Darwin Initiative Main and Post Project Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Writing a Darwin Report" guidance: (http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms). It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2019

Darwin Project Information

Project reference	24-021
Project title	Empowering Ivorian communities to conserve biodiversity and improve their livelihoods
Host country/ies	Côte d'Ivoire
Lead organisation	Rainforest Alliance (RA)
Partner institution(s)	Centre d'Etudes, Formations, Conseils et Audits (CEFCA)
Darwin grant value	£300,000
Start/end dates of project	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020
Reporting period (e.g., Apr 2018 – Mar 2019) and number (e.g., Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	Reporting Period: July 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019 Annual Report (AR) 2
Project Leader name	Sarah Fadika
Project website/blog/Twitter	N/A
Report author(s) and date	Sarah Fadika, April 30, 2019

1. Project rationale

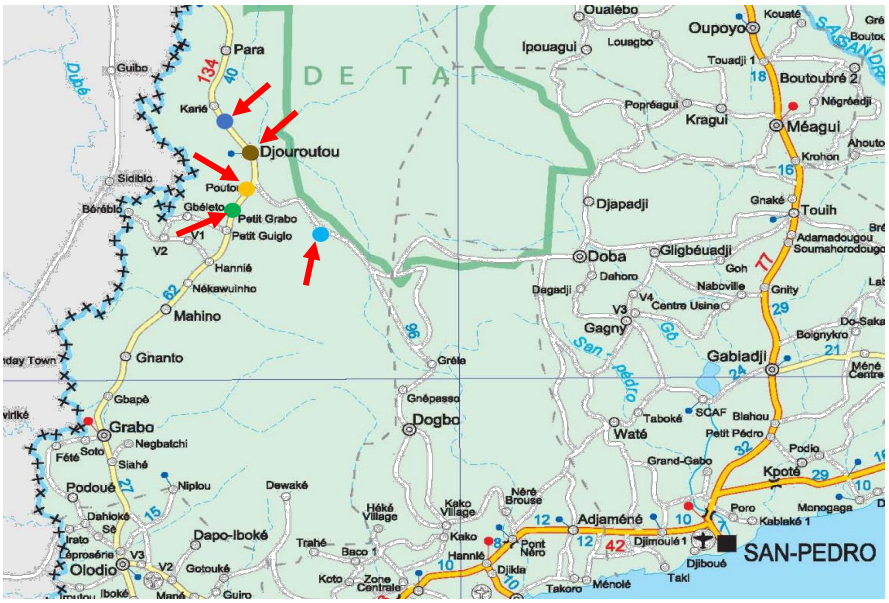
Located in south-western Côte d'Ivoire, the project region is the Taï National Park (Parc National de Taï). This park is the largest remaining forest in West Africa covering 3,500-square kilometres and has been officially recognised as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site. The Taï forest area is rich in biodiversity and home to many endemic and endangered species such the pigmy hippopotamus,1,300 species of higher plants, 11 monkey species and the tool-using chimpanzees with a current population of about 500, declining drastically from the 4,500 that was recorded in 2003[1].

Political instability between 1999 and 2010 and resource conflict have led to declining forest cover and wildlife population in much of Côte d'Ivoire, especially the Taï National Park region. The human population in the region is also heavily reliant on the surrounding natural resources to sustain their livelihoods, which often involves cutting down trees in order to plant crops and further contributes to deforestation and land degradation. The resulting forest loss leads to a vicious cycle of poverty and resource depletion, where trees are no longer sequestering carbon and providing other biological benefits and local livelihoods are increasingly threatened. In addition, continued deforestation and degradation present a serious reputational and long-term

[1] https://yichuans.github.io/datasheet/output/site/tai-national-park/

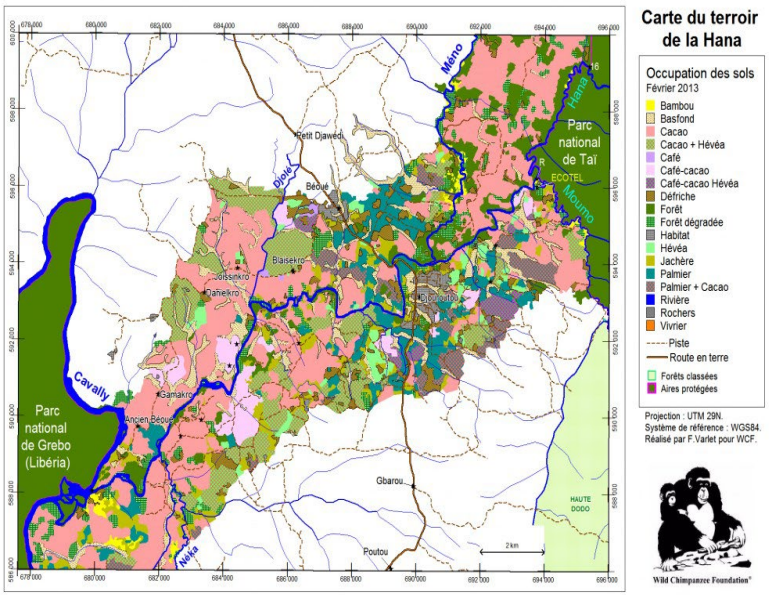
supply risk for businesses that source from Côte d'Ivoire, which produces 40% of the world's cocoa[2].

This project addresses some of these underlying threats both by supporting the cocoa industry in its efforts to remove deforestation and poaching from its supply chain and by promoting a deforestation-free agricultural economy through the creation of a Landscape Management Board in South-West Taï. To date, project efforts have supported the rehabilitation of degraded areas across six communities in the districts of Béoué, Petit Grabo, Poutou, Djouroutou, Youkou and Daoudi, working with 527 cocoa-growing farmers. Overall, we hope to impact the wider population of these districts, estimated to be over 24,000 people, of which 11,000 are women, mostly living below the $2 per day poverty line[3]. The project communities are shown in **Map 1** below, with the proposed biological corridor shown in **Map 2**.



Map 1: Localisation of the 6 communities (→) of Cooperative Agricole Fraternité de Djouroutou (COOFADJOU) and Société Cooperative Agricole des Producteurs de Petit Grabo et Youkou (SCAEPGY). One of the six communities, Béoué, is north of these sites and not shown in the map above.

Source: Olam International, Cocoa Sustainability management team, Cote d'Ivoire.



Map 2: Corridor location around the Hana River.
Source: World Agroforestry http://blog.worldagroforestry.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Hana-map.jpg

[2] http://www.worldcocoafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/Cocoa-Market-Update-as-of-3.20.2012.pdf
[3] 46.3% Poverty Headcount Ratio at national poverty lines in Côte d'Ivoire, and 28.2% Poverty Headcount Ratio at $1.90 a day; http://data.worldbank.org/country/cote-divoire, World Bank, 2017

The project addresses two key threats to this biodiversity hotspot:

1. **Deforestation and unsustainable agricultural expansion:** Deforestation in the region poses a direct threat to biodiversity, exposes farmer livelihoods to climate change and reduces the suitability of cocoa growing areas. Expansion of the agricultural frontier, notably for cocoa production (Côte d'Ivoire is the world's leading producer), has decimated forests and increased pressure on wildlife. Forest cover in Côte d' Ivoire has shrunk from 16 million to less than 3 million hectares in the last fifty years.[4] In the past decade, entire tracts of nationally protected 'Classified Forests' around Taï National Park have been cleared. According to the country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), agriculture is the most significant factor contributing to deforestation today. Through an agroforestry approach, the project has put proposed solutions in place as per **Output 2 Activities 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7**. This approach is cemented by the creation of a Landscape Management Board (LMB) with a plan under **Output 1** and through **Activities 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5**. The LMB have adopted a landscape planning approach that tackles the most relevant landscape issues, principally deforestation.

2. **Bushmeat consumption:** Another threat to biodiversity arises from the consumption of bushmeat (notably wild chimpanzees). While this practice slowed during the Ebola outbreak in 2014, consistently high demand remains from rural and urban populations, and illegal hunting and wildlife trafficking continue. Regulations and legislation have not yet been adopted to deal with the significant conservation challenges posed by illegal bushmeat markets. As such, this project has proposed alternative sources of protein to the community to solve the issue, as well as an awareness raising program on biodiversity conservation as described in **Outputs 2 and 3 in Activities 2.8, 2.9, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5**.

Apart from its associated biodiversity benefits, the project is safeguarding future cocoa production by promoting the equally critical adoption of sustainable, climate-smart and biodiversity-conserving practices to increase cocoa farmers' incomes and address poverty in the region. This year farmers face challenges related to the non-use of fertilisers and improved cocoa hybrids for cocoa production, which has been banned by the Conseil du Café Cacao (CCC), the regulatory body in charge of cocoa and coffee trade in Côte d'Ivoire, see **(Annex 4**). To address this, the project provides alternatives in terms of promoting farm maintenance techniques such as pruning and composting as well as the use of shade trees in farms, to ensure sustainable and climate-smart practices for their farms.

Additionally, the project works with women to teach them skills necessary to partake in revenue diversification opportunities (e.g., chicken rearing and beekeeping), which will improve their livelihoods, as well as to actively participate in decision-making through the newly-created Landscape Management Board.

2. Project partnerships

This project is based on a Public-Private Partnership approach. Overcoming the complex challenge of conserving critical forest areas, while improving rural livelihoods, should not fall on one sector alone and cannot be managed solely by one industry. Success lies in bringing together and equipping a diverse group of stakeholders with an interest in the landscape so that natural resources can be managed, and future economic activities planned beyond the boundaries of individual farms.

To advance activities under the project, the Rainforest Alliance (RA) is working closely since project start with **Centre d 'Etudes, Formations, Conseils et Audits (CEFCA)** to train farmers in best sustainable agricultural practices. RA has also partnered with **Olam International**, a leading cocoa industry stakeholder and global agri-business that grows, sources, trades and processes food and industrial materials around the world, to secure the market for sustainable cocoa. Along with Olam International and CEFCA, RA has partnered with the local authorities, **Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves (OIPR)**, **Société de Développement des Forêts (SODEFOR)** and **Djouroutou**, represented by the Sous Prefét, with strong encouragement from

[4] https://forestcarbonpartnership.org/c%C3%B4te-divoire

both the government and CCC. This partnership seeks to promote strong and inclusive project results, while utilizing a landscape approach, for cocoa-producing communities. To that end, the local authorities are actively involved in the landscape planning.

The Sous-Préfet representative and the OIPR representative are both part of the executive committee of the Landscape Management Board (LMB) created under **Output 1** of the project. Furthermore, the biodiversity sensitization campaign (under **Output 3**) has been discussed with both OIPR and Olam International as trainings are being conducted collaboratively.

During this reporting period, a local consultancy company LOCAGRI, was hired to train the two producer group representatives, also known as Group Administrators, and the Lead farmers on how to integrate shade trees as a business into their training curriculum but also as a principal means to protect their environment and biodiversity. With the official merger of Rainforest Alliance and UTZ International in January 2018, RA has had the benefit of further technical expertise and guidance on the project from the team in Côte d'Ivoire (Abidjan and San Pedro) as well as access to its network connections with **Cocoanect** and **Impactum**, who were collaborating with UTZ in the sustainability projects as part of the Sector Partnerships Program, further details about their collaboration will be given below in section 3 under **activity 1.2** .

Olam's intervention in the project is twofold:

1) ***Providing technical assistance on biodiversity friendly agricultural practices and guaranteeing market access to the cocoa cooperatives' communities***: Olam International is very involved in the training program of the two cooperatives, Cooperative Agricole Fraternité de Djouroutou (COOFADJOU) and Société Cooperative Agricole des Producteurs de Petit Grabo et Youkou (SCAEPGY), this project is working with to ensure a sustainable cocoa supply to its clients. Both cooperatives follow the Olam Livelihood Charter (OLC) training curriculum. Olam also co-finances farm inputs such as phytosanitary products, but no longer finances improved cocoa hybrids plants and fertilisers since the ban from the CCC. In terms of market access, these two cooperatives are guaranteed links to COSTCO, a global retailer with warehouses in North America, Europe, Asia and Australia, via Olam.

