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: 14th May 2020

Darwin Project Information

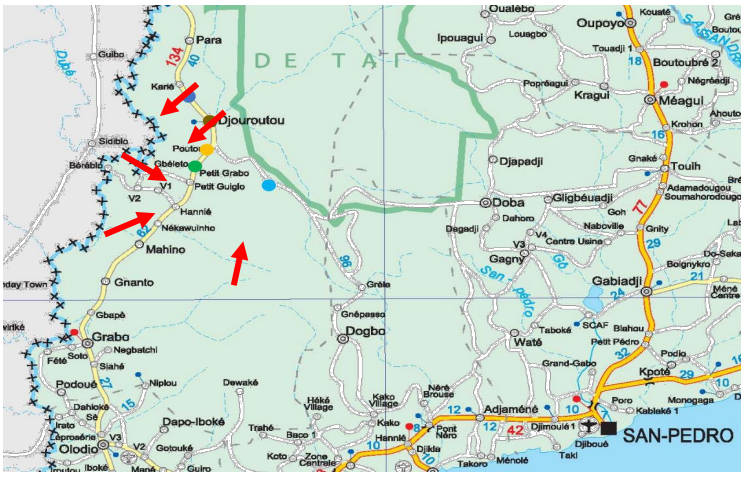
Project reference	24-021
Project title	Empowering Ivorian communities to conserve biodiversity and improve their livelihoods
Country/ies	Côte d'Ivoire
Lead organisation	Rainforest Alliance (RA)
Partner institution(s)	Centre d'Etudes, Formations, Conseils et Audits (CEFCA) Olam International
Darwin grant value	£300,000
Start/end dates of project	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2019 – Mar 2020) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	Reporting Period: April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020 Annual Report (AR) 3
Project Leader name	Christian Mensah
Project website/blog/social media	N/A
Report author(s) and date	Christian Mensah, May 14, 2020

1. Project summary

The Rainforest Alliance (RA) project "Empowering Ivorian communities to conserve biodiversity and improve their livelihoods", financed by the Darwin Initiative of the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is now in its final months of implementation. Since July 2017, the project has continuously aimed to fight against the threats on biodiversity in the Taï National Park of Côte d'Ivoire. 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 project addresses two key threats to this biodiversity hotspot:

1. **Deforestation and unsustainable agricultural expansion:** The natural forest coverage of Côte d'Ivoire has deteriorated by almost 90% since 1960. According to figures published by the Bureau National d'Etudes Techniques et de Développement (BNEDT) in 2015, the annual rate of deforestation between 2000 and 2015 is estimated to be at 2.69%. 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· 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 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)** and its Participatory Landscape Management Plan under **Output 1** and through **Activities 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5**. The LMB has adopted a landscape planning approach that tackles the most relevant landscape issues, principally addressing the underlying threats to forest destruction by supporting cocoa farmers to avoid deforestation and poaching and by promoting sustainable agriculture, which puts less pressure on forests and contributes to a deforestation-free supply chain in South-West Taï region. The LMB's approach has been consistent with SDG 15.9, to integrate ecosystems and biodiversity values into local planning, development processes and poverty reduction strategies. 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[1].



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, Côte d'Ivoire.

2. **Bushmeat consumption:** As we are writing this report, the recent worldwide outbreak of the **Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19)**[2], an allegedly new deadly zoonotic disease[3], is further reinforcing the need of fighting against bushmeat consumption, as commercial harvesting and trading of bushmeat is not only considered a threat to biodiversity[4], but also represents a threat to human health. Nevertheless, demand for bushmeat remains high among rural and urban populations in Asia and Africa. The current numbers of animals killed and traded as bushmeat in West and Central Africa is unsustainable. Moreover, illegal hunting and wildlife trafficking has continued due to ignorance and insufficient enforcement of regulations and legislation. As such, this project proposes 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. To this end, the project provided alternatives in terms of promoting farm maintenance techniques

[1] 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

[2] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019%E2%80%9320_coronavirus_pandemic

[3] https://www.who.int/neglected_diseases/diseases/zoonoses/en/

[4] Cowlishaw, G.; Mendelson, S. & Rowcliffe, J. (2005). "Evidence for post-depletion sustainability in a mature bushmeat market". Journal of Applied Ecology. 42 (3): 460–468. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2664.2005.01046.x.

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). This is improving the stream of income and diversifying their livelihoods over time, as well as empowering women to actively participate in decision-making through the Landscape Management Board.

2. Project partnerships

This project is based on a Public-Private Partnership approach. As stressed out in previous reports, 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.

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, manage and monitor project activities, including the gathering of data and writing of this report. 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 both the government and **Conseil du Café Cacao (CCC)**. These partnerships seek 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 and have been constantly updated throughout the project to suit awareness needs according to budget availabilities.

During this reporting period, RA has strengthened its relationship with GIZ regarding synergies with their project in the Hana River region with the objective of creating a local convention about natural resources with the **17 villages** of the communities of Kpatokola in the Hana River region, further details about their collaboration will be given below in **section 3** under **activity 2.7**.

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***: Like in the two previous years of the project , Olam International remained involved in the training program on best sustainable agricultural practices of the two cooperatives this project is working with, Cooperative Agricole Fraternité de Djouroutou (COOFADJOU) and Société Cooperative Agricole des Producteurs de Petit Grabo et Youkou (SCAEPGY), to ensure a sustainable cocoa supply to its clients. Both cooperatives follow the **Olam Livelihood Charter (OLC)** training curriculum, whose training approach has been explained in previous reports. Olam has also regularly co-financed farm inputs such as phytosanitary products and shade trees seedlings. 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***: In the reporting period, RA and Olam have engaged in sensitisation campaigns in schools and launched the competition of the **Greenest Schools** in the region which was successful in raising awareness about climate change and biodiversity protection (see criteria for the competion in **Annex 13**).

Throughout the project length, Olam International has also closely been involved in the establishment of the Monitoring and Evaluation plan. In this last year of implementation it has organised the collection of the data on farmers' practices for the end of project impact study.

Regarding sensitisation campaigns workshops, the project team has organised with OIPR several caravans on the new forestry code on shade trees' ownership, as well as the future **REDD+ program** that will soon launch in the region incentivizing the farming community to plant trees. The national REDD+ strategy has been adopted by the Ivorian government with the purpose of eliminating deforestation in major agricultural supply chains, and intervening in the restoration of forests in order to attain 20% of forest coverage by 2040. This government goal has been reaffirmed by the new policy of restoration and extension of forests, endorsed in 2018, proposing **payment for environmental services (PES**) within its key cocoa supply areas as an incentive for farmers to stop deforestation.

