

Darwin Initiative Main and Post Project Annual Report

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

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2019

Darwin Project Information

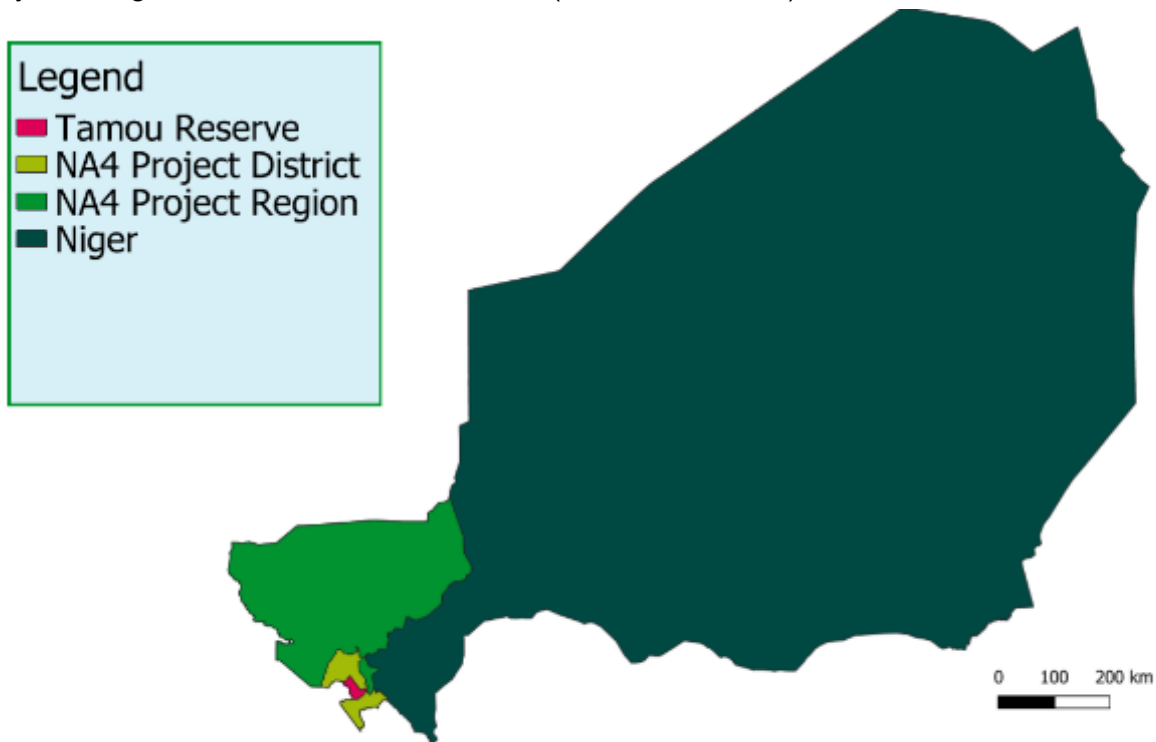
Project reference	25-029
Project title	Rehabilitation of the ecosystem of the Park W landscape
Host country/ies	Niger
Lead organisation	TREE AID
Partner institution(s)	COGEZOH
Darwin grant value	£309,545
Start/end dates of project	1 st of July 2018 to - 31st of March 2021
Reporting period (e.g., Apr 2018 – Mar 2019) and number	July 2018 – March 2019, Annual report 1
Project Leader name	Aboubacar Gadage
Project website/blog/Twitter	Website: https://www.treeaid.org.uk/2018/protecting-biodiversity-in-a-world-heritage-site/ http://nigerexpress.info/2018/11/22/long-tree-aid-lance-au-niger-un-nouveau-projet-de-rehabilitation-de-lecosysteme-du-paysage-du-parc-w/ Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/TREEAID/ Linkedin: https://www.linkedin.com/company/tree-aid/ Twitter account : @TREEAID
Report author(s) and date	Aboubacar Gadage and Vanessa Depeyre April 2019

Acronym List:

W trans-boundary biosphere reserve – WTBR
 Human-wildlife conflicts - HWC
 Non-timber forest product – NTFP
 Contribution à la Gestion des Zones Humides- COGEZOH
 Village tree entreprise – VTE
 Village land tenure commission – COFOB
 Communal land tenure commission – COFOCOM
 Soil and Water Conservation Techniques - SWC
 Assisted Natural Regeneration – ANR
 Rural Household Multi-Indicator Survey- RHOMIS