2) ***Promoting the conservation of Taï National Park***: Olam is engaged in sensitisation campaign workshops organised as part of this project with RA, OIPR and SODEFOR and will organise sensitisation caravans on the new forestry code on shade trees' ownership to boost conservation habits in villages and in schools in the third year of implementation. Olam International is also closely involved in the establishment of the Monitoring and Evaluation plan, which collects and organizes data on farmers' practices as a baseline for this project.

During the second year of implementation, this partnership has achieved the following:

- **A Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP) has been adopted (Annex 5):** The project has fostered the development of an action plan to tackle key environmental challenges impacting the landscape. The elaboration of the plan was a joint effort of farmers and local communities, together with project stakeholders. The PLMP was endorsed by the LMB and will be used in the community as a long-term planning tool.
- **The training plan was adapted to the current policy of the CCC:** The project set up a best practice training plan based on the OLC to provide technical assistance on sustainable farming and has been adapted to reflect the new CCC decision to halt all activities to improve productivity. The revised training plan builds entrepreneurship skills in the field of agroforestry, by introducing new elements such as a Lead Farmers capacity building program coupled with gender-sensitive income diversification activities (see **Activity 2.2**).
- **New perspective on sensitisation campaigns:** The project has introduced new posters and image boxes in its training programs and will conduct awareness raising activities in schools located in the six project communities (see **Activity 2.4**).
- **Synergies to collaborate with stakeholders working around the Hana River biological corridor:** Coordination meetings have been organised with the Hana River project stakeholders- Cocoanect, GIZ and KFW (the German Development Bank)- to discuss opportunities for joint strategies to protect the Hana River biological corridor, (see **Activity 2.7** further details).

Since August 2017, the project has attracted **additional funding through the Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa (MCFEA)**[5]. We are now at the 3rd year of funding renewal. MCFEA is investing in the climate smart productivity program by leveraging further funding for CEFCA and Olam to implement the productivity program, as well as strengthening producers' groups COOFADJOU and SCAEPGY through improved Internal Management Systems (IMS) to promote efficient internal management and an operational traceability system. This year the IMS program is fully centred on activities that are promoting agroforestry as a business, addressing the value of timber and Non-Timber Forest Products as a means of diversifying their revenue.

The main challenge the Partnership has faced since April 2018 is the need to reorganise the project plan in order to comply with the CCC decision that prohibits productivity activities in the country. This is an ongoing challenge for all the public and private stakeholders involved in the cocoa sector. The project informed Darwin of this development and submitted a request to change the project logframe accordingly (**Annex 2**). Over the past year, RA and Olam International have worked together on finding alternatives to reshape the climate-smart agriculture program in order to comply with the new CCC policy. Several meetings were organised to establish a new plan to train farmers still using the OLC[6] (Olam Livelihood Charter) training curriculum but with no use of fertilisers and regeneration hybrid cocoa plants. The focus has been on pruning and composting.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

1.1 Organize one consultative workshop jointly with CEFCA and OIPR to create the LMB in coordination with local Taï authorities

Completed in Year 1.

1.2 Organize 6 training sessions to train community members on the LMB´s governance structure and procedures

Since the start of the project, RA has organised a total of **4** trainings in the Béoué, Petit Grabo, Poutou, Djouroutou, Youkou and Daoudi communities on the LMB governance structure and procedures. The two remaining training sessions will take place in Year 3 of the project.

A series of three one-day central committee meetings to discuss the draft Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP) were held in Djouroutou, on June 8, and August 17, 2018, and on March 22, 2019, which on average 15 out of 19 members of the central committee attended. See **Annex 6** for photos, attendee list and presentations of these meetings. In the meeting held on March 22, the LMB gathered to finalise the PLMP, which was formally approved by all stakeholders and signed off by local authorities.

RA is currently finalising an agreement with a local NGO called Impactum to ensure a good follow up of the PLMP even after project end. This NGO has successfully created an LMB in the Northern area of Taï and is well connected with local communities. This collaboration will reinforce the understanding of local communities on the importance of ongoing monitoring of PLMP implementation to ensure impact is achieved in the long term.

1.3 Facilitate 6 LMB Steering Committee meetings

This year, 2 Steering Committee meetings have taken place, on the 25 May and 30 November 2018 respectively. This makes a total of **3** Steering Committee meetings facilitated by the project so far. The fourth meeting is scheduled to take place on Q1 of year 3.

The first Steering Committee meeting of Year 2 was held in Abidjan on May 25, 2018, with the Sous Prefet, OIPR, OLAM, and CEFCA. Olam's cocoa sustainability team delivered a

[5] https://www.mitsubishicorp.com/gb/en/csr/mcfea/
[6] http://olamgroup.com/susTaïnability/olam-livelihood-charter/

presentation during this meeting, which outlined progress on project activities. The meeting presentations are shown in **Annex 6**.

The second Steering Committee meeting was held in Abidjan on November 30, 2018. A total of 11 people attended the consultations, five of which were members of the LMB. These included the representative of the LMB central committee from the Djouroutou community who attended on behalf of the producer cooperatives COOFADJOU and SCAEPGY, the representative of the local authorities (*Sous-Prefet*), CEFCA, the OIPR representative, the Olam sustainability team and the Darwin Project Lead, together with the representative of the local shade tree nursery company. The attendees list is attached in **Annex 6**. At this meeting, the status of the project's activities was discussed. The main challenge outlined concerned the capacity of the shade tree planting company SOBETEK to deliver healthy shade tree plants (see **Activity 2.5** for details). The participants also discussed the importance of integrating compelling sensitisation campaigns on the new Ivorian Forestry code[7] in the program and agreed to collaborate with SODEFOR to promote and present shade tree planting as an effective alternative livelihood solution. The concept is further explained in the PLMP (**Annex 5).**

1.4 Document lessons learnt and challenges from the LMB's operation, and share them during the Steering Committee meetings, as well as in the mid-project and end-of-project evaluation workshops

Based on lessons learnt from last year, the project is gradually integrating more transparency into the LMB. Decisions regarding the PLMP coming from thematic sessions held at the village committee level have been discussed and considered at the executive level during Steering Committee meetings held in Abidjan. Feedback from the sessions were then shared back with the village committees. A document elaborating on lessons learnt and challenges is attached in **Annex 7**. Further recommendations will be produced by Impactum after their assignment and shared in the following reports.

1.5 Provide technical assistance to leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Taï National Park, on the formulation of a Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP) at the village level

As reported above under **Activity 1.2**, the LMB has finalised and approved the PLMP. It was a very participatory process as it engaged key village activist associations such as *Association Villageoise pour la Conservation et le Development* (AVCD) along with expertise of some participants in other initiatives in the region such as the GIZ PRODEMIR project, which aims at educating the rural population to use the economic potential of local natural resources while preserving biodiversity. All participants shared their insights about the challenges in the region, ranging from biodiversity threats to alternative livelihood issues linked to socio-economic and cultural challenges. These insights, along with ideas and knowledge shared by the communities were collected by RA and integrated into the first draft of the PLMP.

After reviewing the initial plan with the Steering Committee, Rainforest Alliance came back to the communities with key specific questions about how they were affected by the issues at hand and what solutions they anticipated. RA then organised a series of consultations at the village committee level and the feedback received was included in the final approved plan.

2.1 Identify and engage cocoa farmers' cooperatives and their members, to register in the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program

Completed in Year 1.

2.2. Design the training program on sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming, ensuring it is adapted to the local context and maximizes female farmer participation

Completed in Year 1. In Year 2, the training plan was adapted to the current policy of the CCC, as explained in **section 2** of this report. RA agreed with Olam International to readapt the training

[7] http://www.gouv.ci/doc/Code%20forestier%20ivoirien.pdf

sessions to comply with the CCC policy and focus primarily on the coaching sessions conducted by Lead Farmers to monitor the adoption of best practices by cocoa farmers (see **Activity 2.4**).

2.3. Identify lead farmers willing to set up demonstration plots, and engage them in the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program

The project has identified 10 Lead Farmers (4 more since last year) and set up 6 demonstration plots, 3 sites per cooperative (see **Annex 9** for the demonstration plots). It was decided not to establish one additional demonstration plot focused on cocoa regeneration hybrid plants as planned in Year 1, because that will be contrary to the CCC policy.

2.4 Implement the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program

As explained in the previous reports, the sustainable agriculture training program utilizes aspects of the Olam Livelihood Charter[8] (OLC) training curriculum, coupled with RA's expertise in best climate-smart agricultural techniques. The training topics focus on good agricultural practices, the value of shade trees, the use of agrochemicals, harvest and post-harvest good practices on farms, combined with the socio-economic aspect's endemic to cocoa communities. Please find attached a description of the training program in **Annex 8.**

In Year 2, a total of 215 individual **coaching sessions** were delivered by Lead Farmers to cocoa farmers. Coaching sessions are one to one follow up sessions on individual farms. Lead Farmers visit farms on a quarterly basis to record events or phenomena on farms, such as pest and disease infestations for example, and train farmers on the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and pesticide application. Coaching sessions are also being conducted on the six **demonstration plots** to help farmers adopt best agricultural practices. On the demonstration plots, farmers can test methods of composting and pruning techniques, without fertilizer use, and with no replanting parcels, unlike in year 1 due to the new CCC policy. Trainings on demonstration plots follow the crop calendar.

The coaching sessions were reinforced by the Internal Management System (IMS) strengthening program financed by Mitsubishi Corporate Funds for Africa (MCFEA) since 2017, which allows the project to benefit from the services of a local consultancy company called LOCAGRI, specialised in training the IMS team, composed of the Cooperatives' Group Administrators and the Lead Farmers via 2 **Training of Trainers** (TOT). The IMS strengthening program includes a training curriculum for the two Group Administrators and the ten Lead Farmers, which is focused on biodiversity conservation techniques in cocoa farming. Ten lead farmers and the two group administrators from COOFADJOU and SCAEPGY attended the training sessions, giving them the opportunity to work with the trainers to reinforce their understanding on key topics, such as: 1) how to support the communities' participation in the effective management of riparian areas of an ecosystem, like the Taï National Park, 2) the new Ivorian forestry law, 3) improved agroforestry practices on cocoa farms, and 4) revenue management. Further details on the IMS strengthening program are provided in the report prepared by LOCAGRI (**Annex 10).**

In this second year of implementation, **Image boxes (Annex 10)** have been developed to serve as a main support of the IMS capacity building program Image boxes are interactive image tools used by Lead Farmers with the aim of training farmers to understand the effects of climate change on their environment, how climate change affects their farming practices and life, and how agroforestry can be used to tackle these challenges. The use of images is a powerful tool to train farmers as over 90% of them are illiterate. The Lead Farmers were therefore trained on the effective usage of the image boxes to deliver their training (see **Annex 10** for the training manual of the image boxes).

As of March 2019, a total of 527 farmers had been trained in **Farmer Field Schools (FFS)** training sessions, which took place approximately once a monthly. Modules included specific themes based on the Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard. They encompass topics dealing with the protection of fauna and flora, management of shade trees, maintenance of vegetative barriers and integrated pest management, while facilitating record-keeping and adoption of best practices.

[8] http://olamgroup.com/susTaïnability/olam-livelihood-charter/

2.5 Engage CRNA and SODEFOR on the establishment of nurseries.

In Year 1, Olam had financed the establishment of **two cocoa nurseries**, one for each cooperative located in Djouroutou and Neka.

The project has encountered several issues with the shade tree provider SOBETEK. Consequently, at the last Steering Committee meeting of the project in November 30, 2018 (see **Activity 1.3**), and after a project visit of the CEO of Olam Cocoa based in London, Mr Gerry Manley, it was agreed with SOBETEK to replace the loss of the plants and create 2 additional shade tree nurseries in Djouroutou and Petit Grabo. The new nursery located in Petit Grabo is closer to the communities and was created in February 2019. As such it will minimise tree losses whilst transporting them to the farms. The nursery in Djouroutou will be established in Year 3. Therefore, to date, **three shade trees nurseries** have been established.

2.6 Coordinate the distribution of cocoa and shade-tree seedlings, so that it responds to farmer needs, according to project-endorsed sustainable, climate-smart practices

40,000 cocoa hybrid trees from the cocoa nurseries established in Year 1, were distributed and planted in Q2 of Year 2 as part of this project. In compliance with the CCC decision, the project has now stopped distributing cocoa hybrid trees, so the number of cocoa tree seedlings will remain stationary.

