Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture – Forest Research Institute and Debre Birhan University) to maximise resources towards research for the successful regeneration of native tree species and to develop upon existing knowledge on afro-montane juniper forests and associated species.

3. Project Progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

NB: Other than narrative and financial reports submitted to TREE AID, SUNARMA's reports and data are held in Ethiopia, but are available to TREE AID and the Darwin Initiative upon request.

Output 1. Institutional Development for Forest User Groups (FUGs)

Output 1 is designed to help forest users better organise themselves, secure their rights to use the forest and clarify responsibilities for forest and landscape management, with relevant government agencies.

Activity 1.1 Complete establishment of FUGs (extending coverage to include lowland communities)

The concepts of Forest User Groups (FUGs) and Participatory Forest Management (PFM) were shared with 140 more people (104 men & 36 women) from 3 of the target Kebeles via 10 community workshops.

There are now 37 FUGs that have set guidelines and elected committee members discussed through a workshop that was attended by 52 representatives of the FUGs (43 men and 9 women). There was a great deal of support from the Woreda Cooperative Promotion Office towards finalising the establishment of the FUGs.

The objectives, roles and responsibilities of the FUGs in forest management have been discussed in 19 workshops, with 272 FUG members (223 men & 49 women). The advantages of becoming cooperatives and of natural forest management, the opportunities of eco-tourism and the creation of by-laws and a forest management agreement were all discussed.

75 members of 11 FUGs (44 men & 31 women) met to exchange their experience, and discussed institutional development, the legal aspects of creating cooperatives, and plan actions for management and protection of the WWNF.

Activity 1.2 Ongoing mentoring and organisational development of FUGs

3 community workshops were held to explore women's role in the FUGs and cooperatives and how to increase this. 37 women and 3 men FUG members collaborated with the woreda Women, Youth & Children's Affairs Office representatives to discuss gender issues and women's role in the Participatory Forest Management (PFM).

Training was also held on policies, guidelines and bylaws for the establishment of FUG cooperatives. 194 people attended (160 men & 34 women) from 9 target Kebeles.

A regional workshop on Forest Management and the development of cooperatives and enterprises attracted over 40 stakeholder representatives alongside senior PFM experts, researchers and university lecturers. The learning from this experience sharing and collaboration fed into the project knowledge and understanding and built relationship, knowledge and understanding among the stakeholders.

The FUGs have collected into 11 Natural Resource Development, Eco-tourism and Marketing Cooperatives (NRDEMCs) which are legally registered (Annex 5) The 11 cooperatives have a combined 1592 members (1391 men and 201 women) all having paid the relevant registration and share fees to become members. As of April 2015, the NRDEMCs have a combined 75,945 Birr saved in their ACSI (Amhara Credit & Saving Institute) accounts (Annex 6).

Project and Woreda experts provided workshops on the preparation of a socio-economic study and plans of action for the cooperatives. 107 FUG members and local representatives participated (95 men & 12 women).

207 people (182 men and 25 women) took part in a further 30 workshops held for the approval of the cooperative bylaws (e.g. Natural Resource and Tourism bylaw), election of the cooperatives executive committee and the annual action plan.

At another meeting, an AGM for the NRDEMCs has been set up and discussion covered how to invite new cooperative members and prevent illegal forest activity. 46 cooperative members (42 men and 4 women) attended.

Formal agreements and management plans have been negotiated and agreed between the cooperatives and the Amhara National Regional State Forest Enterprise (ANRSFE) who officially manage the natural forest as appointed by the Agriculture Offices.

A Participatory Forest Resource Assessment (PFRA, Annex 9), forest management plan (PFM) and Joint Forest Management (JFM) agreement are finalised and agreed. The NRDEMCs will collaborate with ANRSFE to implement major forest activities. Through this agreement, the local communities are strengthening their ability to sustainably manage the forest.

648 FUG representative members, kebele leaders, woreda staff and ANRSFE representatives (478 men & 170 women) have discussed the forest management agreements and management plan. Large FUG member involvement in these discussions and plans is a signal of their engagement in the project and that they are taking ownership of the management of the forest.

The NRDEMCs were introduced to 12 representatives of key stakeholders and all the stakeholders and ANRSFE representatives have shown their commitment to the cooperatives and the project through signing the agreement with the NRDEMCs and have promised to support the activities in management of the WWNF.

The NRDEMCs also received equipment to help them register their members and record finances. 53 NRDEMC committee members (49 male and 4 female) were trained to use this equipment, and further training was given to 10 committee members to improve capacity and skill in record keeping, group financial management and governance.

Activity 1.3 Research govt policies and guidelines for establishing Forest Users Institution - FDP&MCU at Woreda and Zonal levels + Activity 1.4 Review relevant policies, guidelines and bylaws of similar organisations, in consultation with stakeholders

4 stakeholder meetings were held relating to government guidelines and strategies of the cooperatives, attended by 52 people (42 men and 10 women). 5 further community and government stakeholder meetings were held to review and report on the project activity progress with 184 stakeholders in attendance (150 men and 34 women). The concept of a FUG Union and the costs and benefits associated was introduced at 3 community level workshops.

Activity 1.5 Support FUGUO in participatory development of by-laws, forest mgt plan and work plans

4 woreda level workshops have been held to discuss the Forest User Groups Umbrella Organisation (FUGUO) registration procedure with 71 FUG members, local stakeholders and ANRSFE representatives (59 men and 12 women).

Output 2. Natural Forest Management by FUGs

Output 2 is meant to provide forest users with technical skills and know-how to sustainably manage forest biodiversity, soils and water. Both government agencies, with a mandate for environment management, and forest users themselves must feel confident in their own capacity to deliver on sustainable natural resource management. Participatory development of agro-forestry prescriptions, fodder tree management, compost production and the integration of permanent vegetation in SWC measures will enhance biodiversity in the agricultural landscape.

FUGs will lead on extensive forest restoration activities– all agreed and committed to through signed PFM plans.

Activity 2.1 Capacity development of FUGs on natural forest management

Capacity development training has been given by a collaboration of SUNARMA and a number of stakeholders including the Land Use Office, Agriculture Development Office, Cooperatives Office to the NRDEMC members. The training was on the Forest Resource Assessment (PFRA), the Participatory Forest Management Plan (PFMP) and their involvement in leading and performing the forest management activities. 35 FUG members (27 men & 8 women) attended the first workshop while 201 FUG members representing 37 FUGs, community representatives and members of the Plan Preparatory Committee (PPC) (150 men and 51 women) attended 11 further workshops.

FUG skill gaps in Natural Resource Management (NRM) have been identified and addressed at 3 training workshops. 89 FUG members, kebele and woreda experts attended (79 Men and 10 women) and have agreed to apply the training to their practice.

There has also been partnership with the International Livestock Research Institute's African RISING (Research In Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation) Project, to help inform the activity towards management of the natural forest.

Innovation platform meetings at woreda level have provided opportunity to bring together the different stakeholders to identify solutions to common problems and achieve common goals.

2 experts from Royal Botanical Gardens Kew (RBGK) developed a set of detailed management prescriptions for the restoration of the natural forest, helped to develop the training curriculum for the FUGs and have provided training to FUG's on mapping and monitoring the forest. Forest restoration equipment and material has also been provided.

These capacity development activities have all added to the understanding, knowledge and skill of the FUGs In natural forest management, and with the increase of forest management activities, it is expected that this increased capacity will be utilised effectively in their practice.