During the third year of implementation, the project partnerships has achieved the following:

- **Reshaping the Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP):** The project has reshaped and refocussed the PLMP 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, with adaptive management in a full project cycle Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) which helps to strive for continuous improvements of the LMB.
- **The campaign of the Greenest School:** The project has introduced, with funding from MCFEA, a competition of the **greenest school** in June 2019, in the six project communities (see **Activity 2.4 for more details**).
- **Launch of the *Association Villageoise pour l'Epargne et le Crédit* (AVEC) activities:** This activity which is financed by MCFEA allows **3 groups of 25** women (**75 women in total**) in Djouroutou, Diaoudi and Beoué to have access to small loans to launch micro projects. As part of its commitment to the Cocoa & Forests Initiative, Olam promotes financial inclusion to increase producers' access to working and investment funds. The AVEC model targets women and thus contributes to the objectives of gender equality and social empowerment.
- For three consecutive years, since August 2017, the project has attracted **additional funding through the Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa (MCFEA)**[5]. MCFEA is investing in the climate smart productivity program by leveraging further funding for CEFCA and Olam to implement the productivity program, environmental awareness raising programs for communities and in schools, as well as producers' groups strengthening programs for COOFADJOU and SCAEPGY through improved Internal Management Systems (IMS) to promote efficient internal management and an operational traceability system. As stated above, this year the project has launched loans for women in the region.
- **Synergies to collaborate with stakeholders working around the Hana River biological corridor:** A joint meeting with the GIZ to discuss joint strategies to protect the Hana River biological corridor has been held, (see **Activity 2.7** further details).

The main challenge the Partnership has faced this year was the ability to complete the action plan of the PLMP before the end of the project and also engage Impactum in the process of strengthening the LMB. The project informed Darwin of this development and submitted a change request form accordingly which was agreed by Darwin (**see Annex 16**). However, due to the high fees of IMPACTUM, it was not possible to engage them for the planned activity. This is further explained in **Activity 1.2.**

Unfortunately, COVID-19 has brought with it an unprecedented uncertainty. As reported below, there were a few project activities affected by COVID-19 in the month of March 2020, including some awareness raising sessions, farmer trainings, a LMB meeting and a workshop on lessons learned. Given government restrictions imposed to prevent further spread of the virus as well as RA's consideration for the safety of our staff, partners and community members, all planned activities for the last quarter of the project will be halted and resumed in July-September 2020, following a three-month project extension approved in May 2020. However, the demand side

[5] https://www.mitsubishicorp.com/gb/en/csr/mcfea/

looks promising through the pandemic: in Europe, retail outlets where majority of chocolate is sold remain open, with e-commerce quickly gaining market share. The chocolate market is expected to survive the current lockdowns without too much damage.

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

In the reporting period, **3 trainings** were held on 15th of May, 23rd of May and on the 15th of November (see **Annex 5**). The last meeting focused on the PLMP and the transition process to execute all the deliverables after the project end, with the aim of clearly defining responsibilities to pursue the project action plan (see **Annex 8**). Another meeting planned in March 2020 could not take place due to the coronavirus pandemic and the nationwide restrictions imposed by the government.

In total 7 trainings were held since the start of the project in the Béoué, Petit Grabo, Poutou, Djouroutou, Youkou and Daoudi communities on the LMB governance structure, procedures and action plan. This number indicates that we are above the target of the **6** trainings sessions planned at the start of the project.

Unfortunately, as stated above, the collaboration with the local NGO **Impactum** to ensure a follow up of the PLMP even after the end of the project could not be finalised due to insufficient funding as the fees required by Impactum to conduct this capacity building program were 50% over the project budget for this consultancy (about 7,500 GBP). To achieve this goal the project team has dedicated instead its own human resources to work with local initiatives to reinforce the capacities of the communities and put a strong project transition action plan for the long term (see **Annex 8**), even after the project ends.

1.3 Facilitate 6 LMB Steering Committee meetings

The **fourth meeting** of the steering committee was held on **May 31, 2019** (see **Annex 6**) at the premises of OLAM in Abidjan. The meeting focused on project activities and prominent amongst these were discussions in relation to the provision of shade trees by the provider SOBETEK to compensate for the losses that occurred in Year 2, the environmental sensitisation activities in schools under the MCFEA funding and the planning of the M&E data collection.

The **fifth meeting** of the Steering committee of the project was held on **March 6th, 2020** at the premises of OLAM in Abidjan (see agenda, attendees list and photos in **Annex 7).** A total of 10 representatives attended, which included the Olam sustainability team and the Darwin Project Lead from Rainforest Alliance, OIPR, CEFCA, a local authority representative, 2 members of the landscape management committee (the focal point and one member of the village committee of Youkou), who attented on behalf of the communities. Following a presentation by CEFCA, participants discussed the status of project activities**.** OLAM made a presentation on the functioning of the coaching system (see **Annex 7**).

At the meeting it was decided to integrate four new activities to raise the awareness of farmers on the property of shade trees, in conformity with the new Forestry code:

1) A local expert on the Forestry code from Djouroutou will lead the sensitisation campaign financed by the MCFEA.
2) Evaluation of the best environmental practices adopted by the schools selected for the Greenest School competition.
3) Monitor the 2,500 hectares in the project area to ensure they are still under sustainable, biodiversity-friendly management practices.

4) Collection of data on shade trees to monitor the total number of viable and actively planted trees, by the M&E teams of Rainforest Alliance and Olam. It was decided that a sample of 79 farmers per cooperative will be selected and monitored by the Lead farmers.

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

While the project has not held a formal mid-term evaluation workshop, it has used the opportunity of its steering committee meeting sessions and the period of COVID-19 to remotely engage and discuss experiences and project learnings with project partners. Due to COVID-19, the lessons learnt workshop did not take place and will be postponed until the last quarter of the project.

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

Completed in Year 2.

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. See **Activity 2.4** for an update on the implementation of the training program.

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

Completed in Year 1.

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

The description of the training program has been shared in previous reports**.** The training program utilizes aspects of the Olam Livelihood Charter[6] (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 aspects endemic to cocoa communities.