The distribution of shade tree seedlings is still ongoing (see **Annex 11**). The criteria for distribution of shade trees is based on the mapping of the farms and the need of shade. **33,000 shade trees** have been distributed and planted to date. Additionally, more shade trees are being produced in the nurseries and will be distributed to farms and to schools as part of sensitisation caravans organised in conjunction with Olam (see **Annex 14** for the proposed program).

2.7 Coordinate the delineation and establishment of the biological corridor Buffer Zone along River Hana.

Land clearance for smallholder cocoa expansion is a primary deforestation driver across the area of Taï National Park. In this mosaic production landscape, unsustainable cocoa production practices, a lack of integrated farm planning and diversified production techniques, mismanagement of waste, and growing fluctuations in climate conditions threaten the farm economy and quality of life and cause deforestation. A mapping exercise was completed by the project in Year 1 and a buffer zone of 1 to 5 kilometres was identified around the Hana River.

As explained in the last half year report, we do not have enough Olam farmers to build up a corridor along the Hana River on our own. Therefore, RA has approached Cocoanect, which is developing a corridor along the Hana River through a joint project with GIZ, and KFW (see attached presentation of the project in **Annex 12)**, which involves the development of integrated land-use plans to guide the implementation of the climate-smart agricultural approach. RA had two meetings with Cocoanect and GIZ in January and February 2019. At the meetings it was agreed to organise joint synergy actions with local stakeholders along the corridor that was already started by Cocoanect. Cocoanect has identified 36 farmers along the Hana river. The project would require the farmers to cut down a width of 15 meters of cocoa trees. As incentives to the farmers, inputs are provided to improve their farm yield. The photograph of the meeting is attached in **Annex 12.**

2.8 Design the beekeeping and chicken-rearing training program to at least 82 cocoa farmers and/or other adults

The beekeeping training program was designed in Year 2. The design of the chicken-rearing training curriculum was finalised in Year 1 with the support of CEFCA's animal husbandry specialist (see **Annex 13**).

2.9 Deliver the beekeeping and chicken-rearing training program to at least 82 cocoa farmers and/or other adults

In Year 2, a total of 4 bee-keeping training sessions (2 at each site) have taken place, with 32 farmers participating, of which 3 are women. Olam International and RA hired a specialist for

beekeeping from the *Agence National de Développement Rural* (ANADER) to coach the farmers to set up their beekeeping activities. A total of 20 bee hives, 10 in Youkou and 10 in Djouroutou, were established by the project (see **Annex 13** for photos) and the bees have now started populating the hives.

The chicken-rearing training program has gathered a total of **50** farmers, of which **28** are women. 10 trainings have taken place in Year 2 (**Annex 13**). As evidenced by the numbers of participants in these training programs, women have shown more interest in chicken-rearing than in bee-keeping, because chicken rearing is very common among women and easier to set up and maintain than bee- keeping.

3.1 Design environmental awareness-raising posters in local language, and distribute 7,500 copies, reaching 30% of the wider 5 Taï communities of Beoué, Djouroutou, Petit Grabo, Poutou and Youkou.

In Quarter 4 of Year 2, 12 additional posters for raising environmental awareness have been designed. The posters explain the importance of agroforestry techniques to mitigate climate change. They also advice on the use of shade tree species that can allow income diversification (see illustration of the posters in **Annex 10 &14**). The posters have already been printed in 3,500 copies and distributed to the farmers during awareness raising campaigns. Together with the 5,000 copies that were printed and distributed by CEFCA in Year 1, a total of **8,500** copies of different posters have been distributed by the project so far, which is above the 7,500 target.

Additionally, as explained under **Activity 2.4**, Images boxes have been developed to strengthen the training of the Lead Farmers and Group Administrators on the importance of climate change mitigation and agroforestry techniques.

3.2 Design training materials and agenda for the environmental education meetings aimed at key community members

The agenda and sessions of the environmental education meetings were prepared jointly with OIPR and Olam (see **Activity 3.3** below). The target audience are cocoa farming families, including women, children and the elderly. This year the focus has been put on climate change and agroforestry as an income diversification strategy.

3.3 Organize 18 environmental education awareness meetings for 1,250 community members, jointly with the LMB, Olam and OIPR.

In this reporting period, a total of 21 environmental sensitisation sessions were held in Diaoudi, Youkou, Beoué, Joachimkro, Petit-Grabo, Danielkro and N'Guessankro reaching 533 people, of which 148 were women (see lists of participants in **Annex 14**). In total since project start, **24 sessions** have been held, well above the target of 18.

As described in **activities 1.3 and 2.6**, additional awareness raising caravans will be held in schools and villages in Year 3. Compelling sensitisation campaigns on the new Ivorian Forestry code, which allows farmers in Cote d'Ivoire to own the shade trees on their farms, have been integrated into the training program. This will help to convince farmers to plant shade trees in farms.

3.4 Design the content of environmental awareness-raising radio programs

The first 2 radio programs were designed on May 2, 2018 at the Steering Committee meeting in Abidjan. The program discussed the Taï National Park and its impact on biodiversity and livelihood improvement of the population (find radio file and pictures in **Annex 15** and refer to **Activity 3.5** below). The topics of 2 additional programs are currently being designed in partnership with the Olam sustainability team.

3.5 Organize 6 environmental awareness-raising radio programs, involving OIPR, CEFCA, and community leaders

Out of the 6 radio programs planned, **2** have been broadcasted on May 25, 2018 at San Pedro radio station and 4 new programs with new environmental topics related to the project will be produced in Year 3. This allows RA to meet its objective of reaching out to the wider communities in the Taï region, estimated to be over 24,000 people, of whom 11,000 are women, with awareness-raising radio programs on biodiversity conservation.

In Q2 of Year 3, with the funds received from MCFEA, close proximity broadcast sessions will be organised in villages, by using the recordings of the programs to interest and engage the communities on biodiversity conservation.

4.1 Hold an on-site Monitoring & Evaluation workshop for the project team (RA and partners), aimed at designing the project's Monitoring & Evaluation system

The Performance Monitoring and Environmental Plan (PMEP) was finalised in Q1 of Year 2 and submitted to Darwin as an Annex to the last half-year report.

4.2 Design and apply at project inception and end-of-project, the Sampled Monitoring survey on a statistically representative sample of target cocoa farmers.

The survey was designed and applied during Q4 of Year 1 and analysed in Q1 of Year 2. The survey tool and findings of the baseline analysis, based on a survey applied on a representative sample of 201 farmers, have been analysed by RA and are described in **Annex 17**. The end of project survey is planned for Q4 of Year 3.

4.3 Implement the project's Monitoring and Evaluation System, and produce and deliver quarterly and annual technical, evidence-based project performance reports

The project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system is in place. Progress on the project workplan is tackled quarterly using the PMEP tool shared with RA's M&E Director and is communicated during RA's Africa quarterly meeting on project progress, where any technical issues on the project's delivery of Outputs, and its achievement of Outcome indicators are communicated to the management team quarterly. Additionally, RA submitted the half-year report 2 to Darwin in October 2018 (see **Annex 18**).

4.4. Formulate a Project Communication Strategy, and submit for donor approval

Completed in Year 1.

4.5 Produce the project´s semi-annual online news piece and publicize it through email and social/thematic networks to relevant in-country and global organizations and stakeholders

A gender study in the cocoa sector entitled "*Strategies for integrating gender equity in cocoa smallholder support programs"* has been produced with the support of the Darwin Initiative and IFAD and shared with both Darwin and IFAD in Q4 of Year 2 (available at: https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/white-papers/mitigating-gender-inequity-in-the-cocoa-sector). An article on the project has been produced and published on RA's website (https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/articles/cocoa-farmers-help-protect-last-primary-rainforest-in-cote-d-Ivoire).

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Training and technical assistance delivered to leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Taï National Park, on creating a Landscape Management Board (LMB), and on the formulation of a village-level Landscape Management Plan (PLMP).

Under ***Output Indicator 1.a***, one LMB was constituted in Year 1 and the signed document of the evidence of the LMB creation was attached with the first Annual report. Training and technical assistance have been delivered to leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Taï National Park, on creating the LMB and on the formulation of a village-level PLMP.

Under ***Output Indicator 1.b***, a series of three one-day central committee meetings to discuss and finalise the PLMP were held in Djouroutou on June 8, and August 17, 2018, and on March 22, 2019, which on average 15 out of 19 members of the central committee attended. In Year 2 the PLMP was finalised taking into account feedback from the village committees, as explained under **Activities 1.2 and 1.5**. See **Annex 6** for the attendee lists and **Annex 5** for the final PLMP plan.

Overall, we can say that we have achieved our target toward completing Output 1, as technical assistance has been given to the six communities and they have been able to successfully create an LMB and put a PLMP in place.

Output 2. Training on sustainable, climate-smart farming practices delivered to cocoa farmers, and to them and other adults in their households, on bee-keeping and chicken-rearing.

Under ***Output Indicator 2.a***, During this reporting period, RA agreed with Olam International to reinforce Lead Farmers' coaching sessions to allow the trainers to spend more time with farmers and provide them with hands-on advice for their farms' management, together with traditional FFS teaching, as trainings on farm regeneration with new plants techniques and fertilisers application have stopped. In Year 2, **527 farmers** have been trained in sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming practices, of which **215 were coached on their farms** (see **Activity 2.4**). Therefore, the target of 500 farmers trained by project end has already been met.

Under ***Output Indicator 2.b***, **6 demonstration plots** have been established to date, which is above the target of establishing 3 demonstration plots as part of this project, with 10 Lead Farmers identified and engaged in coaching other farmers on the demonstration plots. The commitment letters signed by Lead Farmers, defining responsibilities on demo-plot establishment and maintenance were presented with Annual Report 1. Activities on demo plots are ongoing and farmers are meeting once a month on site to learn sustainable practices. See **Activity 2.4** for further details and **Annex 9.**

Progress under ***Output Indicator 2.c*** has been partly halted due to the CCC decision to stop activities to increase productivity. RA submitted a logframe change request concerning the target numbers in this output indicator together with the last half year report of 1st April – 30th September 2018 (**Annex 2**), which was approved by Darwin on 19th November, 2018. Prior to the CCC decision, **two cocoa nurseries** had been established and **40,000 cocoa hybrid trees** distributed as part of this project. We do not know yet when the distribution of cocoa trees will be allowed to resume. **Three shade tree nurseries** have been established and **33,000 shade tree plants**, including Gmelina *arborea, Irvingia gabonensis, Terminalia ivorensis, Terminalia superba, Ricinodendron heudolotii, and Tectona grandis* have been delivered. See **Activity 2.5 and 2.6** for further details. Photographs of a nursery are included in **Annex 11**.

Regarding ***Output Indicator 2.d***, RA had defined a buffer zone around the Hana River in Year 1, but it has not been able to establish the corridor because Olam does not have enough farmers located near the river. Efforts to build on synergies with a project by Cocoanect, GIZ and KFW were established in Year 2, as explained in **Activity 2.7**.

Under ***Output Indicator 2.e***, 50 farmers (of which 28 women) were trained in chicken rearing and 32 farmers (of which 3 women) were trained in bee-keeping (see **Activities 2.8 and 2.9** for further details). Therefore, we have now attracted a total of 82 farmers to participate in revenue diversification activities. It has been difficult to get women interested in bee-keeping because they see that as more labour intensive and therefore prefer to engage in chicken-rearing. The number of women participating in chicken-rearing is very close to the target of 32 as we now have 28 women engaged.

Output 3. The population living in communities around the Taï National Park is informed about the value of biodiversity and habitat conservation in the Taï National Park, about natural resource management in their communities, and about the dangers and negative consequences of hunting and consuming bushmeat.

Under ***Output Indicator 3.a***, since the beginning of the project, 5,000 posters have been printed and distributed. 3,500 additional copies have been printed in Year 2 and will be distributed in Year 3 , which will bring the total to 8,500, well over the target of 7,500 posters printed and distributed by Q3 of Year 3. Posters are printed in French and pictures can easily be understood by farmers. See **Activity 3.1** for further details.