1. Project rationale

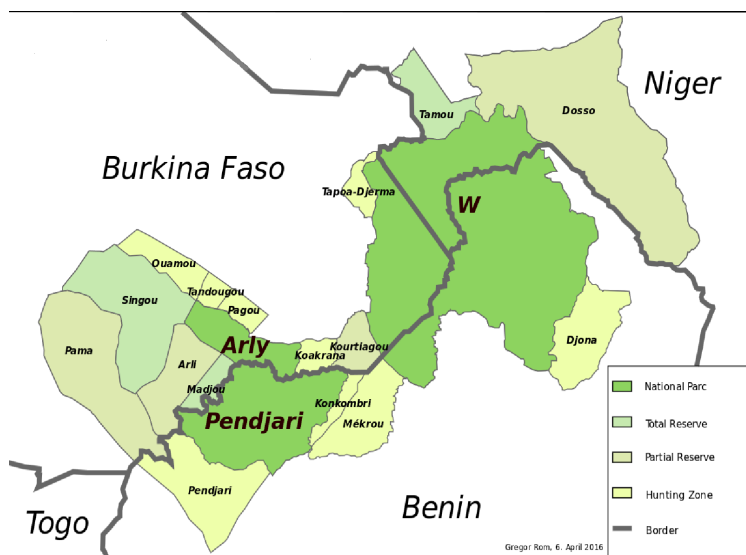
Niger is bottom of the Human Development Index¹ ranking 187th out of 188 countries. 84% of Niger's population lives in rural areas, largely relying on natural resources for survival. Consequently, Niger's forest habitat and its immense biodiversity is under significant threat. Over 25 years, Niger has lost 41% of forest cover (848,000 hectares).



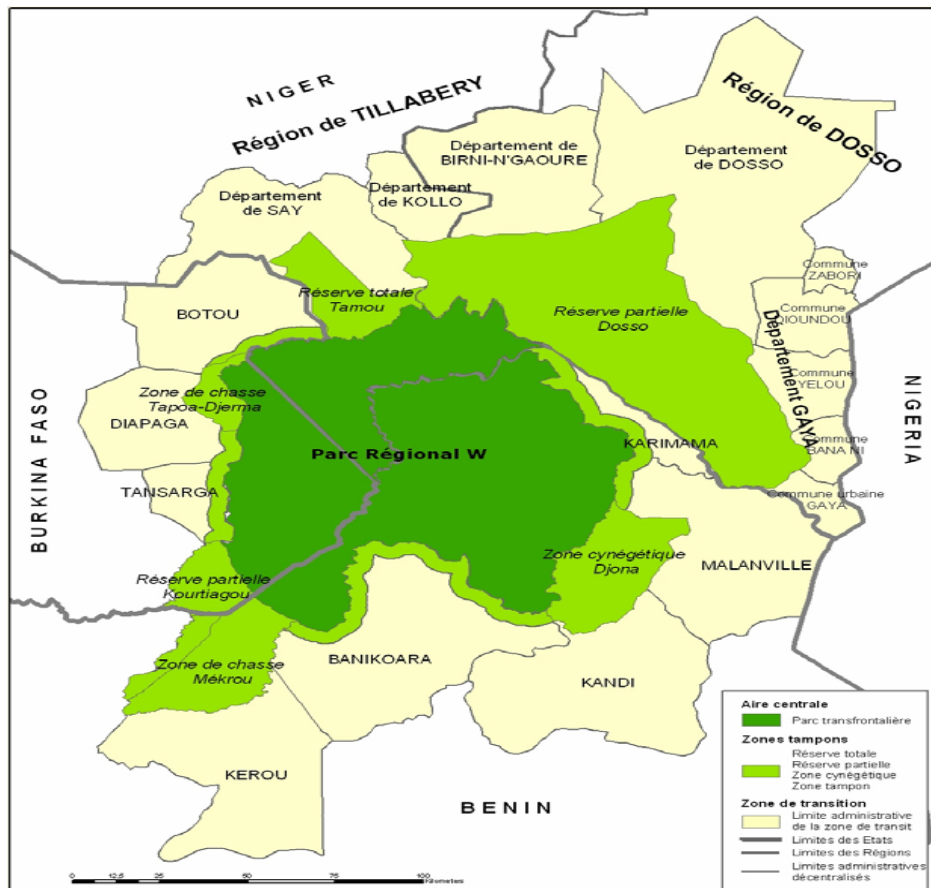
Niger Project Map



Created On: 16 April 2019



¹ PNUD, 2016



The project is being implemented in the W trans-boundary biosphere reserve (WTBR) - a biodiversity reserve across Niger, Benin and Burkina Faso - recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The reserve is the largest and most important continuum of terrestrial, semi-aquatic and aquatic ecosystems in the West African savannah² in West Africa³, leopard⁴ and the ⁵ in the region. However, the area's biodiversity has suffered severe degradation from anthropogenic pressures and climatic variabilities.