A total of **360** individual **coaching sessions** were delivered by Lead Farmers to cocoa farmers from April 2019 to March 2020. Coaching sessions are one-to-one follow up sessions on individual farms and on the six demonstration plots established by the project. Lead Farmers visit farms on a quarterly basis to record events on farms, such as pest and disease infestations for example, and train farmers on the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and pesticides application. The topics on which they have been coached are Agroforestry, Shade management, harvest and post harvest operations, soil fertility, management of diseases. See **Annex 9** for the summary of the coaching activities.

2.5 Engage CRNA and SODEFOR on the establishment of nurseries.

One new nursery in Djouroutou has been established in Year 3. Therefore, to date, **four shade trees nurseries** have been established (including one for each cooperative located in Djouroutou and Neka and financed by Olam in Year 1, one in Petit Grabo established in Year 2).

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

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

In addition to **800** shade trees produced by the supplier SOBETEK to compensate for losses in the two previous years of the project, over **6,261** shade trees have been produced in this reporting period, COOFADJOU produced **2,097** plants and SCAEPGY produced **4,164** plants (see **Annex 10).** Those species combine timber and fruit producing trees commonly used in the local diet which represents an income alternative for farmers in the future and further motivates them to adopt compelling agroforestry practices on their farms.

To date **over 40,000 shade trees** have been produced and distributed to the farmers in this project. As in previous years, the criteria for distribution of shade trees is based on the mapping of the farms and the need of shade. As decided in the last steering committee meeting (see **Activity 1.3**), a new activity will be organised to collect data on shade trees to monitor the total number of viable trees.

As a result of the 2018 CCC decision who advised to stop all productivity activities to regulate the supply (please refer to previous reports for more details), the project is no longer distributing cocoa hybrid trees. With co-financing from MCFEA for the third consecutive year, the farmers in conjunction with Olam and Rainforest Alliance, received the necessary training to successfully maintain cocoa trees in their farms in line with Climate-Smart Agriculture principles.

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

As explained in previous reports, we do not have enough Olam farmers to build up a corridor along the Hana River on our own. Therefore, in early 2019 RA met with Cocoanect, which is developing a corridor along the Hana River through a joint project with GIZ and KFW, and agreed to organise joint synergy actions with local stakeholders along the corridor. The project would require the farmers to cut down a width of 15 meters of cocoa trees. As incentives to the farmers, inputs, including shade trees, are provided to improve their farm yield. Discussions stalled for a while until 18th of March 2020, when GIZ and OIPR organized a project launching ceremony of the agreement for natural resources management in southern Tai, around the corridor with the Hana river. Project partners were invited to attend the ceremony and a CEFCA representative participated and presented this project (**Annex 11**). It was an opportunity to discuss synergies with their project in the Hana River region with the objective of creating a local agreement on the management of natural resources with the **17 villages** of the communities of Kpatokola. GIZ explained that the Hana River project with Cocoanect continued its activities and that it had successfully increased its number of farmers from **35 to 100 producers** involved in the project as of March 2020. However, the number of farmers in the corridor involved in the Cocoanect project is still insufficient to effectively manage the landscape and corridor in a sustainable way. To address this gap beyond the end of this project, project partners will build on lessons learnt to continue to increase the number of farmers and establish the necessary partnerships to garner a critical mass of farmers for the scale required to build a true corridor that connects these two critically important protected areas.

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 with the support of an expert from the **Agence National de Developpement Rural (ANADER)**. The design of the chicken-rearing training curriculum was finalised in Year 1 with the support of CEFCA's animal husbandry specialist, see previous reports for the beekeeping and chicken-rearing training programs.

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

Revenue diversification activities on beekeeping and chicken rearing have been ongoing in the reporting period, with a total of **82** farmers initially participating. This included initially **50 farmers for chicken rearing (of which 28 were women) and 32 farmers for beekeeping (of which 3**

were women). Due to a flooding in the area during the last rainy season, a chicken rearing site was destroyed; the number of farmers in chicken rearing was thus **reduced to 25 (20 women)**.

6 trainings sessions on chicken rearing have been held with chicken rearing farmers during the reporting period (see **Annex 12** for the attendees list on the training sessions and photos). Training topics included: breeding idea; knowledge of local chicken; chicken diseases; medical prophylaxis, sanitary prophylaxis; farm building techniques; breeding park; production equipment; food formulation scorecard; establishment of an incubation system; and chick rearing. As of March 2020, over **500 chicken and chicks** have been produced, and farmers have also started to sell the chicken (see details in **Annex 12**).

Three bee-keeping hives (two in Youkou and one in Djouroutou) have now been colonised by bees since April 2019, when the ANADER consultant coached the farmers to set up the hives and regularly followed up on the bee colonisation system.

As evidenced by the numbers of participants in these training programs, women continue to show 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.

Environmental awareness raising posters and Image Boxes were designed and produced in Years 1 and 2**.** The posters sensitise local communities on environmental protection and climate change but also advice on the use of shade tree species that allow for income diversification. In **Year 3, 2,816** posters have been printed and distributed to farmers, but also to children and schools' staff during awareness raising campaigns in communities and schools. As of March 2020, a total of **11,316** copies of different posters have been printed by the project and distributed by CEFCA so far, which is above the **7,500 target**. This number is above target thanks to a new activity added to the project, and cofinanced by MCFEA, which is the Greenest school competition.

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), with both Darwin and MCFEA funding. The target audience are cocoa farming families, including women, children and the elderly.

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 **9 environmental sensitisation** sessions were held in Djouroutou and Gbarou on the 7th, 10th 18th and 29th of November 2019 , the 9th December and on the 6th of February 2020 (two sessions a day took place on three occasions), reaching **1,530 people**, of which **121 were women** (see photos and lists of participants in **Annex 14**).

In total for this project, **33** environmental sensitisation sessions have been held in the six communities of Youkou, Poutou, Diaoudi, Beoué, Djouroutou and Petit-Grabo. Efforts have been made to include children and the elderly. All the activities have been undertaken in conjonction with Olam, the OIPR, the local authorities and primary schools.

The year's highlight was an exciting sensitisation campaign, **"*The Greenest School*" program**, that started on June 22nd, 2019 in Djouroutou and in which nine local state schools participated, with the backing and support of local authorities and as a complementary action of the MCFEA project. The terms of reference, programs and the evaluation criteria of the competing schools were developed by Olam and Rainforest Alliance (see **Annex 13**). The aim of "*The Greenest School* " program was to create awareness within elementary and primary schools around the concept of protecting the environment and the importance of planting trees. In total **13** environmental awareness training sessions were organised as part of the competition. The

program specifically targeted and engaged school children, many of which came from cocoa farming families, allowing them to understood better the importance of sustainable cocoa farming.