Under ***Output Indicator 3.b***, in this reporting period, a total of 21 environmental sensitisation sessions were held in Diaoudi, Youkou, Beoué, Joachimkro, Petit-Grabo, Danielkro and N'Guessankro reaching 533 people, of which 148 women (see **Activity 3.2 and 3.3** and lists of participants in **Annex 14**). In total since project start 24 sessions have been held, reaching 683 people (including 150 in Year 1). We are above the target of 18 environmental sessions organised and we will reach the target of 1,250 community members informed about the value of biodiversity and habitat conservation, natural resource management and the dangers and negatives consequences of hunting and consuming bushmeat.

On ***Output Indicator 3.c***, two radio programs have been delivered in the wider San-Pedro region. Although the delivery of **Activity 3.5** was delayed due to the lack of a radio station in the area of Djouroutou, the project site, the project is on track to achieve its target of organising 6 environmental awareness-raising radio programs. Four more programs will be produced and broadcasted on radio and at community workshops. The topics of 2 of these programs are currently being designed in partnership with Olam sustainability team.

Output 4. The project's Monitoring and Evaluation System, and Communications Strategy formulated, approved and implemented.

Under ***Output Indicator 4.a,*** the project formulated a Performance Monitoring and Environmental Plan (PMEP) in Q1 of Year 2, which was submitted to Darwin together with Half-Year Report 2 and is now being implemented. The project follows the guidelines outlined in the plan by using the tools provided such as the training list template used to record attendees at trainings as in **Output Indicator 2.a.**

Two half-year reports and two annual reports for Years 1 and 2, including the present report, have been submitted to Darwin, in alignment with ***Output Indicator 4.b.*** Quarterly project progress updates are presented in internal quarterly Africa meetings by the Project Lead to RA's management.

The project's communication strategy was finalised and approved by Darwin in Year 1. Therefore, the target for ***Output Indicator 4.c*** has already been achieved.

In Year 2, one gender study in the cocoa sector and one article on the project have been published in RA's website (see **Activity 4.5**), which makes two communication products published this year as planned under ***Output Indicator 4.d.***

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

OUTCOME: Communities adjacent to Taï National Park understand and engage in sustainable land-use and natural resource management, while cocoa farmers apply sustainable, climate-smart, biodiversity-conserving practices that improve their productivity and incomes.

Under **Indicator 0.1**, the LMB is effectively in place and active and has finalised, endorsed and signed the Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP) across the six project communities since Q3 of year 2 (see the PLMP in **Annex 5**).

The Sample Monitoring survey was designed and applied on a representative sample of 201 farmers during Q4 of Year 1. The end of project survey is planned for Q4 of Year 3. Results from the baseline survey have been analysed by RA in Q1 of Year 2 and are described in **Annex 17**. The survey provides baseline data to track progress on indicators 0.2 and 0.4 below.

Cocoa farmers trained by the project, including trained female farmers, have started applying key climate-smart cocoa farm management practices **(Indicators 0.2 and 0.4)**. The project will be able to provide figures for these two indicators once the end-of-project Sampled Monitoring Survey is applied in Q4 of Year 3. Both technical assistance program and revenue diversification strategies have been gender-inclusive, with a total of **41** female cocoa farmers actively participating in training sessions on climate-smart cocoa farm management practices (**Indicator 0.3**). We are therefore on track to reach the overall target of at least 70% of the 41 identified female cocoa farmers satisfactorily completing the training according to the training programme timeline by end of Year 3 (a list of participants is included in **Annex 8)**.

As explained under **Activity 2.7**, we do not have enough Olam farmers to build up a corridor along the Hana River on our own and have therefore not been able to start working with farmers to establish the biodiversity corridor and create buffer zones yet. Progress under **Indicator 0.5** is therefore delayed, but efforts are underway to build synergies with a project by Cocoanect, GIZ and KWF who have already started establishing a biodiversity corridor, with 36 farmers identified by Cocoanect along the Hana river.

A total of six demonstration plots have been established by the project, and training is maintained on those sites to teach farmers to maintain best practices such as composting (see demo-plot activity logs and photographs attached as **Annex 9**)**.** This is therefore well over the planned target of establishing and maintaining at least 3 demonstration plots (**Indicator 0.6**).

Throughout Year 2, RA has conducted trainings in chicken raising and bee-keeping following the curriculum. Two micro-projects on chicken rearing and beekeeping are promoted as alternative sources of revenue for the local communities, with the chicken-rearing activities also providing an alternative source of protein to the community to reduce bushmeat consumption.

In Year 2, 50 farmers (of which 28 women) took part in chicken-rearing training activities and 32 farmers (of which 3 women) are involved in the beekeeping micro-project. All of these 82 farmers, or 100% of individuals that participated in income diversification training courses, have been newly involved in these activities, which is well over the target of 70% under **Indicator 0.7**. See group records of the training sessions in **Annex 8**.

A total of 31 women, out of 82 participants, are actively participating in the revenue-diversification projects. This represents 38% of all participants, a bit below the 50% target under **Indicator 0.8**. Low Female participation rate in Farmers Field Schools and coaching sessions are a known phenomenon in the cocoa sector in Africa (see **section 7** for further details).

All the women involved in the revenue diversification program are new to both of these activities, already surpassing the initial target of 70% under **Indicator 0.9**.

Overall, there is good progress towards achieving the project outcome, as farmers are actively participating in CSA training and have started applying best agricultural practices in their farms. Communities are increasing their understanding about biodiversity and environmental challenges of their landscapes, which will allow them to be more involved in the implementation of the PLMP to sustainably manage the landscape. Revenue diversification strategies have attracted the interest of farmers, who are actively engaged in the microprojects. This will increase the income, as well as food security and nutrition, of farmer households. However, the project will realistically no longer be able to effectively meet full productivity improvement without the use of fertilisers.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Most of the risks and assumptions outlined in the initial logframe of the proposal still hold true. Active participation from communities and local farmers, which was identified as central to the project's success in Year 1, remains a key component and is demonstrated by the good progress of the project in securing participation in different activities, such as in the creation of the LMB, trainings and awareness raising activities (see **sections 3.2 and 3.3** in this report). Additionally,

a supportive policy and regulatory environment toward conservation is also of great importance to achieving the outcome of this project, which has been strengthened by the new Forestry code.

However, there have been some changes in the following three sets of assumptions, as explained in previous sections:

Participation of female farmers

Assumption for Outcome Indicator 0.3: Female farmers to be trained are well identified early on after project inception, and are willing, and able to participate in the trainings.

Assumption for Outcome Indicators 0.8 and 0.9: Female adults in target communities are able and willing to fully participate in the income diversification training courses

Assumption for Outcome Indicators 0.9: female adults trained find it attractive and feasible to engage in bee-keeping and /or chicken-rearing

Comments: Low Female participation rates are a widespread phenomenon in the cocoa sector in Africa, as found in the baseline study which indicates that the main challenge that impedes greater participation in trainings by female farmers is that they are too busy with household and other responsibilities (see **gender report** and **section 7** for further details). While this is a structural issue that the project will not be able to address by itself, we will continue sensitising and encouraging the participation of more women in different project activities.

Training of farmers located within the biodiversity corridor

Assumptions for Outcome Indicator 0.5:

Targeted cocoa farmers whose farms are located within the biodiversity corridor and adjacent to the Hana River, fully participate in the trainings; and

Cocoa farmers to be trained, whose farms are located within the biodiversity corridor, are well identified early on after project inception, allowing the baseline survey to be applied to them

Assumption for Output Indicator 2.d: Cocoa farmers in the buffer zone are identified and are willing and able to participate in the training.

Comments: although the project has not yet been able to build a corridor on its own around Hana river, RA has started collaborating with a project by Cocoanect, GIZ and KFW which had already started establishing a biodiversity corridor. Cocoanect has identified 36 farmers along the Hana river (see **Activity 2.7** for further details). Cocoanect and GIZ have mentioned the possibility of organising joint training sessions with these farmers in Year 3.

Cocoa seedling nurseries

Assumption for Output Indicator 2.c: CRNA, SODEFOR and Olam are willing and able to maintain shade tree and cocoa seedling nurseries and distribute them to farmers at an affordable cost.

Comments: Due to the CCC decision to halt productivity increasing activities, cocoa stakeholders are not allowed to establish cocoa seedling nurseries or distribute cocoa plants to farmers. However, livelihood improvement objectives will be met in the long run through the use of shade trees and income diversification activities.

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

Impact on Biodiversity Conservation

The goal of the project is strongly centred on conservation of the Taï landscape, as well as the area's endemic biodiversity, through awareness-building and application of climate-smart techniques. To date, the project has achieved the following:

- **Creation of a Landscape Management Board (LMB) (Output Indicator 1.a) and a Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP) (Output Indicator 1.b):** The LMB will lead the implementation of the PLMP, which will allow stakeholders in the landscape to plan and manage land use in a way that protects wildlife and conserves the natural resources and

ecosystem services in the Taï landscape, while at the same time ensuring sustainable livelihoods for local farmers.

- **Training of 527 farmers in Climate-Smart Agriculture practices (Output Indicator 2.a).**
- **Establishment of three shade tree nurseries and distribution of 33,000 shade tree plants (Output Indicator 2.c):** farmers are encouraged to plant shade trees on their lands, which contribute to carbon sequestration, stabilize soils, and reduce stress to plants.
- **Development of an Environmental Awareness-Raising Campaign (Output Indicators 3.a/ 3.b/ 3.c):** To date, 8,500 posters have been printed and 5,000 have been distributed across the 6 project communities and two radio programmes broadcasted at San Pedro radio station and 4 new programs with new environmentally friendly topics related to the project will be produced in Year 3. This will allow RA to reach out to the wider communities in the Taï region, estimated to be over 24,000 people, of whom 11,000 are women, with awareness-raising radio programs on biodiversity conservation**.**

Impact on Poverty Alleviation

Another major focus of this project is to provide alternative sources of income to the targeted farmers. Progress to date includes:

- **Implementation of the climate-smart cocoa-farming program (Output Indicators 2.a/ 2.b/ 2.c):** the project is providing trainings and technical assistance to 527 farmers on sustainable cocoa farming trainings. One of the objectives of the training was to increase yields, which would in turn allow them to increase their income. Due to the CCC decision, productivity increase activities have stopped and the training curriculum has been adapted to comply with the new policy. However, the distribution and planting of shade trees in farms, which will produce fruits and timber, will provide farmers with additional income through their sales.
- **Introduction of revenue diversification micro-projects (Output Indicator 2.e):** The revenue diversification training and activities (beekeeping and chicken rearing) are ongoing, with a total of 82 farmers participating. By diversifying income sources, cocoa farmers and their families are experiencing an improved standard of living, including better access to food and nutrition. The end of project impact study will provide further details on these positive achievements.

4. Contribution to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

The project also supports the Global SDGs:

1. No Poverty: The PLMP provides a guideline for economic growth in the communities. The revenue diversification strategies established by the project (chicken raising and bee-keeping) will improve the revenue of the community over time. Products from shade trees such as fruit and timber will also produce extra income to the farming families.

2. Zero Hunger: To date a total of 82 farmers are engaged in revenue diversification micro-projects. By diversifying income sources these farmers and their families will experience an improved standard of living, including better access to food and nutrition. The chicken rearing project also provides protein to the communities and discourages bushmeat hunting.

8. Decent Work and Economic Growth: Training activities under this project focus on agroforestry techniques and revenue diversification. This encourages entrepreneurship and promotes sustainable economic growth. The revenue diversification programs allow men and women in cocoa farming families to achieve productive employment, decent work and additional income during the cocoa off season.

12. Responsible consumption and production: In Year 2, the project has connected with Cocoanect, GIZ and KWF who are all committed to promoting conservation and sustainable sourcing. SODEFOR, OIPR, OLAM and the local authorities have been involved with the project

since Year 1 and are committed to promoting sustainable investment in the cocoa industry and the efficient management of natural resources.

13. Climate Action: The training in agroforestry techniques and capacity building that started in Year 1 has been strengthened in Year 2. Environmental campaigns continue in the communities and in schools, with a total of 8,500 awareness raising posters printed of which 5,000 have been distributed to date. These advocacy activities in the Taï community and capacity building training for the farmers are equipping them with the skills and knowledge to adapt and address the impacts of climate change. Furthermore, 33,000 shade trees have been distributed and planted in cocoa farms, which will contribute to carbon sequestration.