Following major droughts in 1973-74 and 1983-84, a significant influx of human migration occurred in the commune of Tamou (which includes Tamou Faunal Reserve and the "Ayinoma" area⁶). Accelerated population growth, together with high levels of poverty, has put great pressure on the protected areas, threatening natural resources (including dry zone mahogany (*Khaya Senegalensis*)⁷ and *Acacia spp*⁸) through transhumance, poaching, uncontrolled bushfires, overgrazing and unsustainable harvesting of non-timber forest product (NTFPs) and timber. This has also resulted in more frequent human-wildlife conflicts (HWC) (e.g. destruction of crops and livestock by baboon, elephants or hyenas).

Currently the majority of interventions are directed towards Park W, leaving the peripheral area unmanaged, risking the integrity of WTBR in the long term. To decrease pressure on the protected areas, interventions are needed in the periphery to support communities to improve local forest governance, the communities' collaboration with Park W authorities, as well as to maximise the sustainable use of NTFPs for alternative economic opportunities.

² Elephant- *Loxodonta Africana* – vulnerable IUCN redlist 3.1

³ Cheetha – *Acinonyx Jubatus* and Leopard – *panthera pardus* – vulnerable IUCN redlist

⁴ Henschel, P., Kiki, M., Sewade, C., Tehou, A. (2012). Projet pour l'établissement d'un plan de sauvegarde pour les grands carnivores dans le Complexe W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP). Benin. Rapport Préliminaire, 31p.

⁵ Lion- *Panthera Leo*- vulnerable IUCN redlist 3.1

⁶ a portion of the Tamou Faunal Reserve decommissioned by Niger's government for agricultural purposes since 1976

⁷ IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2017-3 – Vulnerable status

⁸ "Plan d'Aménagement et de Gestion de la Réserve de Biosphère Transfrontalière W - 2006-2010", Volume I : Etat des lieux, Mai 2005

2. Project partnerships

COGEZOH (Contribution à la Gestion des Zones Humides) is a Nigerien NGO with the mission to support the rural population to sustainably manage and use natural resources. For the last 15 years, COGEZOH has been working in the peripheral area of Park W. These projects focused on agriculture, NTFP enterprises and strategies to reduce HWC.

COGEZOH delivers the project on the ground with oversight and technical support from TREE AID. They are responsible for mobilising local communities, front line delivery of training, organisational and business development and technical support for the Village Tree Enterprises (VTEs), development of community patrols, delivery of prevention and awareness raising campaigns, liaison with local and regional stakeholders, data collection and monitoring of activities. With expertise in the prevention of HWC in Park W, COGEZOH is leading the related activities. Their team will be composed of a Project Coordinator - in charge of ensuring effective implementation of COGEZOH's activities who is the main point of contact with TREE AID - as well as a Project Officer, four Village Extension Officers and administrative support (Finance Assistant and Executive Secretary). These key staff are further supported with technical advice and monitoring support from COGEZOH management and TREE AID staff.

COGEZOH were actively involved in the design and planning of the project. They also attended the start-up meeting where the responsibilities of each partner were reiterated. COGEZOH staff were also trained on Darwin and TREE AID narrative and financial reporting templates. However, during the project delivery, the partner COGEZOH realised the need to adjust the project team in order to become more efficient – and a revised team structure was put in place with agreement of Darwin (Change request #1 whereby the outgoing NTFP advisor position was replaced by an NTFP officer and a local project accountant).

The structure of the project team of the implementation partner will be reviewed to fit more the needs on the ground of TREE AID and Darwin requirements. However, the global budget allocated for COGEZOH staff will not change. 66% of the partner staff budget for year 1 was spent. Some of this saving will be used to try and strengthen the partner team in the field and some to add an accountant to the team.

Further training on the financial and narrative report framework is needed, to ensure high quality reporting by the partner COGEZOH. TREE AID will continue to support COGEZOH in matters during the monitoring visits to the project sites.