9 participating schools were evaluated according to their ability to sustainably manage a shade tree nursery and waste via non-organic and organic bins. Schools were measured by the number of bins available in their facilities, the number of trees planted in their community, their ability to maintain a small garden, and their capacity to build awareness within their communities. The project also engaged children through financial rewards, token educational gifts as rewards for environmental conservation activities, including school supply kits, watering cans, school uniforms, and painting pots. The competition ended in December 2019, and the winning school was **EPP DJOUROUTOU,** and the runner up price was awarded to **EPP COOFADJOU.** As explained above this program will continue in 2020 with further funding from the MCFEA. See pictures in **Annex 13.**

3.4 Design the content of environmental awareness-raising radio programs

The project designed and produced 2 radio programs in Year 2 (see AR2) which discussed the impact on biodiversity and livelihoods of the Taï National Park. No new programs were designed in the reporting period (see **Activity 3.5**).

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

Only **2** environmental awareness-raising radio programs were broadcasted in Year 2 at San Pedro radio station, which is below the target of 6 programs planned for the project length**.** The total cost of this activity turned out to be higher than anticipated and the project partners did not succeed in finding additional sources of funding to pay for further radio programs. To compensate for the lower number of radio programs, the launch of the Greenest School competition has allowed to reach teachers and children in 9 schools through 13 additional environmental awareness-raising sessions (see **Activity 3.3**).

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 Year 2 and submitted to Darwin as an Annex to HYR2.

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 end-of-project impact survey was conducted in September 2019 on a sample of **206** farmers with the same survey questionnaire used for the baseline study and shared with previous reports. The findings were compared with the data collected as part of the baseline study and have been analysed by RA in **Annex 15**.

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 and monitored both by RA and Olam teams. Progress on the project workplan has been tackled quarterly throughout the project using the PMEP tool shared with RA's M&E Director and is communicated during RA's Africa quarterly meetings on project progress. Additionally, RA submitted the half-year report 3 to Darwin in October 2019 (see **Annex 4**).

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

RA wrote an article on the project that was published on the Darwin initiative newsletter at the end of 2019, on the subject of Tradition, Culture and Conservation. In addition, on the occasion of the United Nations' International Day of Education, Olam published the article "*Olam Cocoa and Rainforest Alliance educate school children in Côte d'Ivoire about the dangers of deforestation*" on their website.

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).

The project has overall achieved the target toward completing Output 1, as technical assistance has been delivered to the six communities and they have been able to successfully create an LMB and formulate a PLMP, which means both targets under ***Output Indicator 1.a*** and ***Output Indicator 1.b*** have been achieved, as shared in the Year 1 and Year 2 annual reports. In Year 3, the sessions organised served to strengthen the LMB structure and define a clear road map for implementation of the plan of action as explained above under **Activities 1.1 to 1.5**.

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***, strategies have been put in place to improve farmers' production practices through coaching sessions and Farmers Field school practices. In Year 3, **360 farmers were coached** in sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming practices on their farms (see **Activity 2.4**), with 527 farmers trained to date. Therefore, the target of 500 farmers trained by project end has already been met since Year 2. The main objective of RA's and Olam's sustainability teams was to put in place a plan to maintain best agricultural farm practices throughout the project, as certain activities such as cocoa hybrids plants to generate productivity improvements had to be cancelled.

Under ***Output Indicator 2.b***, 6 demonstration plots have been established since Year 1, which is above target (at least 3 demonstration plots established). In the reporting period, coaching sessions continued on demonstration plots.

The target under ***Output Indicator 2.c*** of establishing at least five cocoa and shade tree nurseries has been achieved. As we are writing this report, the CCC has not yet allowed productivity improvement activities to resume in Côte d'Ivoire, which explains why cocoa trees replanting activities have not restarted. Prior to the CCC decision, **two cocoa nurseries** had been established and **40,000 cocoa hybrid trees** distributed in Year 1 as part of this project. As explained under **Activities 2.5 and 2.6** above**, four shade tree nurseries** (one of them in Year 3) have been established since the start of the project and **more than 40,000 plantlets** including Gmelina *arborea, Irvingia gabonensis, Terminalia ivorensis, Terminalia superba, Ricinodendron heudolotii, and Tectona grandis* have been produced and distributed (the list of 2019 beneficiaries is included in **Annex 10)**.

Regarding ***Output Indicator 2.d***, as explained in previous reports, RA has not been able to establish the shade tree corridor defined in Year 1 around the 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 KFW were launched in Year 2. In Year 3 further contacts have been established with GIZ building up on these conversations as explained above under **Activity 2.7**. The target under this indicator will not be met, but RA will continue engaging with the Cocoanect project stakeholders beyond the end of this project to garner a sufficient number of farmers to build a true corridor to connect these two critically important protected areas.

Under ***Output Indicator 2.e***, the project has trained **32 farmers (of which 3 women**) in bee-keeping and **50 farmers (of which 28 women)** in chicken rearing. These makes **a total of 82 farmers trained**. Further details are provided under **Activities 2.8 and 2.9**. These are voluntary activities that farmers have enrolled in based on their needs and interest. Women have shown greater interest in chicken rearing thank in beekeeping because they find beekeeping more difficult to manage and it is a less culturally common business for women.

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***, over **11,000** copies of posters have been printed and distributed since the beginning of the project. **2,816** additional copies have been printed and distributed in Year 3, well over the target of 7,500 posters printed and distributed by project end. 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***, a total of **33** environmental sensitisation sessions have been held since the start of the project in the six communities of Youkou, Poutou, Diaoudi, Beoué, Djouroutou and Petit-Grabo reaching in total **1,408** communty members (of which **551** women) inluding children and the elderly in conjonction with Olam, the OIPR, local authorities and schools. This is therefore above the target for this indicator, which was 1,250 community members (including 250 women). Further details are provided under **Activity 3.3** above.

On ***Output Indicator 3.c***, only **two radio programs** have been delivered in the wider San-Pedro region due to insufficient funding as explained in **Activity 3.5,** which is below the target of **6** radio programs. The project stakeholders, RA, Olam, OIPR, and the local authorities have compensated the delay in this activity by increasing the number and the impact of its awareness raising campaings in schools and communities instead (see **Activity 3.3**).