15. Life on Land: Conserving biodiversity and addressing deforestation are at the core of this project. Even though our efforts are not sufficient to halt encroachment into the forests, the project continues to support smallholder farmers in developing alternative revenue options to improve their livelihood and increase their income without the need to cut down trees for farm expansion. The creation of a LMB and the adoption of a PLMP also facilitate a more coordinated approach to forest protection, where the needs of the community for long-term conservation of their natural environment are reconciled with the needs of individual farmers to make a living from cocoa production. This will serve as a long-term planning tool to guide and support the protection of the landscape and the conservation of biodiversity.

5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project focuses directly on three priority themes of Côte d'Ivoire's ***National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity*** under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

#2. Use and enhancement of biodiversity: the project is providing training on good agricultural practices, as per the OLC and the Rainforest Alliance Standard[9] guidelines, for climate-smart agriculture and cocoa agroforestry systems in the Taï region. These improved practices support biodiversity and habitat conservation, as well as restore degraded ecosystems and reduce impacts of pesticides. Training provided to farmers on the new Forestry code, together with environmental awareness-raising activities, also reinforce the project's impact on biodiversity enhancement and conservation.

#4. Awareness and public participation: Since the COP 22, the government of Cote d'Ivoire has been actively engaged in the fight against the drivers of deforestation in the Ivorian landscapes. Public participation and awareness are crucial to the achievement of this goal. This project conducts awareness-raising campaigns in collaboration with CEFCA, Olam and the OIPR, whose director, Mr. François Djè N'Goran, is the CBD National Focal point for Protected Areas in Côte d'Ivoire. The success of the whole process is supported and strengthened by the LMB.

#5. Integration of spiritual values and traditional knowledge in the conservation of biodiversity: The LMB was created through consultations with traditional leaders and the local communities, ensuring that the structure incorporates both spiritual values and traditional knowledge as evidenced in the PLMP. The PLMP integrates traditional values and knowledge passed down from ancestral history such as the use of plants for medicinal purposes. It integrates an action plan to sustainably monitor the use of those plants in conjunction with the LMB and the communities.

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

This project contributes to poverty alleviation by providing revenue diversification opportunities to farmers, through chicken-rearing and bee-keeping microprojects as well as through the

[9] Please note as of January 2019, UTZ and RA have merged under one organisation called Rainforest Alliance. The training standard ownership moved from the Sustainable Agriculture Network to RA https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/business/sas/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/03_rainforest-alliance-sustainable-agriculture-standard_en.pdf

distribution of 33,000 shade tree plants that can produce fruits, timber and other products to be sold by farmers. These activities directly benefit 82 farmers who are participating in the microprojects (of which 31 women) and farmers who have received shade tree plants for their farms (see **Annex 11**). Indirect beneficiaries include family members of these 82 farmers, who will benefit from additional income in their households.

The project was designed to also support increases in cocoa yields, but related activities have stopped in compliance with the CCC decision.

7. Project support to gender equality issues

A total of 13 women have registered to date in the LMB village committees. Participation in the village committees gives them a voice in local decision-making processes and contributes to their empowerment. To date, 41 women are actively participating in the climate smart agriculture training program. The project also encourages gender integration in the cocoa sector by providing women with the knowledge and skills to participate in revenue-diversification micro-projects. In Year 2, there were 31 women engaged in beekeeping and/or chicken-rearing activities.

RA has produced a gender study supported by the Darwin Initiative and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which gives details of the current challenges faced by women in the cocoa sector, such as restrictive cultural practices, discriminatory laws, and a lack of access to land, education, as well as credit and markets. The report is available at: https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/white-papers/mitigating-gender-inequity-in-the-cocoa-sector

8. Monitoring and evaluation

The baseline survey was applied during Q4 of Year 1 on 201 farmers, a statistically representative sample of the total of 527 farmers to be supported by the project. The survey tool and its key baseline findings are attached in **Annex 17** and were analyzed in Q1 of year 2. Baseline survey results will be compared with the end of project survey planned for Q4 of Year 3, in order to assess the project's contribution to farmers uptake of project-endorsed best management practices.

The M&E plan has not changed over the reporting period. Progress on the project workplan is tackled quarterly using the PMEP tool shared with RA's M&E Director and is communicated during RA's Africa quarterly meeting, where any project implementation challenges are communicated to RA's management team. Project partners share their M&E findings with each other, with evidence collected by implementing partner CEFCA on the ground which is in direct contact with the communities on the ground. The information is shared and monitored amongst stakeholders and key elements of success and challenges flagged at steering committee meetings.

Indicators of achievements are that activities related to **Outputs 1, 2 and 3** regarding farming communities' capacity to organize in an homogenic group as a Landscape Management Board and to adopt best practices toward conservation are all on track. This is measured by **Output 4** activities related to the M&E of project performance with a definite PMEP in place.

9. Lessons learnt

Over the past year, the team has learned the importance of the following lessons to ensure success in the project:

- **The importance of a good policy and regulatory environment:** The success in the implementation of this project which promotes good agricultural practices relies heavily on having a good policy and regulatory environment at the national level that supports conservation. On one hand, the new CCC law has hindered the productivity component of the Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) program by restricting yield improvement practices which are a key interest to the farming community. On the other hand, the new Forestry Code which encourages farmers and their communities to plant shade trees is a very positive and inclusive development to encourage farmers to apply best practices. Moreover, with the

incorporation of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative[10] (CFI) Cote d'Ivoire Country plan, the environment for cocoa and forest friendly initiatives is very favourable. At the November 2017 UN Climate Change Conference (COP23), top cocoa-producing countries Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, with leading chocolate and cocoa companies, announced far-reaching CFI Frameworks for Action. Central to the Frameworks is a commitment to no further conversion of any forest land for cocoa production.

We recommend other projects to communicate early any change of governmental policies that can affect projects negatively or positively. Actions to be taken will in some cases, like in this project, result into logframe changes. It is also very important to inform the local communities of these changes so that an appropriate action plan is developed accordingly.

- **The engagement of private stakeholders:** The engagement of Olam in this project is key to its success. Olam ensures market links of the cooperatives' cocoa through Costco. Olam has great connections within the community in Djouroutou and has engaged in social actions such as building schools, and accommodation for teachers. This interest in the communities' well-being is securing their engagement into supplying sustainable cocoa. The visit of the CEO of Olam cocoa from London, who took part in 2017 at the initial signatory of the CFI agreement[11] with Prince Charles, also comforted the communities on the global interest in their region as a UNESCO biosphere reserve and a Natural World heritage site. Olam has since developed a complete Action plan as part of the CFI initiative.
- **Collaborate and create synergies with local and international stakeholders**: This project has greatly benefited of synergies with local stakeholders, such as with the consultancy firm LOCAGRI, intervening on IMS capacity building, and with Impactum which will get involved in strengthening the LMB. Furthermore, efforts are underway to build on synergies with the Cocoanect, GIZ and KWF project, which is expected to address some of the challenges encountered by the project to establish a biodiversity corridor along the Hana River.
- **Incorporating feedback from the community into decision making:** As shared in the lessons learnt report on the establishment of the LMB and the Participatory Landscape Management Plan, it is important to quickly adjust and manage the expectations of the community. The project has tried to incorporate the collaboration of all the community members but sometimes it was difficult to engage everyone and to interest them in the project, some reasons for this could be of a financial nature. Engaging them often requires paying per diems for their participation to compensate for the costs they incur to attend meetings. Some community members often feel not represented. Passing the message to them always needs a lot of effort in terms of communication.
- **The importance of training the cooperatives on Internal Management Systems (IMS):** The capacity building program for the farmers' groups that is financed by MCFEA has improved their internal management and operational traceability systems.
- **The importance of constantly monitoring external providers:** The issue with the shade tree provider SOBETEK created delays in the delivery of shade trees. This input was co-financed mostly by Olam, so the choice of the provider was left to their discretion given that the Olam sustainability team assured that they had experience working with them. Rigorous monitoring of the delivery process should have been assured by the technical team of CEFCA and Olam on the ground with prompt reports to the Olam, CEFCA and Rainforest Alliance management teams on any issues. After the Steering Committee meeting in November 2018, an action plan has been put in place to find a solution to the situation. From then until the end of the project, closer monitoring of the delivery process of shade trees will be ensured. In future projects RA's technical team will be directly in charge of the production of shade trees, as was successfully done for the GEF UNEP project in Northern Taï from 2012 to 2015.

[10] https://www.worldcocoafoundation.org/initiative/cocoa-forests-initiative/

[11] https://www.olamgroup.com/news/all-news/news-bites/olam-cocoa-joins-cooperative-initiative-end-deforestation-cocoa-supply-chain.html

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

We provided responses to the questions raised in the feedback on Annual Report 1, which were transmitted to Darwin along with the half-year report in October 2018 (see Annex 18).

Regarding the question of whether RA was planning to create a website for the project, we responded that we do not have the capacity to do so because of the efforts and budget required to maintain a website. RA has since published one blog about the project (https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/articles/cocoa-farmers-help-protect-last-primary-rainforest-in-cote-d-Ivoire) and a gender report which was supported by Darwin (https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/white-papers/mitigating-gender-inequity-in-the-cocoa-sector) and tweeted about it. We also have broadcasted a program about the project on a local Ivorian radio channel that we shared with Darwin as part of the Half Year Report 2. Other radio programs will be broadcasted in Year 3.

The project has also since been able to count the number of women which participated in the awareness raising activities which where 148 women, out of 533 people, on **Output 3.b** (see **section 3.2** above and **Annex 1**).

The technical reports mentioned under **Output 4.b** refer both to the half-year and annual reports due to Darwin, as well as the internal Monitoring and Evaluation reports that are produced as part of this project, which include the baseline reports, technical reports from the implementing partner from the field, and technical reports such as the bee-keeping or chicken-raising training curriculum that are also produced. In addition, quarterly project progress updates are presented in internal quarterly Africa meetings by the Project Lead to RA's management.

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

The Rainforest Alliance team does not have any other challenges or risks to mention at this time besides those included in **Section 3.4** above and throughout the project.

12. Sustainability and legacy

This project contributes to the improvement of livelihoods for farmers and communities and the long-term conservation of biodiversity in the region. This is now strongly reinforced by the new Ivorian Forestry law. The actions of RA in this regard have attracted the interest of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) who has injected some funds to support our efforts in the Taï National Park. The project was presented by RA management team in Cote d'Ivoire to the European Union in February 2019, in the hope of securing funding to continue working within this critical landscape. The project approach has also been presented to Unilever as part of their Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI) action plan with the possibility of working with RA.

The planned exit strategy of the project is still valid and relies on the community's capacity to follow the PLMP to ensure a secured market for their cocoa supply through Olam International and other potential public-private partnership. The LMB in the long term is also self-sustaining and community-led and will oversee the planning, implementation, and monitoring of sustainable practices in the landscape even after the project completion.

13. Darwin identity

The project has made efforts to continue promoting the Darwin logo in Year 2. It is used on stakeholders' presentations and is clearly displayed on evidence collection materials distributed to project beneficiaries and other stakeholders in the region. The Darwin logo is displayed on training materials, environmental awareness posters and image boxes used in all project activities (see **Annexes 10&14** for posters and image boxes) The project has also produced a gender report using Darwin logo and a blog post acknowledging Darwin support to the project (see **Activity 4.5**). RA will extend its outreach through caravans in the community and schools in Year 3, to further increase awareness of Darwin's initiative in the region.

Additionally, project efforts have been recognised by the Ivorian regional authorities and the governmental extension agencies representatives participating in workshops held during the project, as well as by various stakeholders in the region that project team members have engaged

with, such as the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) Initiative for Sustainable Landscapes (ISLA), which takes a landscape approach to address the underlying challenges of deforestation and poverty, as well as the Cocoa Forest Initiative as explained above in **section 9**. The project has also benefited from the recognition of Cocoanect, KFW and the GIZ, with whom RA shared project's outcome vision as evidenced above in previous sections above.

Other stakeholders involved, including OIPR, SODEFOR, and the Sous Prefet of Djouroutou understand the main purpose of the Darwin Initiative, which is complementary to the land use planning policy of Côte d'Ivoire. Finally, Olam's Côte d'Ivoire Head of cocoa sustainability, Andrew Brooks, and the CEO of Olam Cocoa are both British and are very familiar with the Darwin Initiative.