In addition, in order to improve the technical knowledge of the partner a training in the SWC and ANR techniques was organised in the TREE AID office in March 2019. This training will ensure the good follow up of the farmers by the project team.

Other partners involved include the park authorities and governmental and communal authorities. They participate in the management of WTBR resources as well as raising awareness in local communities of the need to protect and conserve those resources. They are also involved in the process of re-structuring of COFOBs and COFOCOM, and of development of the local conventions and the management plan. These partners are also involved in all community training delivered by the project. These partnerships have been positive throughout the first year of the project.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1 Local communities in 12 villages in the peripheral area of the park W have their capacities strengthened in sustainable forest management

1.1 Assessment of the COFOBs and COFOCOM in the intervention area

The project team finalised the identification and selection of the 12 villages which will benefit from the project. Then, the village land tenure commissions (COFOBs) located in this 12 targeted villages and the commune level commission (COFOCOM) located in Tamou were assessed to determine their level of organisation and operation. The result of the assessment show that event though the COFOBs are in places they are not functioning. The COFOB/COFOCOM running period are due and they need to be renewed. Concerning the COFOCOM only three members are in place out of 13 members representing the rural communities.

The 12 COFOBs and the COFOCOM were renewed through new elections. The election for the different COFOB members took place in the villages between the 20th and the 22th of March 2019. The election of the COFOCOM members and the permanent secretary took place in Tamou on the on 1st of March 2019. In the new structure, 28% of the COFOCOM members and 40 % of the COFOB members are women

The new COFOCOM structure need to be legally recognised by the State. This recognition is done through a decree signed by the governor of the Region of Tillabéry validating the new COFOCOM members. To be legally recognised the 12 COFOB need a decree validating the new COFOB structures signed by the Mayor of Tamou. The decrees are actually being signed by the adequate authorities. This doesn't prevent the COFOB and COFOCOM to start their work.

See report annex 4.1



Figure 1: Renewal of the COFOBs



Figure 2: Renewal of the COFOCOM

1.2 Training of 65 COFOB/COFOCOM members on land tenure law, land transaction law and communal conflict management

10 COFOCOM members, 4 technical communal staffs and 36 COFOB members including 12 COFOBs president, 12 COFOB general secretaries and 12 women's leaders were trained on land tenure, forest resources management, land transaction law and conflict resolution to support land protection and conservation. The training took place between from 25th to 27th of March 2019 in Tamou.

The other COFOB members will be trained in May 2019. This include the local representative of famers and herders for good coexistences and low conflict. However, importance of this training to the communities and the interrelationship between the villages made the Maire to suggest the training of at least the leader of the neighbouring village COFOB to uniformed and bring common understanding of the management of the resources.

1.4 Update land use maps of the Tamou Faunal Reserve

The mapping of the 12 targeted villages as well as the Tamou Faunal Reserve will be started in the 2nd year of the project. The project team have undertaken this activity with the consultation of the management of the reserve, the local communities in the 12 villages, the land management structures and the administrative authorities to identify the management problems of the reserve and the surrounding villages. Hot spot areas of vulnerable and highly degraded land were also identified around the Reserve. These will benefit from our water and soil conservation and rehabilitation actions and the assisted natural regeneration. This assessment will also inform the update of the land use maps. The maps will be developed after the development of the local convention in year 2 (see activity 1.5).

Work carried out by the consultant for the ecological survey helped provide baseline data for the current land use, which will feed into the process of defining the conventions and updating the maps.

1.5 Development of 12 local conventions and one management plan for the Tamou Faunal Reserve based on the updated land use maps.

The process began in February and is in progress. The concertation meeting between project staff, the management unit of the park, other NGOs intervening in the reserve and the administrative and communal authorities surrounding the Park W in February 2019 in Tapoa aimed to start the identification of common resources in the peripheral areas subject to management. It also allowed the participants to discuss the legal framework in place including the management plan of the WTBR and how the local conventions and the management plan will fit in it. During the meeting an intervention mechanism for the protection and conservation of the WTBR were also set up. The conservator (head of park management) agreed to put in place a work team from stakeholders and the management unit of the WTBR to develop the management plan of the reserve. He will also lead the implementation of the local conventions.

The ecological survey conducted at the end of March 2019 will also feed into the process of agreeing the 12 local conventions.

1.7 Training of the population on Soil and Water Conservation Techniques (SWC) and Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) techniques.