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

Under ***Output Indicator 4.a,*** the **Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (PMEP)** was completed and delivered to the donor in Q1 of Year 2, together with HYR2. Since then the project has been following the guidelines outlined in the plan to monitor and evaluate the project, by using the tools provided such as the training list template used to record attendees at trainings as in **Annex 5.**

In alignment with ***Output Indicator 4.b.*** 3 half-year reports and 3 annual reports for Years 1, 2, and 3, including the present report, have been submitted to Darwin. 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.

Under ***Output Indicator 4.d*** the project published two articles in the reporting period: an article for the Darwin initiative newsletter, on the subject of Tradition, Culture and Conservation, and the article "Olam Cocoa and Rainforest Alliance educate school children in Côte d'Ivoire about the dangers of deforestation" published on Olam's website (see **Activity 4.5**).

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**, An effective and active LMB as well as a signed and endorsed **Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP**) across the six project communities, have been established since Q3 of year 2 (see AR2).

A baseline study on a representative sample of 201 farmers was conducted in Q4 of Year 1. Using the same questionnaire, an end-of-project impact survey was conducted on a sample of 206 farmers at the end of 2019 (see **Annex 15**), which has allowed the project team to compare and analyse results to determine progress made on a number of indicators:

End-of-project survey findings show that **406 farmers** (77% of the total) and **75% of trained female farmers** apply at least 80% of key climate-smart cocoa farm management practices (which include planting shade trees in farm, pruning, non-chemical pesticides/disease control, mulching/green manure, chemical fertilizer application) corresponding respectively to **Indicators 0.2 and 0.4**). Targets for both indicators, have therefore been achieved. These results shows that the project has succeeded in promoting adoption of sustainable agricultural practices among targeted cocoa farmers.

The target for **Indicator 0.3** is on track to be met as 100% of identified female cocoa farmers (41) actively participate in training sessions on climate-smart cocoa farm management practices and are on track to satisfactorily complete the training.

As explained in **Activity 2.7,** due to insufficient numbers of Olam farmers in the Corridor along the Hana River and slow progress made by the Cocoanect project, the target under **Indicator 0.5** will not be met. However, RA will continue engaging with the Cocoanect project stakeholders beyond the end of this project to garner a sufficient number of farmers to build a corridor to connect these two protected areas.

Progress towards **Indicator 0.6** is well above the target of three demonstration plots as six demonstration plots have been established by the project. As decided at the steering committee meeting held on March 6th, 2020, the project team will continue to monitor those plots so that training on best practices can be maintained even after project end.

Under **Indicator 0.7**, all 82 farmers (100%) that initially participated in income diversification training courses were newly involved in these activities. As explained in **Activity 2.9**, due to a flooding in the area during the last rainy season, a chicken rearing site was destroyed, resulting in a reduction in the number of farmers involved in chicken rearing from 50 to 25 (20 women). Currently only 57 farmers out of the 82 that were trained are involved in these activities (70%).

For over two years women have represented 38% of all participants in revenue diversification activities (31 women out of 82 farmers), a bit below the 50% target under **Indicator 0.8**. Since the flooding of one chicken rearing site this number has come down to 23 out of 57 farmers currently involved in the microprojects, which represents 40% of the total. The reasons for low female participation rate are addressed under **Sections 3.4 and 7** of this report. Regarding **Indicator 0.9**, 100% of women involved in the revenue diversification program (31 at the beginning, now 23) are newly involved in and actively participating in these activities.

Overall, there is good progress towards achieving the project outcome, as farmers are actively participating in CSA training and are applying climate-smart agricultural practices in their farms. Communities have increased 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. All of this will contribute to the reduction of deforestation, biodiversity loss and wildlife depletion around Taï National Park. Revenue diversification strategies have attracted the interest of farmers, who are actively engaged in the microprojects, though the flooding of one of the chicken rearing sites has limited the impact of this activity.This together with additional revenue from sales of shade trees produce 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

At project end, most of the risks and assumptions outlined in the initial project logframe of the proposal still hold true. The project stakeholders have successfully given the communities the

opportunity to participate in solving the challenges of their landscape and engaged them in a gender inclusive way to improve their livelihood and reduce the burden on the environment.

Most of the changes in the sets of assumptions presented in AR2 remain the same as explained in previous sections, however there are a few updates:

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 Indicator 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 the gender report shared in Year 2 and explainations given throughout this report). While this is a structural issue that the project will not be able to address by itself, we hope that the women engaged in those project activities will continue to engage and maintain their micro projects even after the project end.

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: the project has not been able to build a corridor on its own around Hana river, due to an insufficient number of Olam farmers along the Hana river (see **Activity 2.7**).

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.

Radio programs

Assumptions for Output Indicator 3.c: Radio stations are willing to transmit radio programs at affordable prices for the project.

Comments: The project did not have sufficient funds to produce all planned radio programs, but as explained in **Activity 3.5.** and **Output Indicator 3.c**, the project has found complementary activities such as the sensitisation campaigns in schools which have the same awareness raising goal.

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 agricultural 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 has developed an action plan to lead the implementation of the PLMP (**Annex 8**), which will continuously 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. When the project ends, the landscape management plan will continue to be implemented in the long term by the communities.
- **Training of 527 farmers in Climate-Smart Agriculture practices (Output Indicator 2.a and Outcome Indicators 0.2/0.6).**
- **Establishment of four shade tree nurseries and distribution of 40,000 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, **more than 11,000** posters have been printed and distributed across the 6 project communities and two radio programmes broadcasted**,** with a total of **1,408 people sensitised in the region.** The radio programs allowed a wider audience to be sensitised with awareness-raising radio programs on biodiversity conservation.
- **Sensitisation campaigns in schools:** By the end of Year 3, the project has sensitised children in 9 local schools which is a critical complementary action to the wider environmental sensitization campaign.

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. The distribution and planting of shade trees in farms, which will produce fruits and timber, will provide farmers with additional income through the sales of their produce.
- **Introduction of revenue diversification micro-projects (Output Indicator 2.e):** Farmers have already been able to generate extra additional revenues with the chicken rearing scheme, as explained in **Activities 2.8 and 2.9**. The beekeeping component which is an innovation in the region is also well under way.
- ***Association Villageoise pour l'Epargne et le Crédit (AVEC*) activities:** This activity which is financed by MCFEA gives the opportunity to **30** women in Djouroutou, Diaoudi and Beoué to have access to small loans to launch micro projects. It is an additional activity that has been complementary to this project and that has contributed to increasing the interest of the communities, especially women, in our efforts in the landscape.

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 rearing and bee-keeping) and products from shade trees such as fruit and timber will improve the revenue of the community over time.