Activity 2.2. Baseline & repeat forest inventory

The 2 experts from RBGK have studied the Wof Washa Natural Forest (WWNF) and collected data for analysis. This included vegetation mapping using remote sensing data, ground truthing, re-classification and forest sampling towards a Baseline Survey of the Current Status of Natural Resources (Forest Inventory). Annex 7 is the entirety of the Kew report, and is supported by photographs of the Kew visit to the WWNF in Annex 8, while Annex 9 shows the floristic composition, forest inventory and PFRA.

SUNARMA and ANRSFE have undertaken further forest study including forest boundary delineation, inventory & mapping by GPS in collaboration with the Environment Protection Office, Land Use & Administration Office and Agriculture office of the 3 Woredas, Kebele administration, environment & land use expert, forest guards, and community representatives. The information was analysed by ANRSFE who produced a map and forest information. The WWNF area was measured at 6604.05 hectares.

Analysis of forest change information will then easily be measured in the future of the project and beyond in comparison with this baseline inventory and information.

Activity 2.3 Accompany FUGs (and other stakeholders) on forest restoration activities

There has been detailed management planning with FUGs. 2 community level workshops so far included discussing details of the agreed PFM for example, the protection and utilization of the natural forest). These were attended by 22 FUG members (19 men & 3 women).

The future of the project will see the forest restoration activity undertaken in earnest, with the increasing capacity and organisation of the community FUGs, and the registration of a Cooperatives Union.

Output 3. Viable, operational enterprises based on tree and forest products established and managed by poor rural households

Output 3 supports the set-up of viable, operational enterprises based on tree and forest products, established and managed by poor rural households, to alleviate poverty, diversify household income against shocks and stresses including those linked to climate change, and motivate long-term investment in the forest.

The application of the MA&D methodology began in Year 1, where firstly trainers are trained and supported to facilitate Village Tree Enterprise group formation, with appropriate follow up technical support. Enterprises are likely to emerge based on tree fruit production, apiculture, woodlots and forest herbs & spices where the poorest and most disadvantaged are targeted (land-poor farmers, women and landless youth). These groups are most likely to exploit the natural forest to compensate for lack of alternative livelihood opportunities.

Activity 3.1 Organisational development for producer groups

Initial training workshops to create awareness on rural entrepreneurship, Market Analysis and Development (MA&D), NTFP enterprise development and identifying skill gaps were attended by 451 community members. 2 further workshops had 94 FUG and producer group members participate (83 men & 11 women).

61 new enterprises have been formed in our 14 target Kebeles. There are 35 based on beekeeping and 21 for highland fruit production which make up a total 56 Village Tree Enterprises (VTEs) with membership of 728 (674 men and 54 women). The remaining 5 enterprises are for fuel saving. Of the 61 enterprises, 43 have an enterprise development plan (EDP). Annex 10 is a summary table of the VTEs.

A training curriculum has been developed for entrepreneurs to increase their ability and knowledge in their chosen enterprises. 19 community level training sessions were held for lead farmers, with 436 farmers participating (397 male & 39 female).

Activity 3.2 Business development skills/MA&D for VTE development

A number of training sessions have been held on MA&D concepts & techniques, developing producer groups into enterprises and preparing EDPs. 103 enterprise members (93 men & 10 women) attended 6 organised group days and 145 enterprise members (122 men & 23 women) participated in 5 Woreda level training sessions. These entrepreneurs have since been carrying out the tried and tested MA&D methodology in their enterprise development. The latest MA&D training can be seen in Annex 11.

Activity 3.3 Technical support for VTEs establishing fruit tree nursery and management services enterprise development

There have been 23 specialist training sessions on fruit tree nursery & management. 184 entrepreneurs representing 36 enterprises participated (174 men and 10 women). The training included theory and practice on grafting, budding and propagation of apple seedlings and protection against disease.

There has been a distinct measure of change in this training as most of the enterprise members did not previously have knowledge of highland fruit, and have now acquired the skills needed to manage highland fruit effectively. It has enabled the enterprise groups to now manage without the support of external experts, and they are all now practicing this skill and knowledge in their enterprises.

The entrepreneurs have also had peer learning sessions with demonstration from model entrepreneurs of highland fruit produce. 86 entrepreneurs attended the sessions (84 male and 2 female) and have reported appreciating learning from the model entrepreneurs and expressed that they will be putting the skill into practice in their own enterprises.

Materials have also been disbursed to the highland fruit production enterprises including 123 pairs of pruning scissors, 123 grafting knives and 60 pruning hacksaws.

Activity 3.4 Technical support for VTEs on apiculture

4 days of specialist training on modern beekeeping technology was provided for 23 Honey Enterprises. The training covered theoretical and practical aspects of beekeeping development and management. Woreda agriculture experts facilitated the training, and the materials required for the training were provided. 293 enterprise members (60 women & 233 men) from 15 enterprises took part in 21 further specialist training sessions.

2 peer learning sessions identified and addressed skills gaps between enterprises in using beekeeping materials with experienced model beekeepers sharing their skill to 8 entrepreneurs. Beekeeping enterprise leaders went on 4 study visits to the Yelen Queen Bee Multiplication Centre where they were taught how to multiply queen bees. This addressed a skill gap, eliminating any future lack of bee colonies. 175 enterprise members (167 male 8 female) and the invited government office representatives and project staff attended.

Local government has promised to facilitate land for establishment of 4 beekeeping centres for use by 12 beekeeping enterprises, and to provide technical support. 4 beekeeping enterprises have begun to produce honey collectively in 1 beekeeping centre and the other 3 centres are now in the process of site selection.

Beekeeping enterprises have received equipment, including 12 modern beehives from the woreda agriculture office, 5 honey extractors, 4 Wax moulds, 5 sprayers, 5 smokers, 5 bee brushes, 20 queen excluders, 5 veils, 2 over coats and 5 pairs of gloves. Key stakeholders were present at the disbursal of materials to 172 enterprise representatives (168 male and 4 Female).

Activity 3.5 Technical support for VTEs on optimum management of woodlots

169 enterprise members from 14 enterprises (139 men and 24 women) went to 18 specialist training sessions on woodlot management and organisational development. These enterprise members have agreed to use there learning in their woodlots, and to demonstrate and share their knowledge with further entrepreneurs to increase the development of woodlot management groups.

Activity 3.6 Facilitate revolving savings and credit schemes and access to external microfinance

There are 4 Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SCCs) with a combined 127 members and capital savings of 31,195 Birr. There is a monthly saving of 10 Birr per cooperative. 2 additional SCCs are also under formation, with 20 members each and a starting monthly saving of 2 Birr. These SCCs are supported by the Woreda cooperative expansion office to become formal groups. 11 other groups (6 women's groups and 5 forest and farmer groups) have also started saving monthly. Training has been provided to help them to establish their saving & credit system. Continuous follow up and support is being provided from the local government stakeholders to ensure the established cooperatives are sustainable.

15 facilitation sessions for the self-mobilization of revolving saving and credit schemes was attended by 73 people (52 men & 21 women) from enterprises, credit and saving groups, and FUGs. This training was conducted in collaboration with government officers representing the small and micro finance office, the cooperative promotion office, and the Amhara credit and saving institution (ACSI). Questions and confusion were answered and experiences of credit and savings groups was shared. The participants have been further motivated to save with their groups creating scope for further savings and credits groups to be formed.

Output 4. Integrated Watershed Management and Application of Improved Agro-forestry Techniques for Livelihoods Improvement

Output 4 aims to Integrate Watershed Management and Application of Improved Agro-forestry Techniques for Livelihoods Improvement

Integration of permanent vegetation into SWC measures requires rights and responsibilities for the care and management of such trees, shrubs or grasses (i.e. against free ranging livestock) and requires governance processes to support the implementation of such agreements.