The project planned to train 600 lead farmers in SWC techniques in year one and then the same 600 in Assisted Natural Regeneration in year two. However, to achieve our goal we changed the training approach by training one group (from half of the villages) in both sets of skills. The other 6 communities will be trained at the beginning of year 2. The training is tailored to make it practical, participatory and more understandable to local farmers. The training took place from 20th to 26th of March in 6 villages in two phases. The first phase consisted of the projection documentary films on sustainable land management by William Critchley of VU University of Amsterdam. The second was practical field demonstrations on the different techniques.

- 733 peoples attended the films projection and the theoretical training, 46% of women
- 477 peoples participated to the field practical demonstration, 51% of women

- 241 lead farmer volunteered to adopt the techniques on their farmland of which 50% are women.



Figure 3: practical training

More farmers, than expected attended the training, though not 100% have taken up the approaches. The team will be aiming to increase the number of farmers adopting the practice in the next 6 villages in order to hit the 600 farmers needed to adopt the techniques and then train 5 other people.

Prior to the training, equipment was distributed to each village. In each village, a committee was set up to monitor and facilitate the access to these equipment's to all villagers.



Figure 4: Distribution of material

The project staff will monitor the application of the techniques and the proliferation of the knowledge through training by the lead farmers. The following table outlines who was trained and who has adopted the techniques:

Training	Village	Number of participants in the theoretical training	Number of participants in the practical training	Farmers willing to apply the techniques on their land	Number of women in the theoretical training	Number of women in the practical training
SWC/ ANR	Weygorou	82	73	29	31	22
	Tolondi	109	88	34	27	22
	Diagoga	167	91	57	99	52
	Léledji	149	84	38	73	54
	Baniguite	99	44	37	58	24
	Alanbare	127	97	46	50	71
	Total	733	477	241	338	245

1.8 Training of the population on the plantation and management of trees (follow-up activities from M&E budget).

This activity was started in the final quarter of year 1 as planned and focused on the 3 established nurseries. Some of the budget has been used for the training of those running the nurseries in the villages Baniguiti, Leledje and Djagoga. These nursery workers will help in training the community in management of trees. Their capacity has been reinforced in maintenance methods, seedling production and tree management. With the remaining budget a specific session is planned in the second year nearer the time for planting to ensure that trees are well planted.

1.9 Setting up 3 nurseries and training of the 9 nursery staff.

Prior to the establishment of the three nurseries, the project agreed site selection by identifying sites that provide all the necessary requirement for nursery establishment: water availability, land for the nursery and people willing to produce and raise seedling. 3 nursery sites were granted by villagers. The three nurseries are fenced and equipped with seeds from certified sources and planting material.

20,000 plants are being produced in the nurseries (7,000 in Djagoga, 7,000 in Leledji and 6,000 in Baniguitti). A group work was organised at village level and coffee break or lunch were served to encourage participation. Regular monitoring and close supervision is provided by the field staff and the communal Manager of the environment of Tamou for the production period of the plants which last 6 months (February to August).



Figure 5: Nursery establishment

Output 2 Developed partnership between Park W management authorities and local communities in order to protect the biodiversity of the WTBR/Niger

2.1 Local exchange forum between the forest guards, the management unit of the WTBR and 24 patrol members in order to establish system of data collection, protection and surveillance.

An exchange forum took place between the forest guard, the 24 patrol team members, the local informants and the management unit of the WTBR in October 2018. A total of 78 persons participated in the meeting. The objective was to assign each person their duty and set up the rule for their activities, good behaviour and good collaboration. For the project two key types of information are required: the first one related to Wildlife incursion and damages on domestic resources (livestock and crops) around the target communities. The second related to natural resources destruction, mutilation and degradation by local communities in the WTBR. It was reiterated clearly to each staff and group (local informers, Eco guards and park agents), their roles, the way to collaborate, how to collect data; which kind of data, who to contact for, and where to send data.

The agreed system is that when local informants collect data they should share it to the project through the village extension officers and the forest guards. In case of urgent issues, they should contact the park management unit or project staff directly for action. These problems should be solved base at the park level or at the higher level depending on the degree of complexity (see activity 2.9).

This was reinforced by another exchange forum held in March 2019 at Tapoa and which included the Eco Guards, the W Park Management Unit and local informants. The objective was to discuss the progress made in their collaboration but also to establish the data collection, protection and monitoring system. 50 participants were involved.