2. Zero Hunger: To date a total of 57 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: All project partners are committed to promoting sustainable investment in the cocoa industry, sustainable production of cocoa and the efficient management of natural resources. The link to Costco also promotes the sustainable consumption of ethically produced chocolate.

13. Climate Action: Climate action is at the center of the efforts of the stakeholders in this project, through a combination of climate-smart agricultural trainings, environmental campaigns and shade tree planting..

15. Life on Land: The focus of the project on the protection of Taï National Park and its biodiversity is key for all project partners. Through the creation of a LMB this project supports efforts to sustainably manage forests and protect biodiversity with a plan to tackle the major challenges present in the landscape.

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[7] 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 and COP 23 , the government of Côte 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 technical 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 sense of cohesion and belonging of the communities toward the LMB is cemented 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. The PLMP proposes solutions to mitigate the disparition of those medicinal plants, those insights were shared in the article that was published in the December 2019 issue of the Darwin Newsletter.

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

This project contributes to poverty alleviation by providing revenue diversification opportunities to farmers in a gender inclusive way, through chicken-rearing and bee-keeping microprojects. A group of 57 farmers have been trained and are currently involved in chicken rearing and bee

[7] 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

keeping activities. The 57 farmers who are participating in the microprojects have expressed a great interest to set their own small project and have adopted those activities for additional income. Indirect beneficiaries include family members of these farmers, who will benefit from additional income in their households.

The project has also provided cocoa nurseries plants and 40,000 shade tree plants that can produce fruits, timber and other products to be sold by farmers.

An important point to note is that with good agricultural practices cocoa yields increase naturally, so in some extent farmers have registered some cocoa yield increases in their farms, which is not at the rate that would have been experienced if they had used fertilisers because of the CCC law that cancelled the use of fertilisers and cocoa hybrid plants.

7. Consideration of gender equality issues

The project has supported the integration of women throughout its three years of implementation:

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. 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. To date, 31 women have been trained in beekeeping and chicken-rearing and currently 23 women are engaged in these activities.

As shared with AR2, 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. As few women own a cocoa farm, there were only a low number of female cocoa farmers the project was able to work with.

In Year 3 with the funding from MCFEA, the project has integrated the AVEC project (see **Section 2** of this report) which aims to secure loans for women, and improve their purchasing power, providing more stability for their children, as women are known to share their revenues with their families and children.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

The project has completed its impact surveys. The baseline and the end-of-project surveys were applied respectively in early 2018 and at the end of 2019. The final results of the survey tool have been analysed in **Annex 15,** allowing to measure progress on a number of indicators as explained in **Section 3** of this report. Findings show that the project has greatly contributed to adoption of project-endorsed best management practices among cocoa farmers and has already reached its targets for most output indicators. To achieve these results, RA and Olam technicians have rigourously integrated the M&E plan in their training as well as their follow up sessions.

The M&E plan has not changed over the reporting period. Challenges and threaths to project achievements have also been closely monitored by RA senior management and M&E Director during RA's Africa quarterly meetings, where any project implementation challenges are communicated to RA's management team. Those challenges are also discussed in details at project steering committee meettings.

During the reporting period there was a change in project lead, a change request was submitted and approved by Darwin in January 2020 (see **Annex 16**). The contract of the previous project lead, Sarah Fadika, with RA had ended, so as of January 2020, Christian Mensah, Rainforest Alliance Director for Strategic Projects in West Africa, has taken over management of the project.

9. Lessons learnt

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

- **The importance of understanding all costs related to the engagement of public stakeholders:** Understanding the associated costs of the engagement of public stakeholders like OIPR, is essential to ensure their meaningful participation, as per diems and transportation costs paid to these public representatives to cover their expenses need to be factored into budget planning.
- **Collaborate and create synergies with local and international stakeholders**: The project has benefited from the funding and support of the MCFEA since the start, which has allowed to expand some of the planned activities under this project and even implement complementary news activities allowing the Darwin project to increase its scope and impact.
- **Need to conduct survey on farmers interest on different income generating activities:** Beekeeping did not attact many female farmers, as explained under **Output indicator 2.e**, so one lesson learned is that it is important to conduct a quick survey before starting any microprojects to assess interest of participants in the different potential options.

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

How likely is it that Olam might carry on their support to the 2 cooperatives (on sustainable agriculture practices and biodiversity sensitisation) following the project period? Do they have any plans in place to do so? Olam has planned continuity of its supply chain business with the two cooperatives involved in the project (Cooperative Agricole Fraternité de Djouroutou (COOFADJOU) and Société Cooperative Agricole des Producteurs de Petit Grabo et Youkou (SCAEPGY)) by securing business contract with Blommer/Costco. This means that Olam's relationship with the communities, the cooperatives and the LMB will continue as it actively sources sustainable cocoa for Blommer/Costco from these cooperatives.

Do the project partners have any plans to engage in dialogue with the Conseil du Café Cacao (CCC) on the new cocoa productivity policy? The project partners, in particular Olam International, and other exporters contribute to the national dialogues on all the laws involving the cocoa sector in the country, including the new cocoa productivity law and any relevant data collection that is often required within the cocoa sector by the CCC to monitor the supply and demand of cocoa.

The Rainforest Alliance remains committed to improving environmental and social issues on certified cocoa farms in West Africa and beyond. In the spirit of partnership and collaboration with governments of West Africa (Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana) and the industry to addressing the major challenges faced in the cocoa sector, it has welcomed the recent introduction of the Living Income Differential (LID) and are working with key industry partners and stakeholders to monitor its implementation and impact and document its lessons to inform further review of the ban on productivity in Côte d'Ivoire: https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/article/the-rainforest-alliance-welcomes-announcement-of-cocoa-floor-price-in-cote-dIvoire-and-ghana

What are Impactum's plans to take forward the PLMP and what resources they have secured to support it? See Activity 1.2.

The proportion of women taking part in cocoa farming training is extremely low (41/527). Has the gender study that you undertook revealed any options to challenge the constraints to women's participation and do you have any plans to follow up on this? Is there any opportunity for women to participate jointly with their husbands in the training sessions? Low female attendance is due to the fact that only a few women own a cocoa farm, so there are few female cocoa farmers and that explains their low participation in cocoa farming training. Women are more involved in food crops production for the family consumption. In the project area, women are free to attend training together with men.