Finally, as part of its institutional relations engagement, RA often shares information on the project with other government donors, multilateral organisations and foundations that are interested in RA's work in West Africa, acknowledging Darwin's support.

14. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure <u>during the reporting period</u> (1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual repor	**2018/19 Grant (£)**	**2018/19 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				

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2018-2019

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2018 - March 2019	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact: **Deforestation, biodiversity loss and wildlife depletion around Taï National Park are reduced, cocoa production as key export crop is safeguarded, and local communities enjoy diversified, sustainable incomes, impacting 24,000 people.**		Overall the project has been able to get the commitment of **527** farmers toward Best practices adoption and sensitize over 500 community members directly and 24 000 people indirectly through environmental workshops and radio programs. Revenue diversification strategies have been started with 82 farmers involved.	
Outcome Communities adjacent to Taï National Park understand and engage in sustainable land-use and natural resource management, while cocoa farmers apply sustainable, climate-smart, biodiversity-conserving practices that improve their productivity and incomes.	**0.1** By 3rd quarter of Year 1, one Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP) at the village level comprising 1,250 households and spanning 500 farms, of which 32 are owned by women, in 5 communities in Taï, is approved by the Landscape Management Board (LMB).	The **6** communities of Beoué, Djouroutou, Petit Grabo, Poutou, Youkou and Diaoudi organized as an LMB since Year 1 have created a PLMP in Year 2, as cemented by Output 1 and through Activities 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5 and Outcome indicator 01 to tackle the most relevant landscape issues, principally deforestation. Please see **Annex 5** for the signed PLMP document.	The next step in this project is to continue to follow up on the implementation of the Action plan with the stakeholders, the communities and the support of Impactum.
	0.2 At least 350 cocoa farmers trained by the project apply at least 80% of key climate-smart cocoa farm management practices (a third do so by project mid-term, and two-thirds do so by project end.).	The project will be able to report on this indicator once the end-of-project Sampled Monitoring Survey is applied in Q4 of Year 3, and its results compared with those obtained at the baseline.	Organise and prepare the end of project survey in conjunction with CEFCA, Olam and the Rainforest Alliance M&E team.
	0.3 At least 70% of identified female cocoa farmers (i.e. those that actively participate in cocoa farming, either alone or alongside their husbands) actively participate and satisfactorily complete training on climate-	**41** female farmers have started applying best practices, however, the analysis of the sampled monitoring survey for cocoa farmers´ farm management practices have not been completed. The project will be able to report on this indicator once the	Organise and prepare the end of project survey in conjunction with CEFCA, Olam and the Rainforest Alliance M&E team.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2018 - March 2019	Actions required/planned for next period
	smart cocoa farm management practices, according to the training programme timeline.	end-of-project Sampled Monitoring Survey is applied in Q4 of Year 3	
	0.4 At least 70% of trained female farmers apply at least 80% of key climate-smart cocoa farm management practices (a third do so by project mid-term, and two thirds do so by project end.).	The project will be able to report on this indicator once the end-of-project Sampled Monitoring Survey is applied in **Q4 of Year 3,** and its results compared with those obtained at the baseline	Organise and prepare the end of project survey in conjunction with CEFCA, Olam and the Rainforest Alliance M&E team.
	0.5 At least 70% of trained cocoa farmers located within the biodiversity corridor and adjacent to the Hana River, create and maintain buffer zones (5 to 10m wide) with additional shade trees in accordance to climate-smart criteria.	As explained in this report, after investigation, there is only one farmer around the Hana River, so it cannot create a corridor, however the project has made contact with the Hana River project stakeholders to strengthen their ongoing sustainability efforts around the Hana River and its communities.	The project will pursue its connection with the Hana River stakeholders to support their ongoing conservation efforts around the Hana River.
	0.6 At least 3 demonstration plots on sustainable, climate-smart cocoa management practices are established by lead farmers by 2nd quarter of Year 1, and maintained by them, through project-end.	**6** demonstrations plots have been already established in Year 1. Demonstration plots logs and photos can be seen in **Annex 9.**	Ongoing maintenance of farmers training on best practices are planned on the demonstration plots.
	0.7 At least 70% of individuals that participated in income diversification training courses (bee-keeping and chicken-rearing) are newly involved in either or both of those activities (a third of them by the end of the 2nd year, and the rest by the end of the project.)	**82** farmers are now newly engaged in beekeeping and chicken-rearing since end Year 2, a progress from the **73** at the end of Year 1, of which 31 women. This represents **100%** of individuals that participated in income diversification training courses. To date, training to rear chickens in Diaoudi and Youkou are ongoing. Bee keeping hives have been established in Youkou and Djouroutou and the Bees have started	The engaged farmers will continue to implement the chicken rearing and the bee-keeping microprojects. The bee-keeping project has gained further interest of the farmers at the end of Q3 of Year 2, with more farmers joining. The consultant will provide ongoing technical assistance to them on bee-keeping and will conduct a

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2018 - March 2019	Actions required/planned for next period
		populating the hives. Please see **Annex 13** for pictures of the micro projects.	supervision visit on site to check on the maintenance of the hives.
	0.8 At least 50% of individuals that participate in income diversification training courses (bee-keeping and chicken-rearing) are female adults.	Out of **82** farmers participating on revenue diversification this Year, 31 are women, so 38 % in total. RA has increased the number of participants in revenue diversification in Year 2 but the number of women remain static. Please see group names listed by gender for the micro-projects in **Annex 13** of this report.	RA has increased the total number of participants in revenue diversification in Year 2 and is monitoring women's interest.
	0.9 At least 70% of females that participate in income diversification training courses (bee-keeping and chicken-rearing) are newly involved in either or both of those activities (a third of them by the end of the 2nd year, and the rest by the end of the project.).	All **31** women participating in income diversification training courses are newly involved in these activities, which represents **100%**. Please see group names listed by gender for the micro-projects in **Annex 13** of this report.	RA has increased the total number of participants in revenue diversification in Year 2 and is monitoring women's interest.
Output 1. Training and technical assistance delivered to leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Taï National Park, on creating a Landscape Management Board (LMB), and on the formulation of a village-level Landscape Management Plan (PLMP).	1.a. One LMB constituted by 3rd quarter of Year 1.	The LMB was established in Year 1. Please refer to Year 1 annual report for more details.	None
	1.b. One community Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP) formulated by 4th quarter of Year 1.	The PLMP has been signed, see **section 3.1 and 3.2** for the details of the establishment of the PLMP and **Annex 5** for the signed document.	The next step in this project is to continue to follow up on the implementation of the Action plan with the stakeholders, the communities and the support of Impactum.
Activity 1.1 Organize one consultative workshop jointly with CEFCA and OIPR to create the LMB in coordination with local Taï authorities.		A consultative workshop has been organized in October 2017 to create the LMB. Supporting documentation on the	None.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2018 - March 2019	Actions required/planned for next period
		LMB has been shared in Year 1 annual report.	
Activity 1.2 Organize 6 training sessions to train community members on the LMB´s governance structure and procedures.		Since the start of the project, RA has organised a total of 4 trainings in the Béoué, Petit Grabo, Poutou, Djouroutou, Youkou and Daoudi communities on the LMB governance structure and procedures. Please refer to **Annex 6**	The two remaining training sessions will take place in Year 3 of the project.
Activity 1.3 Facilitate 6 LMB Steering Committee meetings.		2 Steering Committee meetings have taken place in Year 2, on the 25 May and 30 November 2018 respectively. This makes a total of 3 Steering Committee meetings facilitated by the project so far. Please refer to **Annex 6**, for topics discussed.	The fourth meeting is scheduled to take place on Q1 of year 3.
Activity 1.4 Document lessons learnt and challenges from the LMB´s operation and share them during the Steering Committee meetings as well as in the mid-project and end-of-project monitoring and evaluation workshops.		A document has been produced on the shared lessons to establish the LMB. Please refer to **Annex 7,** for the outlined challenges discussed.	Lessons learnt will be used in the ongoing implementation of the project activities in conjunction with the LMB.
Activity 1.5 Provide technical assistance to leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Taï National Park, on the formulation of a PLMP at the village level.		Feedback from communities was collected by RA and integrated into the the PLMP. Please see **Annex 5** for the PLMP.	Ongoing engagement with the communities throughout the implementation of the PLMP.
Output 2. Training on sustainable, climate-smart farming practices delivered to cocoa farmers, and to them and other adults in their households, on bee-keeping and chicken-rearing.	2.a At least 500 farmers trained in sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming practices, by project end.	This year the CSA training has been adapted by Olam and RA to reflect on the CCC law to stop the productivity improvement component of the project. However, ongoing CSA training have been given to 527 farmers through coaching and Farmers Field school training. A total of 527 farmers were registered by Q3 of Year 1 (please refer to Year 1 report for the list).	Ongoing CSA training are planned for Year 3.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2018 - March 2019	Actions required/planned for next period
	2.b Lead farmers to establish at least 3 demonstration plots on sustainable, climate-smart cocoa management practices are identified and engaged by 2nd quarter of Year 1, and supported through project-end **Required MoV:** 2.b Signed commitment letters signed by lead farmers, defining responsibilities on demo-plot establishment and maintenance.	**6** Demo plots have been established since Year 1, which is above target. 10 Lead Farmers have been engaged and are coaching other farmers in CSA techniques. Lead Farmers' commitment letter sample is available in Year 1 report.	The demo plots established will be maintained in Year 3, to ensure continuous improvement on farms.
	2.c At least 5 cocoa and shade tree nurseries provided by CRNA, SODEFOR and Olam, producing a total number of 100,000 climate-smart endorsed shade tree seedlings and 180,000 cocoa seedlings are produced and maintained with the support of 100% of trained farmers. At least 50% of cocoa and shade tree seedlings produced, are distributed by project mid-term.	2 cocoa shade trees nurseries have been established in Year 1, 40,000 cocoa tree seedlings have been distributed and planted by the farmers. 3 shade trees nurseries have been established and 33,000 shade tree plants have been distributed and planted by the farmers. A change of logframe has been approved by Darwin to allow the forecasted number of cocoa and shade trees produced as part of this project unspecific. **Annex 2**	The number of cocoa tree seedlings will remain stationary as we are no longer no longer allowed to engage in activities to increase yields. The project will continue producing and distributing shade trees to farmers during the next reporting period. Shade tree planting will be boosted by the sensitization caravans on the new Forestry code in the community and in schools.
	2.d By project end, one buffer zone for the Biological Corridor defined, and at least 70% of cocoa farmers within that buffer zone are trained in sustainable, climate-smart cocoa production practices, including shade tree planting in particular	The Buffer zone map was developed by RA in Year 1. The project has not been able to establish the corridor around Hana River because Olam does not have enough farmers located near the River. Efforts to build on synergies with a project by Cocoanect, GIZ and KWF were established in Year 2, as explained in Activity 2.7.	The project will pursue its connection with the Hana River stakeholders to participate in their ongoing conservation efforts around the Hana River.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2018 - March 2019	Actions required/planned for next period
	2.e At least 50 cocoa farmers and/or other adults in their households, trained in bee-keeping and at least 32 women cocoa farmers are trained in chicken-rearing by end of project.	A total of 50 farmers (of which 28 women) were trained in chicken rearing and 32 farmers (of which 3 are women) were trained in bee-keeping. See **Annex 13** for participants' lists per training event.	The engaged farmers will continue to implement the chicken rearing and the bee-keeping micro projects. The bee-keeping project has gained further interest of the farmers at the end of Q3 of Year 2, with more farmers joining. The consultant will provide ongoing technical assistance to them on bee-keeping and will conduct a supervision visit on site to check on the maintenance of the hives.
Activity 2.1 Identify and engage cocoa farmers´ cooperatives and their members, to register in the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program.		**527** farmers have been identified and engaged in the climate smart agriculture training program. Please refer to Year 1 report for details.	Ongoing CSA trainings are planned for Year 3.
Activity 2.2 Design the training program on sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming, ensuring it is adapted to the local context and maximizes female farmer participation.		In Year 2, the training has been adapted from Year 1 to reflect the new CCC law. Please refer to section 3.1, activities 2.2 and 2.4 of this report for details. On the demonstration plots, farmers can test methods of composting and pruning techniques, without fertilizer use, and with no replanting parcels due to the new CCC policy. IMS strengthening on the importance of agroforestry is the key theme of the training.	Ongoing CSA trainings are planned for Year 3 with a focus on shade trees as an agroforestry business plan alternative for livelihood improvement.
Activity 2.3 Identify lead farmers willing to set up demonstration plots, and engage them in the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program.		10 Lead Farmers have been engaged to coach other farmers on CSA. 6 demo plots were established in Year 1, as explained in Outcome Indicator 0.6.	Ongoing coaching sessions on best practices are planned to take place on the demonstration plots in Year 3.
Activity 2.4 Implement the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program.		This reporting period, 215 individual coaching sessions have been organized, as well as Farmer Field School training	Ongoing CSA trainings are planned for Year 3, including both individual