Activities under this output promote best practice in agro-forestry, fodder tree management and composting systems, refined with local participation. The project is supporting the creation of profitable private tree nurseries to create a sustainable supply of indigenous trees. Such enterprises will take up the role of producing indigenous tree seedlings for forest restoration as well as grafted fruit tree seedlings. Residents will then have the materials and the means and incentives to maintain resources through profitable tree product enterprises and payments for environmental services.

Activity 4.1. Technical advice on integrating permanent vegetation into SWC measures +

Activity 4.2. Institutional development at sub-Kebele level to share rights & responsibilities for mgt of such trees, shrubs or grasses

Training programs on technical and managerial systems were delivered by Woreda agriculture office experts in collaboration with other key stakeholders - Amhara forest enterprise and the Cooperative Promotion Office. The training emphasised rehabilitation of natural resources through improved soil and water conservation practices to improve farmer's skills in NRM, building a green economy, sustainable food security and had 237 people participating (176 men and 61 women).

Training sessions were held specifically on integrating vegetation into Soil and Water Conservation (SWC) measures for 58 FUG representatives (51 men & 7 women), 64 watershed representatives (59 men & 5 women) and 84 farmer representatives (69 men, 15 women). This practice is being taught to restore the environment while increasing the land productivity and therefore food security for the community's local poor women and youth. Analysis of the SWC situation and future planning workshops have been held to with 12 FUG representatives (10 men & 2 women).

This training has given the farmers the skills and knowledge to improve, and they have agreed to integrate what they've learned into their own practices.

Activity 4.3. Participatory technology development to refine; - agro-forestry prescriptions - fodder tree management - compost production

6 training sessions have been held on participatory technology development to refine agro-forestry prescriptions, fodder tree management & compost production. These training sessions were attended by 132 farmer group representatives (111 men and 21 women). Farmers that have been trained as trainers also held 4 workshops on the subject which were attended by 44 farmer group representatives (33 men and 11 women).

23 Farmer Field Schools have been established with more than 357 members. The farmers involved in these were selected due to their experience, ability to demonstrate good watershed management practices (such as agroforestry, compost preparation, garden development & SWC) and their willingness to demonstrate this with fellow farmers.

7 participatory workshops provided training how to prepare compost and vegetable management. 164 farmers participated (144 men and 20 women), of whom 24 have already implemented the above training by now producing their own compost.

3.2 Progress towards project outputs

The community members report feeling responsibility and ownership of the development activities in the project. FUGs are now far more organised having been formed into cooperatives, the relevant plans and agreements have been made and discussions have begun around forming a cooperative union. In general, women are more involved and engaged in outside activities. They are generating additional income, are economically empowered, their leadership and managerial skills have improved and they have started to speak in public.

Output 1. Institutional Development for Forest User Groups (FUGs)

Indicators

1. 40 FUGs legally registered as FDP&M Cooperatives with a leadership that is gender balanced and accountable, and a membership that is representative of all forest users, by Qtr 3 Yr 2.

2. FUGs federated within a legally registered and officially recognised FDP&M Cooperative Union by Qtr4 Yr2.
3. Formal PFM agreements and general management plans agreed between FDP&M Cooperative Union + constituent FDP&M Cooperatives and ANRSFE + Woreda Administrations by Qtr 4 Yr 2.
4. Recorded infringements of common by-laws agreed and implemented by FDP&M Cooperatives
5. Financial independence of FDP&M Cooperative Union + constituent FDP&M Cooperatives increases annually as from Year 4.

There are 37 FUGs against the target of 40. Although not legally registered in themselves, they constitute the 11 legally registered Natural Resource Development and Eco-tourism and Marketing Cooperatives i.e. the FUGs (located in different villages) have merged together to form organised legally registered groups. Each of the FUGs and the NRDEMCs can be assessed for their sustainability. The key criteria to assess their sustainability are: the legal registration of cooperatives, the existence of a formally agreed forest management plan and signed agreement between Amhara Forest Enterprise and the cooperatives, their rights to access and forest use, and the financial contributions made by all the FUG members.

There are a total of 1592 members of the NRDEMCs, 201 of whom are women - almost 20% of the total. There is a continuing improvement in understanding of gender issues and the role of women in the cooperatives, and women are becoming more empowered and are able to speak out and play a more integral part in the activities.

The forest resource assessment report (PFRA, within Annex 9), forest management plan (PFM) and Joint forest management (JFM) agreement template agreed by the cooperatives with the ANRSFE and Woreda administrations. The agreements now await the completion of the process of the cooperatives becoming legally registered and forming a cooperatives union, the process of which is now well underway.

This agreement has been supported by all relevant stakeholders and the registration process has begun for a legally registered and officially recognised cooperatives union.

Output 2. Natural Forest Management by FUGs

Indicators

1. Development of detailed management prescriptions for restoration of the natural forest by Qtr 4 Yr 1
2. Results from remote sensing and participatory mapping with FUGs combined and cross checked through ground truthing, re-classification and forest sampling in Year 1.
3. Development of local training curriculum and programme by Year 2.
4. Forest restoration activities are planned, implemented and reviewed by FUGs as from Year 2.

Overall, Wof Washa forest management has improved and the communities are becoming the guardians of the forest together with local government. By the completion of Year 2, the project is more organised and as such is in a better position to manage the forest officially. The expert Royal Botanic Gardens Kew baseline forest survey conducted in June 2014 has provided suggestions for further investigation about forest regeneration problems and discussion with forestry experts in country has begun.

The FUGs are strengthened through their organisation into legally registered Cooperatives that have received capacity development training, specialist forest mapping training, and the necessary materials and equipment for forest management. The partnership agreement between the Cooperatives with the ANRSFE in joint forest management has given the Cooperatives greater ownership and a step towards gaining legal access and user rights in the

forest. The FUGs report feeling empowered and engaged in the protection of the natural forest through this capacity development and direct involvement in the forest management activities. As a result of the project activities the forest dependent communities are also more aware of the need to sustainably manage the forest, and the cooperative members have promised that they will protect the natural forest from cattle-grazing and illegal human activity.

Output 3. Viable, operational enterprises based on tree and forest products established and managed by poor rural households

Indicators

1. >50 VTE groups formed by Qtr 3 Yr 1 and produce draft business plans by end of Yr 1.
2. >140 VTE groups formed by Qtr 2 Yr 2, with operational business plans by Qtr 1 Yr 3
3. Access to microfinance and revolving loans secured at a community level by Year 2.
4. >140 VTEs generating a working profit by end of Yr 3
5. Carbon credits successfully marketed, in Years 4 and 5.
6. Poorest 20% of households (as defined in baseline livelihoods survey) have income increased by 20% by year 5.

Lead farmers already engaged in beekeeping, apple production and woodlot activities were approached and they agreed to form enterprises in their villages.

To date 61 enterprises were formed in the 14 target kebeles and 43 of these have an Enterprise Development Plan (EDP).

Specialist training sessions were delivered to enterprises on apiculture and highland fruit production and woodlots management and the enterprise groups are now able to manage without the support of external experts.

The enterprise groups are also sharing their learning through peer learning sessions with demonstrations from experienced model entrepreneurs. There has also been a local study visit for beekeeping enterprise leaders to learn about queen bee multiplication to boost the number of bee colonies.

Equipment subsidies and specialist equipment and materials were provided to individual enterprises to complement the knowledge and skills they had gained from the specialist training sessions.

All the enterprise members have been introduced to the Market Analysis and Development approach (MA&D) and they are now engaged in this MA&D approach.

2 of the previously established honey producing enterprises have officially started their business with some of the enterprise members purchasing bees and beehives themselves, and making their own transitional beehives to get their businesses started.