2.2 Exchange forum with the different departments of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the project partners.

A high-level exchange forum was held on the 22nd of January between different the departments (forest management, forest protection and wildlife conservation) of the Ministry of the Environment, the project staff and the management unit of the WTBR. The forum which regrouped 18 Directors and representative of environment institutions has discussed the main problems of the W national park and proposed some solutions.

The forum stated the critical threats to the WTBR and their origins. Most of these threats affecting the peripheral area including the Tamou reserve also affect the park W. The threats identified are: the extreme poverty in the area, combined with a strong population growth in the periphery and the effect of climate change (e.g changing rain patterns and frequent drought.), which has modified the ecosystem. Many resolutions have come out from the forum including the conservation of the biodiversity and the development of economic activities to strengthen communities' resilience and adaptation to the consequences of climate change and reduce illegal forest exploitation and conversion to agricultural land. The necessity for the park authority to express their needs in term of staff and logistics to the Resources manager of the Ministry of Environment was also mentioned. The Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Tourism should work together to promote touristic activities in the WTBR.

2.3 Training of the 24 patrol members on the different fauna species in the area and on data collection

24 local informants were trained in October 2018 to improve their knowledge of species, collection and transmission of data on wildlife and environmental problems. The forest staff were also trained to assist them in data collections, data storage and transmission.



Figure 6: the local informants

2.4 Development of a coordination unit for local patrol and follow up activities.

24 key local informants have been selected (2 from each village). They signed a good behaviour guidance document which includes their engagement for this volunteer work. The local informants were also equipped with bicycles, phones and notes books to facilitate their movement, communication and reporting. A coordination unit was set up for and is composed of the park w management unit staff (conservator, deputy conservator, the chief of the biodiversity management and conservation, the chief of the ecological monitoring and the chief guard) as well as some project staff. The coordination unit receive data directly from the local informants. Some actions are needed the forest guards will be informed.

2.5 Awareness raising programme on the value of the park.

An awareness campaign on the value of the park and the need to protect it took place in January 2019 in the 12 villages. The campaign reached a total of 917 people including 487 men and 430 women. The objective was to promote good management of the WTBR resources through the involvement, of local communities.



Figure 7: Awareness Campaign in one of the village

2.6 Organization of village awareness campaigns in the project area on wildlife behaviour and HWC prevention strategies.

This activity, originally planned to be started in the final quarter of year 1, has been delayed until April 2019 and will take into account the learning from year 1 HWC location and types of incidence as well as utilising the demonstration plots for practical examples.

2.7. Organization of training sessions in the targeted villages on the HWC strategies of prevention and mitigation strategies

To facilitate the implementation of certain activities, the project has clustered villages together into 3 groups (grappes) – see HWC map. For this training, 120 people (20 women) were trained in 3 different training sessions- one in each “grappe” (Allambaré, Wérégorou and Tolondi) - on the techniques of prevention and management of HWC and the importance of the HWC mitigation mechanisms in the area. The trained people (10 people selected per village) should relay the knowledge gained to other members of the community. This activity involves a high risk of dealing with wild animals, and so enrolment of women is very low.

2.8 Establishment of demonstration plots for physical protection techniques against Human-Wildlife conflicts

6 demonstration plots have been installed between August and October 2018. These consisted of fencing a plot with interlaced fences equipment, dried wood and cuttings of comifora africana cuttings and chilli seeds planted round the fence to make it stronger and avoid the wild animal to enter by forcing the fence. These fenced plots help to secure the livestock against the attacks of large carnivores, such as Lion and Hyena. It will allow the beneficiaries to reduce the losses of their livestock, and to stop the reprisals of the populations on the fauna.

2.9 Establishment of an early warning system (follow-up activities in M&E)

Each of the 24 local informants received a mobile phone equipped with a camera for collecting and transmitting data to the management unit of the WTBR (especially the conservator) and the project team. When the problem is minor the conservator directly take action, if the problem is more important, it is transmitted to the National Direction of parks and reserves and even to the Minister.

A contract was signed with the Moov-Niger telephone company to facilitate the communication.

Output 3 Supporting local economic development through the establishment 10 VTEs based on sustainable forest product value chains

3.1 Training on MA&D for the 10 VTEs

The project staff were trained on the MA&D methodology by the NTFP lead before he left the project. This gave CoGeZoH staff the capacity to be able to support the VTEs through the MA&D process including the development of their enterprise development plans.