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2018 - March 2019	Actions required/planned for next period
		sessions on a monthly basis, with a focus on the IMS strengthening on agroforestry and climate change. 527 farmers have been trained in Farmer Field School sessions.	coaching sessions and FFS training sessions.
Activity 2.5 Engage CRNA and SODEFOR on the establishment of nurseries.		Please refer to **Output Indicator 2.c** and section 3.1, activities **2.5 and 2.6 of this report for details.**	Please refer to **Output Indicator 2.c** and section 3.1, activities **2.5 and 2.6 of this report for details.**
Activity 2.6 Coordinate the distribution of cocoa and shade-tree seedlings, so that it responds to farmer needs, according to project-endorsed sustainable, climate-smart practices.		Please refer to **Output Indicator 2.c** and section 3.1, activities **2.5 and 2.6 of this report for details.**	Please refer to **Output Indicator 2.c** and section 3.1, activities **2.5 and 2.6 of this report for details.**
Activity 2.7 Coordinate the delineation and establishment of the biological corridor Buffer Zone along River Hana.		Please refer to **Output Indicator 2.d and section 3.1, activity 2.7** of this report	Please refer to **Output Indicator 2.d and section 3.1, activity 2.7** of this report
Activity 2.8 Design the beekeeping and chicken rearing training program, ensuring it is adapted to the local context and maximizes female farmer participation.		The chicken rearing program was designed in Year 1. In the reporting period, the bee-keeping training program has been designed, please to **section 3.1, activities 2.8 and 2.9** of this report.	Ongoing coaching on the commercialization of chicken will be given by the CEFCA husbandry specialist. Coaching on the commercialization of honey will be given by the consultant in Q2 and Q3 of Year 3.
Activity 2.9 Deliver the beekeeping and chicken rearing training program to at least 82 cocoa farmers and/or other adults.		82 cocoa farmers are participating in the bee-keeping or chicken-rearing training programs. 209 chicken have been produced to date	The 209 chickens sustainably produced through the microproject will be sold and consumed, contributing to food security and livelihood improvement. The bees have also started populating the hives and the consultant will continue to coach the farmers in the commercialization of honey.
Output 3. The population living in communities around the Taï National Park is informed about the value of	3.a. 7,500 Awareness-raising posters designed and disseminated to	3,500 posters have been printed in Year 2 and will be distributed in Year 3. This will bring the total to 8,500, well over the target	More posters will be printed and distributed before end of Q3 of Year 3.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2018 - March 2019	Actions required/planned for next period
biodiversity and habitat conservation in the Taï National Park, about natural resource management in their communities, and about the dangers and negative consequences of hunting and consuming bushmeat.	community members in the local language by 3rd quarter of Year 3.	of 7,500. See **Annex 10& 14** for the posters and section 3.1, activity 3.1 of this report for further details.	
	3.b. Environmental education meetings held with 1,250 community members (including 250 women); 750 by project mid-term.	In this reporting period, a total of 21 environmental sensitisation sessions were held in Diaoudi, Youkou, Beoué, Joachimkro, Petit-Grabo, Danielkro and N'Guessankro reaching 533 people, of which 148 women (see lists of participants in **Annex 14**). In total since project start **24** sessions have been held, reaching 683 people (including 150 in Year 1).	As described in **section 3.1, activities 1.3, 2.6 and 3.3**, additional awareness raising caravans will be held in schools and villages in the third year of implementation.
	3.c 6 By project mid-term, at least 3 awareness-raising radio programs organized, involving OIPR, CEFCA and community leaders.	In Year 2, 2 radio programs have been produced and broadcasted reaching out to over 24,000 people in the wider Tai region of which 11,000 women in San Pedro. The topics of 2 of additional programs are currently being designed in partnership with Olam sustainability team. See **Annex 15** for radio programs audio files.	4 more programs will be produced and broadcasted on radio and at community workshops in Year 3.
Activity 3.1 Design environmental awareness-raising posters in local language, and distribute 7,500 copies, reaching 30% of the wider 5 Taï communities of Beoué, Djouroutou, Petit Grabo, Poutou and Youkou.		**12** types posters on the importance of agroforestry and the impact of climate change have been designed in Year 2. Image Boxes have also been created to reinforce the skills of the IMS in agroforestry techniques. 3,500 copies of posters have been printed in Year 2 and will be distributed to the farmers during awareness raising campaigns in Year 3.	More posters will be printed before end of Q3 of Year 3.
Activity 3.2 Design training materials and agenda for the environmental education meetings aimed at key community members.		The current agenda is being discussed to train the farmers and children in schools during awareness raising caravans. Topics will revolve around the Forestry	The agenda and the training topics will be finalized by the end of Q1 of Year 3.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2018 - March 2019	Actions required/planned for next period
		Code. Please refer to **section 3.1, activity 3.2** of this report for progress.	
Activity 3.3 Organize 18 environmental education awareness meetings for 1,250 community members, jointly with the LMB, Olam and OIPR.		In this reporting period, a total of 21 environmental sensitisation sessions were held in Diaoudi, Youkou, Beoué, Joachimkro, Petit-Grabo, Danielkro and N'Guessankro reaching 533 people, of which 148 women (see lists of participants in **Annex 14**). In total since project start **24** sessions have been held, reaching 683 people (including 150 in Year 1).	As described in **section 3.1, activities1.3, 2.6 and 3.3**, additional awareness raising caravans will be held in schools and villages in the third year of implementation.
Activity 3.4 Design the content of environmental awareness-raising radio programs.		In Year 2, 2 radio programs have been produced and broadcasted in Year 2. The topics of 2 of additional programs are currently being designed in partnership with Olam sustainability team.	2 more programs will be designed before the end of Year 3.
Activity 3.5 Organize 6 environmental awareness-raising radio programs, involving OIPR, CEFCA, and community leaders.		In Year 2, 2 radio programs have been produced and broadcasted reaching out to over 24,000 people in the wider Taï region of which 11 000 women in San Pedro. See **Annex 15** for radio programs audio files.	4 more programs will be produced and broadcasted on radio and at community workshops in Year 3.
Output 4. The project´s Monitoring and Evaluation System, and Communications Strategy formulated, approved and implemented.	4.a One Project Monitoring and Evaluation System designed and approved by the donor at project inception by the first quarter of the first year.	The PMEP was completed and delivered to the donor together with HYR2 Please find the PMEP in **Annex 16**.	The PMEP template is continuously used on the ground for attendees lists at trainings and will be used by the management to monitor progress and prepare upcoming reports and challenges.
	4.b 12 Quarterly and 3 annual project technical, evidence-based project performance reports produced and delivered internally for adaptive management, and to the donor, 30 days after the end of each quarter or year.	2 half-year reports and 2 annual reports for Years 1 and 2, including the present report, have been submitted to Darwin. Quarterly project progress updates (7 to date) are presented in internal quarterly Africa meetings by the Project Lead to RA's management.	1 half-year report and 1 annual report to be submitted to Darwin in Year 3. Ongoing project progress updates in internal quarterly Africa meetings will continue in Year 3.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2018 - March 2019	Actions required/planned for next period
	4.c One Project Communication Strategy formulated and approved by the donor at project inception by the first quarter of the first year.	The communication strategy was finalized and approved by Darwin and submitted with the Year 1 report.	Ongoing communication on the project is ensured with RA communication team and Olam International.
	4.d Semi-annual communications products delivered, and their diffusion operationalized through RA's online media outlets (website blog, publicized through email and social/thematic networks) to relevant in-country and global organizations and stakeholders, 30 days after the end of each quarter.	In this reporting period, 1 article has been produced to communicate on project impact. Available at : https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/articles/cocoa-farmers-help-protect-last-primary-rainforest-in-cote-d-Ivoire A Rainforest Alliance gender in the cocoa sector study has also been funded by Darwin and IFAD. Please find the link to the study https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/white-papers/mitigating-gender-inequity-in-the-cocoa-sector Please find the related tweet https://twitter.com/RnfrstAlliance/status/1120799286256721921 At the national level 2 radio programs have been broadcasted on San Pedro radio about the Darwin Initiative project and its aim to protect Taï National Park.	More communication pieces will be produced Year 3.
Activity 4.1. Hold an on-site Monitoring and Evaluation workshop for the project´s RA team and partners, aimed at designing the project´s Monitoring and Evaluation System submitted to donor for approval.		The M&E workshop was held as part of the project inception workshop in October 2017. Responsibilities, monitoring processes, tracking templates and MoVs were agreed with OLAM, CEFCA and RA teams, and integrated in the project process.	None

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2018 - March 2019	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 4.2 Design and apply at project inception and end-of-project, the Sampled Monitoring survey on a statistically representative sample of target cocoa farmers.		The baseline survey was applied during Q4 of Year 1 on 201 farmers, a statistically representative sample of the total of 527 farmers to be supported by the project. The survey tool is attached in **Annex 17**, and its key baseline results were analysed in Q1 of year 2.	The end of project survey is planned for Q4 of Year 3.
Activity 4.3 Implement the projects Monitoring and Evaluation System, and produce and deliver quarterly and annual technical, evidence-based project performance reports		The M&E system is being implemented with an efficient record of data and evidences, that have been used to prepare the present annual report as well as half year report 2 that was successfully submitted to Darwin in October 2018 (see **Annex 18**).	Ongoing monitoring of progress to prepare upcoming reports and address any challenges in project implementation.
Activity 4.4 Formulate a Project Communication Strategy, and submit for donor approval		The project communication strategy was finalized in October 2017 (Q3 of Year 1) by the Rainforest Alliance communication team and received Darwin's approval. A copy of the communication strategy presentation was submitted with Annual Report 1.	None.
4.5 Produce the project´s semi-annual online news piece and publicize it through email and social/thematic networks to relevant in-country and global organizations and stakeholders		A gender study in the cocoa sector has been produced with the support of the Darwin Initiative and IFAD and shared with both Darwin and IFAD in Q4 of Year 2. An article on the project has been produced and published on RA's website (see **Output Indicator 4.d** in this table above)	More communication pieces will be produced Year 3.