The enterprises are all also engaging in credit and savings initiatives. 4 Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SCCs) have been established with monthly saving plans, and a further 2 SCCs are being formed.

with the formation of 16 cooperatives so far, including 11 NRDEMCs, 4 SCCs and 1 FSSPC, with a combined membership over 1913. 2 further SCCs are also currently in the process of formation.

One of the SCCs has elected their executive committee members and approved the saving and credit cooperative by-law, thus finishing their establishment process. They now await their legal certificate from the Cooperative Promotion Office.

Output 4. Integrated Watershed Management and Application of Improved Agro-forestry Techniques for Livelihoods Improvement

Indicators

1. Examples of integration of permanent vegetation into agricultural land in all 14 Kebeles by end of Year 3.
2. Local conventions on management of permanent vegetation integrated into SWC measures in all 14 Kebeles by end of Year 2.
3. Network of Lead Farmers and Farmer Field Schools established by Qtr 2 Yr3

Farmers have been given technical training and advice through local conventions on the management of permanent vegetation integration into their soil and water conservation activities (SWC) in all of the project Kebeles, and have begun to introduce this into their farming practices. Trained farmers engaged in compost preparation.

Training has been given to farmers to become trained as trainers to other farmers, and these trainers have begun to conduct workshops on participatory technology for other farmers. Workshops were conducted on the participatory technology development to refine agro-forestry prescriptions, fodder tree management & compost production.

All the necessary hand tools and materials were also provided to community members for SWC activities.

To date, the project has already established a network of Lead farmers (trained as trainers) and 23 Farmer Field Schools with more than 357 members in the 3 project woredas, ahead of the schedule to mid-year 3.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Project Outcome:

53 Communities living in and around Wof Washa forest (representing 13,841 households / 57,400 people) will have:

- **legally recognised rights & responsibilities to access and control forest resources;**
- **the skills and technical knowledge to sustainably manage these biologically diverse resources;**
- **the material incentives to do so through profitable tree product enterprises and payments for environmental services.**

Indicators

1. 40 functional FUGs (established as FDP&M cooperatives) with legally recognised rights & responsibilities by Qtr 3 Yr 2
2. 40 FUGs have the capacity to plan and execute sustainable management of the natural forest by Qtr 3 Yr 2
3. Average household income increased by 35% from year 1 levels and diversified to include 2-3 or more sources by end Yr 3
4. Area of natural forest (as defined in year 1 baseline inventory) maintained and quality of biodiversity within forest (as defined in year 1 baseline inventory) increased,(at time of repeat forest inventory in Yr 5)

The project has been working in 56 rather than 53 communities in and around the WWNF. 37 FUGs have been established into 11 Natural Resource Development, Eco-tourism and Marketing Cooperatives. The Project has been working in collaboration with concerned stakeholders and government such as ANRSFE towards making legal agreements to ensure forest access and user rights.

Through the project training sessions and workshops, FUGs and enterprises in these communities have begun to build their capacity to use the resources sustainably. The FUGs have an agreed joint forest management with the ANRSFE with whom they have an agreed forest management plan (PFMP).

The material and business incentive to sustainably manage the forest is supported through the current establishment of 61 out of a target 140 NTFP enterprises, some of these having now initiated their business.

In the coming project year there will be a mid-project review, from which we can assess the situation of household livelihoods, which have been diversified through the introduction of 4 further sources, namely the enterprises in beekeeping, highland fruit production, woodlot management and fuel saving. Having undertaken the baseline forest inventory, the project can also assess the forest area and quality of biodiversity in comparison in year 5.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumptions		Does this hold true?
Outcome Assumptions	1. References to co-management of state forest resources in National and Regional policy statements are retained, expanded on and translated into practice.	Correct
	2. Support of government agencies with a mandate for environmental management and rural development at National, Regional, Zonal and Woreda level is maintained or increased	Correct
	3. Stable national, regional and international markets for tree products, environmental services and forest carbon respectively	Correct
	4. Frequency and intensity of extreme climatic events does not increase to the point that local agricultural based livelihoods are completely undermined.	Correct
Output Assumptions	1. No inconsistencies between Federal and State legislation and policies pertaining to PFM	Correct
	2. ANRSFE competent and capable of negotiating practical agreements with FDP&MCU on PFM and Forest Carbon/PES benefit sharing	Correct
	3. Option for FUGs to register as cooperatives remains the most practical and effective route to official recognition and legal status. In fact there are some drawbacks to this designation and some stakeholders are currently arguing that other options should be explored, but it remains the option recommended at present	Correct
	4. Federal legislation on NGO operations does not prevent SUNARMA committing the required resources for good management of project field operations	Correct

3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation

SUNARMA is currently implementing the Wof Washa Forest: Sustainable Management for Resilient Livelihoods (Phase III). This project focuses on food security through sustainable natural resource management. The project aims to improve the management of the Wof Washa Natural Forest through the introduction of participatory and joint management approaches, whilst at the same time improve the livelihoods of the community in and around the forest.

The population of Ethiopia is estimated at some 90 million people, with 80% of these living rurally and relying on agriculture and the natural resources for their livelihoods. To ensure long term goals of sustainably managing and maintaining the natural resources and ensuring communities are empowered, stable and productive, SUNARMA is investing in capacity building and alternative income activities.

Key project outputs relate to Institutional Development, Natural Forest Management, Enterprise Development and Watershed Management and Livelihood Improvement. By implementing activities associated with these key outputs the project is focusing on managing the existing natural resources of the Wof Washa Forest area, which has a positive effect on maintaining biodiversity in the area, as well as focusing on improving alternative income streams and

improved agriculture which assists with improved livelihoods and works toward the greater objective of poverty alleviation in rural Ethiopia.

Some of the outcomes from project activities which positively contribute to biodiversity are and poverty alleviation are:

- Increased community awareness and understanding of natural resource management
- Decrease in deforestation and greatly improved forest management
- Increased crop productivity
- Improved quality of crop due to introduction of new and improved varieties.
- Increased household income due to improved agriculture yields
- Improved food security at a household level.
- Adoption of new agricultural technology and techniques eg compost production
- Creation of new agricultural enterprises and formation of cooperatives to collectively produce and market products e.g. honey production

4. Project support to the Conventions (CBD, CMS and/or CITES)

The project supports the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Following on from the overarching CBD, Ethiopia has further produced its own strategy to address the objectives and commitment of the CBD. The goal of the Ethiopian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan has been formulated as “Effective systems are established that ensure the conservation and sustainable use of Ethiopia’s biodiversity, that provide for the equitable sharing of the costs and benefits arising there from, and that contribute to the well-being and security of the nation.”

The current Ethiopian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (EBSAP) will address interlinked issues comprising biodiversity protection and management for food security (poverty reduction), health and livelihood improvement of the Ethiopian population especially the rural communities (farmers and pastoralists) whose survival depends on the use of natural resources. In parallel it is the first attempt to meet the planning requirements of the Convention as well as the Ethiopia’s national biodiversity conservation needs.

SUNARMA’s project directly relates to a number of issues and threats which have been identified in the EBSAP. These pertain to deforestation caused by population pressure and agricultural expansion; inequality in ownership and tenure of the natural resources; land rights and governance of the natural resources via legal and institutional systems; recognition and protection of traditional knowledge and encouraging public participation in biodiversity conservation, development and utilisation.

The introduction of the Participatory Forest Management approach at Wof Washa, encourages the community to work with local government to collectively manage the natural resources. Ultimately this has led to formal agreements, which entrusts the management and ownership of the area to the beneficiaries of Wof Washa. The outcome of such initiatives is that illegal forest use has decreased, regeneration of forest species increased and incidence of forest fire has tremendously decreased.