The female participation in bee keeping is extremely poor (less than 10%) under activity 2.9. It would be good to hear how the project plans to address this issue for the remaining training cohorts. The bee keeping and chicken rearing activities are pilot projects which involve

a small number of farmers. Women clearly showed a greater interest in chicken rearing than in beekeeping, as they find beekeeping more difficult to manage and it has to date been a less common business for women.

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 discussed throughout the report.

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 as well as the MCFEA.

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. As reported in **Section 10**, Olam has planned continuity of its supply chain business with the two cooperatives involved in the project 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, the PLMP has been updated for this purpose (see **Annex 8** for the Action plan).

13. Darwin identity

The project has made efforts to continue promoting the Darwin logo throughout the project length. 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, as shared in previous reports. The project has also extended its outreach in schools in Year 3, further increasing awareness in the region of the Darwin Initiative.

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). The project has also benefited from the recognition of Cocoanect, KFW and the GIZ, with whom RA shared project's outcome vision as evidenced in previous sections above.

Finally, as part of its institutional relations engagement, RA continues to share 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. Safeguarding

RA agrees strongly with a safeguarding approach within its programs. RA has an anti-harassment policy in place that is applicable to all of its downstream partner agreements. Please note RA does not have a zero tolerance policy. In some jurisdictions RA works RA can only fire staff for harassment that is illegal in that jurisdiction. Additionally, there may be occasions where RA needs to apply a proportional consequence to the action. We want to be able to correct behavior and for all staff to feel they can raise even small questionable actions. A zero tolerance policy may prohibit such an environment if staff are afraid that staff will be fired for what would otherwise be a learning opportunity.

RA maintains a risk register for the entire organization. Safeguarding concerns are included on this register and tracked by RA's staff-based risk committee that reports into the Board of Director's Audit & Risk Committee.

RA staff responsible for investigation are clear on the roles and responsibilities for investigation. Disciplinary actions are corrective and address any gaps within RA policies, procedures, or processes. RA's legal department governs all disclosures. RA's Whistleblowing policy is posted on RA's website publicly.

As part of RA and UTZ merger in 2018, RA will release its new organizational code of conduct during Q3 2020. Across the organization multiple codes of conduct have been in place from the previous organizations. The new Code of Conduct will include a clear safeguarding policy, an updated anti-harassment policy that addresses bullying, clearly identifies investigation responsibilities and expectations, and outlines disciplinary consequences. Additionally, the new Code of Conduct will be applied to its downstream partners in any agreement entered into or modified after the Q3 release. The Code will be posted on RA's website for easy reference and be posted in multiple languages.

15. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	**2019/20 Grant (£)**	**2019/20 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 2019-2020

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	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.**		• Awareness in the community about the interdependence between the health of the ecosystem and survival of human race, and the thriving cocoa industry. • Awareness among future generation (school children) about good stewardship of the environment • Increased focus on cocoa and climate smart means reducing threat on the forest • Increased capacity in diversification means more awareness of business ideas and entrepreneurship among rural folks • Awareness among business (Olam and Cooperatives) on collective action as the surest means to achieve impact on goals of conservation and avoiding deforestation • Contributing of business (MCFEA, Blommer/Costco, Cooperatives) to supporting efforts towards sustainable landscape	
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, to tackle the most relevant landscape issues, principally deforestation.	The next step in this project is to organize a meeting on the implementation of the Action plan and discuss ways of financing these actions.
	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.).	End-of-project survey findings show that **406 farmers** trained by the project apply at least 80% of key climate-smart cocoa farm management practices.	Follow-up coaching visit to advice farmers on farming practices.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
	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.	All 41 female cocoa farmers out of 527 targeted farmers (100%) actively participate in and are on track to satisfactorily complete training sessions on climate-smart cocoa farm management practices and coaching sessions.	Follow-up coaching visit to advice farmers on farming practices.
	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).	End-of-project survey findings show that **75% of trained female farmers** apply at least 80% of key climate-smart cocoa farm management practices.	Follow-up coaching visit to advice farmers on farming practices.
	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.	Only one farm of the project is located along the Hana River. The project has continued engaging with the Cocoanect and GiZ project to explore opportunities for collaboration. See **Activity 2.7**	The project will keep engaging with stakeholders working in the area.
	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 established since Year 1.	Monitoring of demonstration plots planned during next quarter.
	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	Due to a flooding in the area during the last rainy season, a chicken rearing site was destroyed; the number of farmers in chicken rearing was thus reduced to 25. Out of a total of 82 farmers that	The engaged farmers will continue to implement the chicken rearing and the bee-keeping microprojects.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
	both of those activities (a third of them by the end of the 2nd year, and the rest by the end of the project).	participated in income diversification training courses, 57 are now involved in these activities (70%).	
	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 initially on revenue diversification, 31 were women, so 38 % in total. Due to a flooding during last raining season, the number of participants is reduced to 57 including 23 women. That represents **40%**.	The engaged farmers will continue to implement the chicken rearing and the bee-keeping microprojects
	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 **23** women currently participating in income diversification training courses are newly involved in these activities, which represents **100%**.	The engaged farmers will continue to implement the chicken rearing and the bee-keeping microprojects
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 was finalized and shared in Year 2.	Organize a meeting on the implementation of the Action plan and discuss ways of financing these actions.
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 was organized in October 2017 to create the LMB.	None.
Activity 1.2 Organize 6 training sessions to train community members on the LMB´s governance structure and procedures.		3 trainings were organized this reporting period: on May 15, May 23, 2019 and November 15, 2019.	The last central committee was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. The meeting has been

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
			postpotned to the last quarter of the project.
Activity 1.3 Facilitate 6 LMB Steering Committee meetings.		In the reporting period, 2 Steering Committee meetings have taken place in May 31, 2019 and March 6, 2020. Please refer to **Annexes 6 & 7** for pictures and attendance lists.	1 Steering Committee meeting to be organised in the last quarter.
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.		Due to the Covid-19, the lessons learnt workshop did not take place.	Lesson learnt workshop with stakeholders will be organized in the last quarter if the situation improves.
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.		Completed in Year 2.	None
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.	360 were coached on their farms during this reporting period. In total since the beginning of the project, 527 farmers have been trained.	Lead farmers will continue coaching sessions once the COVID restrictions are lifted.
	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	**6** demonstrations plots have been established by the project since Year 1.	Monitoring of demonstration plots planned during next quarter.
	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	Over 40,000 in total shade trees have been produced and distributed to farmers by this project as of end of March 2020. During this reporting period, 7,061 plantlets were distributed.	None