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe with the changes agreed by Darwin Initiative on the 19th November 2018

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
IMPACT: Deforestation, biodiversity loss and wildlife depletion around Taï National Park are reduced, cocoa production as key export crop is safeguarded, and local communities enjoy diversified, sustainable incomes, impacting 24,000 people.			
OUTCOME: Communities adjacent to Taï National Park understand and engage in sustainable land-use and natural resource management, while cocoa farmers apply sustainable, climate-smart, biodiversity-conserving practices that improve their productivity and incomes.	**0.1** By 3rd quarter of Year 1, one Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP) at the village level comprising 1,250 households and spanning 500 farms, of which 32 are owned by women, in 5 communities in Taï, is approved by the Landscape Management Board (LMB).	**0.1** Village-level PLMP document, signed by the LMB.	The LMB is created and operational. Communities are effectively involved in the formulation of the PLMP. Government agencies cooperate with the project, allowing and/or facilitating project interventions as appropriate.
	0.2 At least 350 cocoa farmers trained by the project apply at least 80% of key climate-smart cocoa farm management practices (a third do so by project mid-term, and two-thirds do so by project end.).	**0.2** Analysis of Sampled Monitoring Survey of cocoa farmers´ farm management practices, applied at baseline and end of project.	Target cocoa farmers fully participate in the trainings. Farmers to be trained are well identified early on after project inception, allowing the baseline survey to be applied to them.
	0.3 At least 70% of identified female cocoa farmers (i.e. those that actively participate in cocoa farming, either alone or alongside their husbands) actively participate and satisfactorily complete training on climate-smart cocoa farm management practices, according to the training programme timeline.	**0.3** Satisfactory Training Completion Certificates delivered to female cocoa farmers.	Female farmers to be trained are well identified early on after project inception, and are willing, and able to participate in the trainings.
	0.4 At least 70% of trained female farmers apply at least 80% of key climate-smart cocoa farm management practices (a third do so by project mid-term, and two thirds do so by project end.).	**0.4** Analysis of Sampled Monitoring Survey of cocoa farmers´ farm management practices, applied at baseline and end of project.	Target cocoa female farmers fully participate in the trainings. Female farmers to be trained are well identified early on after project inception, allowing the baseline survey to be applied to them.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	0.5 At least 70% of trained cocoa farmers located within the biodiversity corridor and adjacent to the Hana River, create and maintain buffer zones (5 to 10m wide) with additional shade trees in accordance to climate-smart criteria.	**0.5** Analysis of Sampled Monitoring Survey of cocoa farmers´ farm management practices, applied at baseline and end of project.	Targeted cocoa farmers whose farms are located within the biodiversity corridor and adjacent to the Hana River, fully participate in the trainings. Trained cocoa farmers with farms located within the biodiversity corridor and adjacent to the Hana River, have access to shade tree seedlings in sufficient quantity and of the required species. Cocoa farmers to be trained, whose farms are located within the biodiversity corridor, are well identified early on after project inception, allowing the baseline survey to be applied to them.
	0.6 At least 3 demonstration plots on sustainable, climate-smart cocoa management practices are established by lead farmers by 2nd quarter of Year 1, and maintained by them, through project-end.	**0.6** Demo-plot activity logs and photographs (quarterly).	Lead farmers are willing to establish and maintain demonstration plots.
	0.7 At least 70% of individuals that participated in income diversification training courses (bee-keeping and chicken-rearing) are newly involved in either or both of those activities (a third of them by the end of the 2nd year, and the rest by the end of the project.)	**0.7** Group records on individuals engaged in bee-keeping and/or chicken-rearing.	Individuals in target communities fully participate in the income diversification training courses. Individuals trained find it attractive and feasible to engage in bee-keeping and/or chicken-rearing.
	0.8 At least 50% of individuals that participate in income diversification training courses (bee-keeping and chicken-rearing) are female adults.	**0.8** Training participants´ lists.	Females adults in target communities are able and willing to fully participate in the income diversification training courses.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	0.9 At least 70% of females that participate in income diversification training courses (bee-keeping and chicken-rearing) are newly involved in either or both of those activities (a third of them by the end of the 2nd year, and the rest by the end of the project.).	**0.9** Group records on females engaged in bee-keeping and/or chicken-rearing.	Females adults in target communities are able and willing to fully participate in the income diversification training courses. Female adults trained find it attractive and feasible to engage in bee-keeping and/or chicken-rearing.
OUTPUTS:			
1. Training and technical assistance delivered to leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Taï National Park, on creating a Landscape Management Board (LMB), and on the formulation of a village-level Landscape Management Plan (PLMP).	1.a. One LMB constituted by 3rd quarter of Year 1.	1.a. Signed document of the LMB creation	Leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Taï National Park are willing to engage in the process of the LMB creation
	1.b. One community Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP) formulated by 4th quarter of Year 1.	1.b. LMP document	Leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Taï National Park are willing to engage in the process of the Plan´s formulation.
2. Training on sustainable, climate-smart farming practices delivered to cocoa farmers, and to them and other adults in their households, on bee-keeping and chicken-rearing.	2.a At least 500 farmers trained in sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming practices, by project end.	2.a Signed participants list per training event (with gender differentiation).	Cocoa producer groups fully embrace the project, and set up the internal management systems required to deliver training to farmers following the training of trainers.
	2.b Lead farmers to establish at least 3 demonstration plots on sustainable, climate-smart cocoa management practices are identified and engaged by 2nd quarter of Year 1, and supported through project-end	2.b Signed commitment letters signed by lead farmers, defining responsibilities on demo-plot establishment and maintenance.	Lead farmers are identified, who are willing to establish and maintain demonstration plots.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	2.c At least 5 cocoa and shade tree nurseries provided by CRNA, SODEFOR and Olam, producing a total number of 100,000 climate-smart endorsed shade tree seedlings and 180,000 cocoa seedlings are produced and maintained with the support of 100% of trained farmers. At least 50% of cocoa and shade tree seedlings produced, are distributed by project mid-term. ***We requested in the change request form to remove the number of seedlings listed in Measurable Indicator 2.c. We would like to leave the new forecasted numbers of cocoa and shade trees unspecific.***	2.c Nursery seedling production records; Signed farmer seedling distribution lists.	CRNA, SODEFOR and Olam are willing and able to maintain shade tree and cocoa seedling nurseries and distribute them to farmers at an affordable cost.
	2.d By project end, one buffer zone for the Biological Corridor defined, and at least 70% of cocoa farmers within that buffer zone are trained in sustainable, climate-smart cocoa production practices, including shade tree planting in particular	2.d Buffer zone map, and list cocoa farmers´ within the buffer zone, identifying those that have received project training.	Cocoa farmers in the buffer zone are identified and are willing and able to participate in the trainings.
	2.e At least 50 cocoa farmers and/or other adults in their households, trained in bee-keeping and at least 32 women cocoa farmers are trained in chicken-rearing by end of project.	2.e Signed participants´ lists per training event (with gender differentiation).	Cocoa farmers and other adults in their households accept bee-keeping and chicken-rearing as a potentially viable source of household income.
3. The population living in communities around the Taï National Park is informed about the value of biodiversity and habitat conservation in the Taï National Park, about natural resource management in their communities, and about the dangers and negative consequences of hunting and consuming bushmeat.	3.a. 7,500 Awareness-raising posters designed and disseminated to community members in the local language by 3rd quarter of Year 3.	3.a Posters are available in communities in local language.	The local population knows how to read.
	3.b. Environmental education meetings held with 1,250 community members (including 250 women); 750 by project mid-term.	3.b Signed participants´ lists (with gender and age differentiation).	Community members are willing to attend environmental education meetings, including adults, youth and children of both genders.
	3.c 6 By project mid-term, at least 3 awareness-raising radio programs organized, involving OIPR, CEFCA and community leaders.	3.c Radio programs audio files are available.	Radio stations are willing to transmit radio programs at affordable prices for the project.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
4. The project´s Monitoring and Evaluation System, and Communications Strategy formulated, approved and implemented.	4.a One Project Monitoring and Evaluation System designed and approved by the donor at project inception by the first quarter of the first year.	4.a Approved Project Monitoring and Evaluation System document	Sufficient budget is available to finance an on-site Monitoring and Evaluation workshop.
	4.b 12 Quarterly and 3 annual project technical, evidence-based project performance reports produced and delivered internally for adaptive management, and to the donor, 30 days after the end of each quarter or year.	4.b Quarterly project technical project performance reports, backed by documented evidence; evidence document repository.	The project team and partners do their part in operationalizing the M&E Plan.
	4.c One Project Communication Strategy formulated and approved by the donor at project inception by the first quarter of the first year.	4.c Approved Project Communications Strategy.	RA´s Communication Division devotes the required human resources to formulate the Strategy.
	4.d Semi-annual communications products delivered, and their diffusion operationalized through RA's online media outlets (website blog, publicized through email and social/thematic networks) to relevant in-country and global organizations and stakeholders, 30 days after the end of each quarter.	4.d Semi-annual online news piece; list of social/thematic networks through which the newsletter was publicized.	RA´s Communication Division devotes the required human and financial resources to implement the Strategy.
KEY ACTIVITIES:			
1.1 Organize one consultative workshop jointly with CEFCA and OIPR to create the LMB in coordination with local Taï authorities.			
1.2 Organize 6 training sessions to train community members on the LMB´s governance structure and procedures.			
1.3 Facilitate 6 LMB Steering Committee meetings.			
1.4 Document lessons learnt and challenges from the LMB´s operation, and share them during the Steering Committee meetings as well as in the mid-project and end-of-project monitoring and evaluation workshops.			
1.5 Provide technical assistance to leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Taï National Park, on the formulation of a PLMP at the village level.			
2.1 Identify and engage cocoa farmers´ cooperatives and their members, to register in the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program.			
2.2 Design the training program on sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming, ensuring it is adapted to the local context and maximizes female farmer participation.			
2.3 Identify lead farmers willing to set up demonstration plots, and engage them in the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program.			
2.4 Implement the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program.			
2.5 Engage CRNA and SODEFOR on the establishment of nurseries.			

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
2.6 Coordinate the distribution of cocoa and shade-tree seedlings, so that it responds to farmer needs, according to project-endorsed sustainable, climate-smart practices.			
2.7 Coordinate the delineation and establishment of the biological corridor Buffer Zone along River Hana.			
2.8 Design the bee-keeping and chicken rearing training program, ensuring it is adapted to the local context and maximizes female farmer participation.			
2.9 Deliver the bee-keeping and chicken rearing training program to at least 82 cocoa farmers and/or other adults.			
3.1 Design environmental awareness-raising posters in local language, and distribute 7,500 copies, reaching 30% of the wider 5 Taï communities of Beoué, Djouroutou, Petit Grabo, Poutou and Youkou.			
3.2 Design training materials and agenda for the environmental education meetings aimed at key community members.			
3.3 Organize 18 environmental education awareness meetings for 1,250 community members, jointly with the LMB, Olam and OIPR.			
3.4 Design the content of environmental awareness-raising radio programs.			
3.5 Organize 6 environmental awareness-raising radio programs, involving OIPR, CEFCA, and community leaders.			
4.1 Hold an on-site Monitoring and Evaluation workshop for the project´s RA team and partners, aimed at designing the project´s Monitoring and Evaluation System submitted to donor for approval.			
4.2 Design and apply at project inception and end-of-project, the Sampled Monitoring survey on a statistically representative sample of target cocoa farmers.			
4.3 Implement the projects Monitoring and Evaluation System, and produce and deliver quarterly and annual technical, evidence-based project performance reports.			
4.4 Formulate a Project Communication Strategy, and submit for donor approval.			
4.5 Produce the project´s semi-annual online news piece and publicize it through email and social/thematic networks to relevant in-country and global organizations and stakeholders.			

Annex 3: Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Gender of people (if relevant)	Nationality of people (if relevant)	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
6A	Number of farmers to receive climate-smart agriculture training from CEFCA	527 farmers (41 women, 486 men)	Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso	527 farmers in total	527 farmers in total	N/A	527 farmers in total	500 farmers in total
7	Number of training materials produced to increase environmental awareness	N/A	N/A	3 training materials (2 posters, 1 chicken-rearing module)	13 training materials (12 posters and 1 image boxes)	N/A	16 training materials	2 training materials
13A	Number of reference guides produced related to planted species for climate-smart agriculture	N/A	N/A	1 reference manual	N/A	N/A	1 reference manual	1 reference manual
21	Number of governance structures created	N/A	N/A	1 LMB	0	N/A	1 LMB	1 LMB
22	Number of permanent field plots and sites to be established during the project and continued after Darwin funding has ceased	N/A	N/A	6 field plots	0	N/A	6 field plots	6 field plots

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author(s)	Nationality of Lead Author (s)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Cocoa Farmers help protect last primary rainforest in Cote d'Ivoire	Article	Rainforest Alliance, 2019	N/A	N/A	RA website	https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/articles/cocoa-farmers-help-protect-last-primary-rainforest-in-cote-d-Ivoire
Strategies for integrating gender equity in cocoa smallholder support programs	Impact study supported by the Darwin Initiative and IFAD	Edward Millard Sarah Fadika, Martha Oduro, 2018	Male Female	British Ivorian – British	RA website	https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/white-papers/mitigating-gender-inequity-in-the-cocoa-sector

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

Please see below a list of additional annexes, which each represent a folder of information, that have been sent via a link to Dropbox in the submission email:

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.	No
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.	X
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.	X
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. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	X
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	X
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	X
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	