Our project has legalized and certified 11 forest management cooperatives who now have a management plan to manage and use the forest resources on a sustainable basis. This has created confidence in access and use rights that has led to improved natural resource management and land improvement activities. The project has also rendered a number of capacity building and experience sharing visits of the community through training, education and increasing individual and community knowledge so that they are empowered to have the capacity and confidence to sustainably manage their natural resources.

Therefore SUNARMA’s project aligns with this convention and Ethiopia’s country specific biodiversity strategy as the project has a clear focus on facilitating sustainable forest stewardship by the community of the natural resources of Wof Washa Forest.

5. Project support to poverty alleviation

The project aims to effectively address issues associated with natural resource degradation and related causes that impact on food insecurity and livelihoods.

One of the key objectives and outputs of the project targets improving the livelihoods of the community in and around Wof Washa Forest and hence contributing to the wider goal of addressing poverty alleviation in rural Ethiopia.

They are directly able to benefit from project activities which can improve their household income and capability to provide for their families.

Examples of some of the activities that directly assist beneficiaries to improve their livelihood are:

- Creation of community enterprises to produce and sell agricultural products such as honey. Training, materials and on-going assistance is provided to selected community members, so that they can diversify and increase their household income.
- Provision of training and improved seed crops and variety to improve agriculture productivity and increase production. E.g. Many farmers have satisfied their household food requirement and sold potato to ensure food security.
- Introduction of integrated watershed management techniques and application of improved agro-forestry techniques for livelihood improvement. E.g. fodder tree management, seedling production and compost preparation. In 2014 farmers have earned between £666-£2666 from sales of Eucalyptus poles.

From the activities that SUNARMA has delivered, the community is now more empowered to take ownership of the natural resources. As mentioned in section 3.3 the project has been working towards legal agreements to ensure user access rights and participatory management of the forest resources for the community. This means a more sustainable and equitable use of resource by inclusively incorporating local people to be empowered in the management and governance to generate poverty and biodiversity benefits.

Families are now more food secure and as a result are less vulnerable. Through outputs and activities that provide the training, tools, confidence and assistance to achieve a sustainable, ecologically diverse livelihood whilst also boosting the biodiversity potential of the region.

6. Project support to Gender equity issues

The project is committed to addressing gender equity issues in all activities and is raising awareness of gender issues and giving the same opportunities to men and women to be involved in all project outputs including enterprises, forest user groups and cooperatives. The project, while seeking to improve the livelihood opportunities of all forest dependants in the area, is especially looking to seek inclusion and improvement to women, young people and the poorest.

Women have participated in almost every workshop, training and meeting that has been conducted by the project. In particular women have been participating in apple production, and there is an overall sense of empowerment across both genders, to take part and own the opportunities that the project is giving to them.

Some project activities such as integration of permanent vegetation into SWC measures, specifically aim to improve the lives of local poor women and youth and their food security through permanent measures.

By the end of the project year, a remarkable 20% of all the members of the cooperatives formed were women. This is a strong indication that women are feeling empowered to be involved and a general sense of understanding for involvement across gender.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

To undertake Monitoring and evaluation of the project activities, we include field visits and observations, community discussions and individual interviews and periodic quarterly review meetings. The monitoring and reporting against the project plan on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis is completed by project staff to compare target versus achieved results and budget expenditure. Any adjustments can be made to activities to ensure agreed outcomes and outputs are met.

Some indicators of achievements of the projects success that have come from the community discussions, observations and review meetings include the following.

The community has reported that they are increasingly empowered to take ownership and management of the forest. The knowledge & skills of the community have increased through the projects capacity building training, such as the various enterprise training sessions, forest and land management training and sustainable agricultural techniques. Many of the FUG and enterprise members and the farmers are now proactively integrating their new learning into their various practices, indicating a start to some measurable sustained change in knowledge, understanding and practice as a result of the project input.

Communities are now increasingly aware of alternative non-timber forest based livelihood opportunities, markets and alignment with the natural forest and have become involved in groups to act on this.

Access and community forest use right has increased the ownership feeling and has maintained trust and confidence of PFM interventions.

8. Lessons learnt

- Program overlap among the stakeholders creates delays in implementation.
- Institutional and technical capacity building of the beneficiaries, the project staff and relevant stakeholders is a critical factor in the success of the project.
- Competence of project staff and strong working relationships with key stakeholders is important to ensure delivery of project objectives and outcomes.
- Success of enterprise development is more likely if consideration is given to participatory engagement and gender inclusion at all levels in the target communities.
- Availability and coordination of key stakeholders, particularly at the Regional Government level can at times be difficult, causing delays to the delivery and implementation of the project.
- The effect of frequent staff turnover is recognized as a key hindering factor through a gap in project understanding that contributes to undermine the project implementation as per the schedule.
- The project stakeholders, Cooperative Office and Amhara Forest Enterprise, need to be involved in the project more actively and in an organised manner for successful handing over of the Wof Washa natural forest from government to the organised communities.
- While the project is meant to be focused on forest management it has given equal or more focus to other interventions. For effective implementation, more emphasis on forest management related activities may be favourable.

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

To clarify the situation of the existing 37 FUGs (Forest User Groups), they are not in themselves legally registered, they are informal groups that constitute the 11 legally registered Natural Resource Development and Eco-tourism and Marketing Cooperatives (NRDEMCs). Thus they are legally registered at the cooperative level rather than at the individual FUG level.

The inputs from Kew have now been completed during the first half of year 2. The Kew report and Photographs of the Kew visit can be seen in Annexes 7 and 8 respectively.

The baseline livelihoods survey has been carried out during project year 1 and a copy of the report is attached as Annex 12 in response to its exclusion from last year's annual report. The mid-term review is to be carried out in the coming project year, and will provide valuable information to show the change between baseline and mid-term for the year 3 annual report. The indicators for at outcome and output level have been included for reference in each section and the system for assessing and reporting these is outlined in the Monitoring and Evaluation section.

As discussed in section 3.2, Output 1, the sustainability of individual FUGs, cooperatives and enterprises can be assured as cooperatives have been legally registered, they have a forest management plan, an agreement with local government and Amhara Forest Enterprise, are working towards access and forest use rights and members are making financial contributions of their own to the various groups they are involved in. These are our criteria for assessing the sustainability of the groups.

10. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Project design enhancement and refining is anticipated to take place after midterm review which will be conducted by independent consultants in December 2015.

The sustainability of some enterprises has been jeopardised by the lack of infrastructure outside of the project's control. For example, the women's fuel saving stove groups have not been productive due to the lack of a dedicated work space where they can make stoves and store equipment. The workspace they had used has now been taken over by the owner. To facilitate the on-going sustainability of this enterprise a dedicated workspace needs to be sourced. SUNAMRA has sought alternative donors to support the construction of a dedicated space for this enterprise (not included in the project budget) and received approval from another donor to provide the funds for a purpose build shed. The enterprise can now function again and is more sustainable with dedicated facilities.

One major risk is the withdrawal and turnover of key and experienced staff involved in the project, both at SUNARMA and at TREE AID during the project year. Although we are still able to resource the project this has caused a lack of continuity and a gap in project knowledge.

This change in cohesion and knowledge. This takes time to be built up again. Also as mentioned previously creating good networks and working relationship with key stakeholders, especially Government is crucial in the project's success. Again staff changes have an effect on these relationships and it takes time again to build the trust and confidence in these networks.

11. Sustainability and legacy

SUNARMA has been working in the area of natural resource management for the past 14 years, and have a long history working collaboratively with the communities in and around the Wof Washa Forest.

Throughout this experience and time they have proactively built up significant trust and confidence with the beneficiary communities, the local government bodies and all the relevant stakeholders involved in the project. Only with such steady progress over time can such relationships be built and achievements be recognised as becoming long term sustainable outputs.