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
	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. *A change of logframe was approved by Darwin in Year 2 to allow the forecasted number of cocoa and shade trees produced as part of this project unspecific*.		
	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.	We do not have enough Olam farmers to build up a corridor along the Hana River on our own. The project has continued engaging with the Cocoanect and GiZ project to explore opportunities for collaboration. See **Activity 2.7**	Keep contact with GiZ for synergy actions with local stakeholders along the corridor
	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.	32 farmers have been trained in bee-keeping. Due to a flooding in the area during the last rainy season, a chicken rearing site was destroyed; the number of farmers involved in chicken rearing was thus reduced to 25 (20 of which are women). However, 50 (of which 28 women) have received training on chicken-rearing by the project.	The engaged farmers will continue to implement the chicken rearing and the bee-keeping microprojects.
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.	None

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
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.		The training program on sustainable climate-smart cocoa farming was designed in Year 1	None
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.	Lead farmers will continue coaching sessions once the COVID restrictions are lifted.
Activity 2.4 Implement the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program.		This reporting period, 360 individual coaching sessions have been organized, as well as Farmer Field School training sessions on a monthly basis.	Lead farmers will continue coaching sessions once the COVID restrictions are lifted.
Activity 2.5 Engage CRNA and SODEFOR on the establishment of nurseries.		One new nursery in Djouroutou has been established in Year 3. Therefore, to date, four shade trees nurseries have been established.	None
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.		7,061 plantlets were distributed to farmers for shade trees improvement in farms. In total over 40,000 plantlets distributed since the beginning of the project.	None
Activity 2.7 Coordinate the delineation and establishment of the biological corridor Buffer Zone along River Hana.		The project has continued engaging with the Cocoanect and GiZ project to explore opportunities for collaboration. See **Activity 2.7**	The project will keep in contact with stakeholders working in the area.
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, and the bee-keeping training program was designed in Year 2.	None
Activity 2.9 Deliver the beekeeping and chicken rearing training program to at least 82 cocoa farmers and/or other adults.		**82 cocoa farmers** have participated in the bee-keeping or chicken-rearing training programs. **Over 500 chicken and chicks** have been produced to date.	Follow up of chicken rearing and bee-keeping activities
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	In Year 3, 2,816 posters have been printed and distributed to farmers, but also to children and schools' staff during	None

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	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.	awareness raising campaigns in communities and schools. As of March 2020, a total of 11,316 copies of different posters have been printed by the project and distributed	
	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 **9 environmental sensitisation sessions** were held in Djouroutou and Gbarou on the 7th, 10th 18th and 29th of November 2019 , the 9th December and on the 6th of February 2020 (two sessions a day took place on three occasions), reaching **1,530 people, of which 121 were women** (see photos and lists of participants in Annex 14).	More environmental awareness sensitization sessions will be organized if the COVID-19 related restrictions are lifted.
	3.c 6 By project mid-term, at least 3 awareness-raising radio programs organized, involving OIPR, CEFCA and community leaders.	2 radio were produced and broadcasted in Year 2. No awareness-raising radio program was organized in this reporting period (see **Activities 3.4 and 3.5**)	More environmental awareness sensitization sessions will be organized if the COVID-19 related restrictions are lifted.
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.		In Year 3, 2,816 posters have been printed and distributed to farmers, but also to children and schools' staff during environmental awareness raising campaigns in communities and schools.	None
Activity 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	None
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 9 environmental sensitisation sessions were held reaching **1,530 people, of which 121 were women**	More environmental awareness sensitization sessions will be organized if the COVID-19 related restrictions are lifted.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 3.4 Design the content of environmental awareness-raising radio programs.		2 environmental awareness radio programs were designed in Year 2 partnership with Olam sustainability team.	None
Activity 3.5 Organize 6 environmental awareness-raising radio programs, involving OIPR, CEFCA, and community leaders.		2 radio were produced and broadcasted in Year 2. No new awareness-raising radio program was organized this reporting period (see **Activities 3.4 and 3.5**)	More environmental awareness sensitization sessions will be organized if the COVID-19 related restrictions are lifted.
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.	The PMEP templates are 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.	3 half-year reports and 3 annual reports for Years 1, 2 and 3, including the present report, have been submitted to Darwin. Quarterly project progress updates (11 to date) are presented in internal quarterly Africa meetings by the Project Lead to RA's management.	1 half-year report and 1 final report to be submitted to Darwin by the end of the project.
	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.	RA wrote an article on the project that was published on the Darwin initiative newsletter at the end of 2019. On the occasion of the United Nations' International Day of Education, Olam published the article "*Olam Cocoa and Rainforest Alliance educate school children*	One more communications piece will be produced before the end of the project.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
		in Côte d'Ivoire about the dangers of deforestation" on their website.	
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.	None
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 end-of-project impact survey was conducted in September 2019 on a sample of 206 farmers with the same survey questionnaire used for the baseline study (see analysis in **Annex 15**).	None
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 3 that was submitted to Darwin in October 2019 (see **Annex 4**).	1 half-year report and 1 final report to be submitted to Darwin by the end of the project.
Activity 4.4 Formulate a Project Communication Strategy, and submit for donor approval		The project communication strategy was finalized in October 2017 by the Rainforest Alliance communication team and received Darwin's approval.	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		2 articles published in the reporting period (see **Activity 4.5** above)	One more communications piece will be produced before the end of the project.

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 <u>female</u> 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 <u>female</u> 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)	Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso	527 farmers in total	527 farmers in total	360 farmers	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)	0	16 training materials in total	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	0	1 reference manual	1 reference manual
21	Number of governance structures created	N/A	N/A	1 LMB	0	0	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	0	6 field plots	6 field plots

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Respecting tradition through community-led conservation in the	Newsletter	Sarah Fadika and Melanie Bayo, Decem	Female	Ivorian		https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/assets/uploads/Darwin-Newsletter-December-2019-Traditional-Culture-Conservation-FINAL.pdf

Ivorian Rainforest*		ber 2019				
Olam Cocoa and Rainforest Alliance educate school children in Côte d'Ivoire about the dangers of deforestation*	Website	Danièle Kouassi, January 2020	Female	Ivorian		https://www.olamgroup.com/content/olamgroup/en/home-page/news/all-news/news-bites/cocoa-and-rainforest-alliance-educate-school-children.html?refer=https://www.olamgroup.com/news/all-news.html?source=allnews

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

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	**X (annexes sent via Dropbox)**
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.	**Not applicable**
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.	