Although we have created a presence in the area of natural resource management in Wof Washa, there is always ongoing work to be done to achieve a lasting impact. SUNARMA is committed to working together with the communities to bring about long term social change that will empower the communities to manage the natural resources so that the communities themselves can stand alone as stable, secure and productive without relying on external support into the future.

SUNARMA is open to investigating further funding opportunities should they arise so that they can continue and increase their support to local communities through their activities and upscale the existing project interventions. This will provide ongoing support to vulnerable communities where it is needed most.

12. Darwin Identity

Darwin identity has been included on the front page of the Kew report, including the name of the project as a Darwin Initiative project (see Annex 9). The Darwin Initiative name and logo have also been shown on the front page of the livelihoods baseline survey (see Annex 15).

13. Project Expenditure

Table 1 Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2014/15 Grant (£)	2014/15 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				Baseline survey more expensive than expected. Translation work included.
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				Utilisation of vehicle later than expected
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				Handling costs for car more expensive than expected
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	£ 120,709	£ 120,709		

14. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

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

Outstanding achievements of the project include:

- Utilization pressure on the Wof Washa natural forest has been reduced
- 61 enterprises, including 56 VTEs have been formed, 43 of which have an EDP. Some of the enterprises, such as honey and highland fruit enterprises, have begun to generate an income for their members.
- The target beneficiaries are actively involved in the implementation of project activities.
- Local communities have gained knowledge and confidence in their ability to manage the natural forest. FUGs and cooperative members feel a sense of ownership and responsibility of the forest resources
- FUG capacity is greatly improved: they are far better organised and in a stronger position to manage the forest
- The Amhara Forest Enterprise has now officially taken over the management of the natural forest and is willing to manage jointly with the community.

- 11 NRDEMCs have been formed from the FUGs with a total registered membership of 1592 (1391 men and 201 women)
- Formation of an established network of Lead farmers (trained as trainers) and 23 Farmer Field Schools, ahead of schedule.

Gaining user rights, land tenure issues and land security are long term outputs that the project aims to achieve. With this comes the need for practice change and legal and institution frameworks to support such participatory forest management approaches. This takes significant time and energy to be accepted, adopted and supported by the community and government bodies. It has taken many years of SUNARMA's presence in the Wof Washa area to have participatory forest management practices considered by the government as an accepted land management practice in the area. So, this must be considered one of the projects key achievements to date

It is also significant that the Amhara Forest Enterprise has now officially taken over the management of the natural forest and is willing to transfer management to the community for joint management. This is a project milestone and a long term land management objective that is finally being realised.

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2014-2015

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2014 - March 2015	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>Resilient, diversified livelihoods for 53 communities living in and around WofWasha natural forest supported by a secure, sustainable supply of forest products and environmental services arising from improved management and restored biodiversity of the forest.</p> <p>This supply of products and services will provide material incentives for these communities to continue their investment in the sustainable, participatory management of the forest.</p>		<p>Forest dependent communities organized in the form of NRMD& marketing cooperatives have started to implement their forest management plan. Through proper management of the forest resources cutting of trees is reduced, forest fire minimized, cutting of the regenerating diverse tree species underneath forest canopy is stopped, cattle & human interference reduced. Due to that some plant species are regenerating and there is establishment of apiary sites within easy pollination. Local communities organized themselves in enterprise groups and getting income from sale of honey, tree leaves and twigs from the forest.</p>	
<p>Outcome</p> <p>53 Communities living in and around WofWasha forest (representing 13,841 households / 57,400 people) will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> legally recognised rights & responsibilities to access and control forest resources; the skills and technical knowledge to sustainably manage these biologically diverse resources; the material incentives to do so through profitable tree product enterprises and payments for environmental services. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 40 functional FUGs (established as FDP&M cooperatives) with legally recognised rights & responsibilities by Qtr 3 Yr 2 40 FUGs have the capacity to plan and execute sustainable management of the natural forest by Qtr 3 Yr 2 Average household income increased by 35% from year 1 levels and diversified to include 2-3 or more sources by end Yr 3 Area of natural forest (as defined in year 1 baseline inventory) maintained and quality of biodiversity within forest (as defined in year 1 baseline inventory) increased,(at time of repeat forest inventory in Yr 5) 	<p>11 legally licensed cooperatives are in place negotiation & agreement with gov't offices underway to ensure control & access for forest products</p> <p>Technical capacity and capabilities of communities are enhanced through practical training and experience sharing visits giving them the skills & knowledge on sustainable forest management and therefore now cooperatives are in a better position to take up management of the forest by themselves.</p> <p>NTFP enterprises organised & provision of material incentives is underway and engagement in commercializing their products</p> <p>Reduction in grazing and deforestation</p>	<p>Discussion with stakeholders on the establishment of forest Unions</p> <p>Strengthening already established, licensed & registered Forest Cooperatives. Continue to assist cooperatives in building confidence to take over the management through organizing discussion forums, cross learning sessions etc</p> <p>Provision of material incentives for tree product enterprises</p> <p>Facilitation of negotiation & Forest Management Agreement signing among Cooperatives and ANRSFE</p>

		has improved the forest condition and promoted regeneration and biodiversity of the forest	
Output 1. Institutional Development for Forest User Groups (FUGs)	<p>1. 40 FUGs legally registered as FDP&M Cooperatives with a leadership that is gender balanced and accountable, and a membership that is representative of all forest users, by Qtr 3 Yr 2.</p> <p>2. FUGs federated within a legally registered and officially recognised FDP&M Cooperative Union by Qtr4 Yr2</p> <p>3. Formal PFM agreements and general management plans agreed between FDP&M Cooperative Union + constituent FDP&M Cooperatives and ANRSFE + Woreda Administrations by Qtr 4 Yr 2.</p> <p>4. Recorded infringements of common by-laws agreed and implemented by FDP&M Cooperatives</p> <p>5. Financial independence of FDP&M Cooperative Union + constituent FDP&M Cooperatives increases annually as from Year 4.</p>	<p>11 FDP&M cooperatives legally registered, gender issues accountability & gender representation taken into consideration.</p> <p>FUGs are officially recognised under their respective FDP&M cooperatives.</p> <p>Negotiation is underway on FMA agreement signing among cooperatives and ANRSFE</p> <p>FDP&M cooperatives are applying the agreed by-laws</p> <p>FDP&M cooperative union formation is being dealt with through the regional, zonal and woreda Cooperative promotion offices</p> <p>FUGs are now gradually changing into enterprise groups based on their potential and the type of forest product they would like to use.</p>	
Activity 1.1 Complete establishment of FUGs (extending coverage to include lowland communities)		<p>FUG establishment has been completed all over wofwasha forest. Strengthening & building their capacity will continue until the project end.</p> <p>Not all households in and around the forest are yet registered as members of the cooperatives and also not all organized themselves in enterprise groups. Therefore, there is still a lot of work to be done on awareness and enterprise development.</p>	
Activity 1.2 Ongoing mentoring and organisational development of FUGs,		Continuous Mentoring of FUGs has been underway, through provision of training & support on Participatory Forest Management (PFM) & women's role in the PFM, Policies, guidelines & bylaws towards cooperative establishment.	
Activity 1.3 Research govt policies and guidelines for establishing Forest Users Institution - FDP&MCU at Woreda and Zonal levels			
Activity 1.4 Review relevant policies, guidelines and bylaws of similar organisations, in consultation with stakeholders		Review has been done with stakeholders towards the institutional development of FUGS.	

Activity 1.5 Support FDP&MCU in participatory development of by-laws, forest management plans and work plans	Scheduled for next period
Activity 1.6 Legal registration of FDP&MCUs	Scheduled for next period
Activity 1.7 Support/accompany FDP&MCU in implementing their plans and by-laws	Scheduled for next period
Activity 1.8 Handover the management of project to FDP&MCU	Scheduled for next period
Output 2. Natural Forest Management by FUGs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of detailed management prescriptions for restoration of the natural forest by Qtr 4 Yr 1 2. Results from remote sensing and participatory mapping with FUGs combined and cross checked through ground truthing, re-classification and forest sampling in Year 1. 3. Development of local training curriculum and programme by Year 2. 4. Forest restoration activities are planned, implemented and reviewed by FUGs as from Year 2.
Activity 2.1.Capacity development of FUGs on natural forest management	Forest management prescription concerning protection, development and Utilization indicated in FDP&M cooperatives PFMP Participatory mapping conducted with FUGs and verified through the use of GPS. Forest restoration activities are underway (Protection , development & utilization as indicated in Participatory Forest management Plan)
Activity 2.1.Capacity development of FUGs on natural forest management	Capacity development training has been on Forest Resource Assessment (PFRA), the Participatory Forest Management Plan (PFMP) and their involvement in leading and performing the forest management activities.
Activity 2.2. Baseline & repeat forest inventory	Base line survey done for future analysis of changes in forest condition through Remote sensing by Royal Botanical Gardens Kew, Boundary demarcation Using GPS, Participatory mapping
Activity 2.3. Accompany FUGs (and other stakeholders) on forest restoration activities	Forest restoration activities undertaken by FUGs, for example, the protection and utilization of the natural forest accompanied by concerned stakeholders
Activity 3.1 Organisational development for producer groups	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. >50 VTE groups formed by Qtr 3 Yr 1 and produce draft business plans by end of Yr 1. 2. >140 VTE groups formed by Qtr 2 Yr 2, with operational business plans by Qtr 1 Yr 3 3. Access to microfinance and revolving loans secured at a community level by Year 2. 4. >140 VTEs generating a working profit by end of Yr 3
	<p>About 19 VTE groups has been established, prepared business plans and engaged in product development actions</p> <p>Enterprises has started establish a saving & revolving fund mechanisms to solve their financial constraints</p> <p>Progress has been made in product development towards achieving profit by end of year 3.</p>

	5. Carbon credits successfully marketed, in Years 4 and 5. 6. Poorest 20% of households (as defined in baseline livelihoods survey) have income increased by 20% by year 5.	
Activity 3.1 Organisational development for producer groups		Forest business entrepreneurship training has been given for communities.
Activity 3.2 Business development skills/MA&D for VTE development		A number of training sessions have been held on MA&D concepts & techniques, developing producer groups into enterprises and preparing EDPs. MA&D trainings has been delivered to facilitate the establishment of VTE
Activity 3.3 Technical support for VTEs establishing fruit tree nursery and management services enterprise development		There have been training sessions on fruit tree nursery & management. The training included theory and practice on grafting, budding and propagation of apple seedlings and protection against disease. Peer learning sessions and visits also were organized towards achieving stated activity
Activity 3.4 Technical support for VTEs on apiculture		Beekeeping training was delivered covering theoretical and practical aspects of beekeeping development and management. Peer learning sessions and visits were also organized towards achieving stated activity
Activity 3.5 Technical support for VTEs on optimum management of woodlots		Training sessions on woodlot management and organisational development held. These enterprise members have agreed to use the learning in their woodlots, and to demonstrate and share their knowledge with further entrepreneurs to increase the development of woodlot management groups.
Activity 3.6 Facilitate revolving savings and credit schemes and access to external microfinance		There are 4 Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SCCs) with a combined 127 members and capital savings of 31,195 Birr. There is a monthly saving of 10Birr per cooperative. 2additional SCCs are also under formation, with 20 members each and a starting monthly saving of 2 Birr. These SCCs are supported by the Woreda cooperative expansion office to become formal groups.11 other groups (6 women's groups and 5 forest and farmer groups) have also started saving monthly. Training has been provided to help them to establish their saving & credit system. Continuous follow up and support is being provided from the local government stakeholders to ensure the established cooperatives are sustainable.
Activity 3.7 Set up of Forest Carbon/REDD+ scheme		
Activity 3.8 Explore potential for establishment of PES scheme based on benefits to downstream users of water resources		
Output 4. Integrated Watershed Management and Application of Improved Agro-forestry Techniques for Livelihoods Improvement	1. Examples of integration of permanent vegetation into agricultural land in all 14 Kebeles by end of Year 3. 2. Local conventions on management of permanent vegetation integrated into	

	SWC measures in all 14 Kebeles by end of Year 2. 3. Network of Lead Farmers and FarmerFieldSchools established by Qtr 2 Yr3	
Activity 4.1. Technical advice on integrating permanent vegetation into SWC measure		Farmers have been given technical training and advice through local conventions on the management of permanent vegetation integration into their soil and water conservation activities (SWC) in the entire project Kebeles, and have begun to introduce this into their farming practices. Trained farmers engaged in compost preparation.
Activity 4.2. Institutional development at sub-Kebele level to share rights & responsibilities for mgt of such trees, shrubs or grasses		To date, the project has already established a network of Lead farmers (trained as trainers) and 23 Farmer Field Schools with more than 357 members in the 3 project woredas, ahead of the schedule to mid-year 3
Activity 4.3. Participatory technology development to refine; - agro-forestry prescriptions, - fodder tree management - compost production		Training has been given to farmers to become trained as trainers to other farmers, and these trainers have begun to conduct workshops on participatory technology development to refine agro-forestry prescriptions, fodder tree management & compost production. All the necessary hand tools and materials were also provided to community members for SWC activities.
Output 5. Monitoring and Evaluation		
Activity 5.1. Detailed design of methodology for impact evaluation		
Activity 5.2. Livelihoods baseline survey		The livelihoods baseline survey has been completed as of January 2014 and is included as Annex 15 as it was not included in the annual report 2013-2014.
Activity 5.3. Annual stakeholder review meetings/workshops		
Activity 5.4. Specific thematic studies		
Activity 5.5. Mid-term evaluation		To be undertaken during the project year 3 (2015-2016)
Activity 5.6. End of project evaluation		

Annex 2 Project's full current logframe

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Sources and Means of Verification	Assumptions
<p>Goal/Impact Resilient, diversified livelihoods for 53 communities living in and around Wof Washa natural forest supported by a secure, sustainable supply of forest products and environmental services arising from improved management and restored biodiversity of the forest. This supply of products and services will provide material incentives for these communities to continue their investment in the sustainable, participatory management of the forest.</p>			
<p>Purpose/Outcome 53 Communities living in and around Wof Washa forest (representing 13,841 households / 57,400 people) will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> legally recognised rights & responsibilities to access and control forest resources; the skills and technical knowledge to sustainably manage these biologically diverse resources; the material incentives to do so through profitable tree product enterprises and payments for environmental services. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 40 functional FUGs (established as FDP&M cooperatives) with legally recognised rights & responsibilities by Qtr 3 Yr 2 40 FUGs have the capacity to plan and execute sustainable management of the natural forest by Qtr 3 Yr 2 Average household income increased by 35% from year 1 levels and diversified to include 2-3 or more sources by end Yr 3 Area of natural forest (as defined in year 1 baseline inventory) maintained and quality of biodiversity within forest (as defined in year 1 baseline inventory) increased,(at time of repeat forest inventory in Yr 5) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Signed PFM agreements between FDP&M cooperatives (FUGs) and relevant government agencies (ANRSFE and the Woreda Administrations). Forest management plans and records of annual participatory review of these plans. Household livelihood monitoring surveys to be undertaken at years 1, 3, and 5. 2012 floristic composition survey, plus new mapping & inventory to be undertaken in year 1, will serve as baseline. Repeat mapping & inventory will be done in year 5. Monitoring reports to be prepared and submitted as part of PES systems by FUGs with support of project staff and Woreda technicians will serve to measure change consequent to this project intervention. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> References to co-management of state forest resources in National and Regional policy statements are retained, expanded on and translated into practice. Support of government agencies with a mandate for environmental management and rural development at National, Regional, Zonal and Woreda level is maintained or increased Stable national, regional and international markets for tree products, environmental services and forest carbon respectively Frequency and intensity of extreme climatic events does not increase to the point that local agricultural based livelihoods are completely undermined
<p>Output Assumptions</p>	<p>No inconsistencies between Federal and State legislation and policies pertaining to PFM ANRSFE competent and capable of negotiating practical agreements with FDP&MCU on PFM and Forest Carbon/PES benefit sharing Option for FUGs to register as cooperatives remains the most practical and effective route to official recognition and legal status. In fact there are some drawbacks to this designation and some stakeholders are currently arguing that other options should be explored, but it remains the option recommended at present</p>		

	Federal legislation on NGO operations does not prevent SUNARMA committing the required resources for good management of project field operations	
Output 1. Institutional Development for Forest User Groups (FUGs)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 40 FUGs legally registered as FDP&M Cooperatives with a leadership that is gender balanced and accountable, and a membership that is representative of all forest users, by Qtr 3 Yr 2. 2. FUGs federated within a legally registered and officially recognised FDP&M Cooperative Union by Qtr 4 Yr 2. 3. Formal PFM agreements and general management plans agreed between FDP&M Cooperative Union + constituent FDP&M Cooperatives and ANRSFE + Woreda Administrations by Qtr 4 Yr 2. 4. Recorded infringements of common by-laws agreed and implemented by FDP&M Cooperatives 5. Financial independence of FDP&M Cooperative Union + constituent FDP&M Cooperatives increases annually as from Year 4. 	Copies of FUG/FDP&MC & FDP&MCU constitutions and meeting minutes Kebele, Wroeda and Zonal cooperative registration records
Activity 1.1 Complete establishment of FUGs (extending coverage to include lowland communities)		
Activity 1.2 Ongoing mentoring and organisational development of FUGs,		
Activity 1.3 Research govt policies and guidelines for establishing Forest Users Institution - FDP&MCU at Woreda and Zonal levels		
Activity 1.4 Review relevant policies, guidelines and byelaws of similar organisations, in consultation with stakeholders		
Activity 1.5 Support FDP&MCU in participatory development of by-laws, forest management plans and work plans		
Activity 1.6 Legal registration of FDP&MCUs		
Activity 1.7 Support/accompany FDP&MCU in implementing their plans and by-laws		
Activity 1.8 Handover the management of project to FDP&MCU		

Output 2. Natural Forest Management by FUGs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of detailed management prescriptions for restoration of the natural forest by Qtr 4 Yr 1 2. Results from remote sensing and participatory mapping with FUGs combined and cross checked through ground truthing, re-classification and forest sampling in Year 1. 3. Development of local training curriculum and programme by Year 2. 4. Forest restoration activities are planned, implemented and reviewed by FUGs as from Year 2. 	<p>Regional and Woreda level Participatory Forest Management agreements and general management plans Forest survey and inventory reports and maps</p>
Activity 2.1. Capacity development of FUGs on natural forest management		
Activity 2.2. Baseline & repeat forest inventory		
Activity 2.3. Accompany FUGs (and other stakeholders) on forest restoration activities		
Output 3. Viable, operational enterprises based on tree and forest products established and managed by poor rural households	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. >50 VTE groups formed by Qtr 3 Yr 1 and produce draft business plans by end of Yr 1. 2. >140 VTE groups formed by Qtr 2 Yr 2, with operational business plans by Qtr 1 Yr 3 3. Access to microfinance and revolving loans secured at a community level by Year 2. 4. >140 VTEs generating a working profit by end of Yr 3 5. Carbon credits successfully marketed, in Years 4 and 5. 6. Poorest 20% of households (as defined in baseline livelihoods survey) have income increased by 20% by year 5. 	<p>Regional and Woreda level Participatory Forest Management agreements and general management plans Village Tree Enterprise business records</p>
Activity 3.1 Organisational development for producer groups		
Activity 3.2 Business development skills/MA&D for VTE development		

Activity 3.3 Technical support for VTEs establishing fruit tree nursery and management services enterprise development			
Activity 3.4 Technical support for VTEs on apiculture			
Activity 3.5 Technical support for VTEs on optimum management of woodlots			
Activity 3.6 Facilitate revolving savings and credit schemes and access to external microfinance			
Activity 3.7 Set up of Forest Carbon/REDD+ scheme			
Activity 3.8 Explore potential for establishment of PES scheme based on benefits to downstream users of water resources			
Output 4. Integrated Watershed Management and Application of Improved Agro-forestry Techniques for Livelihoods Improvement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Examples of integration of permanent vegetation into agricultural land in all 14 Kebeles by end of Year 3. 2. Local conventions on management of permanent vegetation integrated into SWC measures in all 14 Kebeles by end of Year 2. 3. Network of Lead Farmers and Farmer Field Schools established by Qtr 2 Yr3 	Project Management narrative reports	
Activity 4.1. Technical advice on integrating permanent vegetation into SWC measure			
Activity 4.2. Institutional development at sub-Kebele level to share rights & responsibilities for mgt of such trees, shrubs or grasses			
Activity 4.3. Participatory technology development to refine; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agro-forestry prescriptions, - fodder tree management - compost production 			
Output 5. Monitoring and Evaluation		Project Management narrative reports	
Activity 5.1. Detailed design of methodology for impact evaluation			
Activity 5.2. Livelihoods baseline survey			
Activity 5.3. Annual stakeholder review meetings/workshops			

Activity 5.4. Specific thematic studies	
Activity 5.5. Mid term evaluation	
Activity 5.6. End of project evaluation	

Annex 3 Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Total to date	Number planned for reporting period	Total planned during the project
Established codes								
7	Training materials: 3 rounds of locally relevant training materials in Amharic (Market Analysis & Development)	3 phases						tba
9	Participatory Forest Management Plan (PFMP) agreed with ANRSFE		1				1	1
20	Physical asset (vehicle)	£17,928						£17,928
23	Financial (Vitol Fdn & Jersey Overseas Aid Commission)							tba
New - Project specific measures	Training sessions for villagers	80+	225+					tba

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. website link or publisher)
CONDITION AND REGENERATION OF JUNIPER TREES IN WOF WASHA FOREST, ETHIOPIA,	Report	Timberlake, J.R. & Osborne, J. (2014).	Male	British	Report produced for Tree Aid/SUNARMA under the Darwin Initiative Award 2034	Annex 7

Annex 4 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

Annex 4 Map and photos
 Annex 5 Cooperative registration certificates
 Annex 6 Cooperatives summary table
 Annex 7 Kew Wof Washa juniper report July 2014
 Annex 8 Kew visit photos
 Annex 9 Floristic Compostion&Forest Inventory&PFRA
 Annex 10 VTEs summary table
 Annex 11 MA&D training
 Annex 12 Livelihoods baseline survey
 Annex 13 Example cooperative meeting report

We also received the following as word documents in Amharic, (the English word software only showed illegible symbols rather than the Amharic), therefore they are not included here:

- Natural Resource.and Tourism Bylaw service/CONSTITUTION
- PFM agreement between ANRSFE & Cooperatives
- Wof Washa PFM Plan

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You need 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 want 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.	
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.	