Phase 1 of the MA&D training – focused on assessing the existing situation, understand the issues, define the problems and opportunities, and shortlisting a range of products – was undertaken at the end of year 1 with representatives of each of the VTEs that have been

established. As the VTEs have already selected their products, the work can move quickly through phase 1 and 2 of the process. In order to do that, TREE AID and CoGeZoH will carry out capacity assessments of the VTEs in Q1 y2 and then the specific needs in term of training and equipment will be addressed.

3.2 Follow up on the 10 VTEs established and distribution of equipment/material

The 10 VTEs were identified and established in year 1. They are organised based on the products they will transform and sell. The process of assessing their capacity and of their registration is in progress and will be completed in April. Following the assessment, the VTEs will receive the adequate equipment/material (early year 2). The current membership is known to be as follows: 195 women and 20 men

The products identified are honey (4 VTEs), soaps made from balanites and neem oils and ointments made from the balanites oil and waste product from honey refinement and a neem-based mosquito-repellent (5 VTEs). Finally, there is one based on gum arabic.

The RHoMIS results (attached below as annex 4.1) showed that more than 50% of households are already collecting balanites, so the fact that it forms part of the enterprise plans makes sense. Honey is currently only collected by 3% of the respondents but showed a high return as the median income from this was the most lucrative of any NTFP at \$615.85 per year.

The report also showed that NTFP income is a significant part of the wealthier quartile interviewed – making up 12% of income – which would suggest that increasing income from NTFP products will increase average household income too.

Project Start up, Monitoring and Evaluation

1.1 Project launch workshop

The project was more formally launched on the 15th of November 2018 at Say the main city of the district. The workshop was led by the prefect of Say and saw the participation of administrative authorities, the national Director of fauna and protected area resources conservation, and other technical staff from the ministry of Environment as well as the project staff from TREE AID and COGEZOH. In total 33 persons participated to this activity.

The main objective was to present the project objectives and activities to the stakeholders involved directly or indirectly in the implementation of the project.

1.2 Workshop to define the M&E plan with the partner.

A workshop was held in Niamey, in a meeting room of the general Directorate of the water and forest resources management from 1st to 3rd of August in order to define the monitoring and evaluation plan for the project. The workshop regrouped staff from TREE AID UK, TREE AID Burkina, TREE AID Niger, local implementing partner (COGEZOH), the WTBR management unit and the Ministry of Environment also in charge of wildlife and biodiversity conservation. The three days meeting have brought a common understanding of the project, defined M&E plan, outlined activity schedules and defined the role of the stakeholder in the project.

1.3 Establishment of project baseline (baseline on biodiversity)

A consultant specialising in forest ecology and strong experience in the project area has been selected in March to conduct the study. The start of the activity was delayed due to the difficulties of finding a qualified consultant able to the study.

A draft of the report is available as annex 4.5. The survey has provided an analysis of current land use, biodiversity, governance structures, adoption of good practices, and suggestions of how these could be improved. Furthermore, GPS' monitoring plots have been established and baselined so that the evolution of the biodiversity can be tracked over time.

Some key recommendations from the report are:

- Definition of important species should take into account utilisation for food as the products are used to fill food deficits during the lean period.

- The biggest threat for a seedling is from on grazing and drought. Fruit species with low vegetative propagation capacity are declining as observed in the decommissioned area (once part of Tamou Reserve) because seedlings are constantly browsed and / or trampled by livestock. The current situation is that most tree stands have a few mature individuals and very few juvenile trees growing.
- Key for municipalities (in the context of decentralisation) to identify potential resources that can generate revenue, which are being exploited in an uncontrolled manner.
- Conventions should focus on:
 - o restoration and rehabilitation of degraded grazing areas through their seeding in herbaceous plants of good forage value and the protection of the natural regeneration of fodder woody plants
 - o Ensuring that State, development partners and local populations are involved and their obligations clear in the sustainable use and management of resources.
 - o The definition of a participatory farmer strategy for the conservation of food species;
 - o A definition of the practical conditions for the rehabilitation of so-called priority species;
 - o Sensitization of local stakeholders on the good practice of exploiting woody species.
 - o Restoration of degraded spaces
 - o Establishment of village environmental monitoring committees
 - o Continue research on local plant knowledge to preserve this rich heritage for future generations.
 - o Plantations or the development of the practice of assisted natural regeneration of emblematic species should be encouraged in cultivated fields.

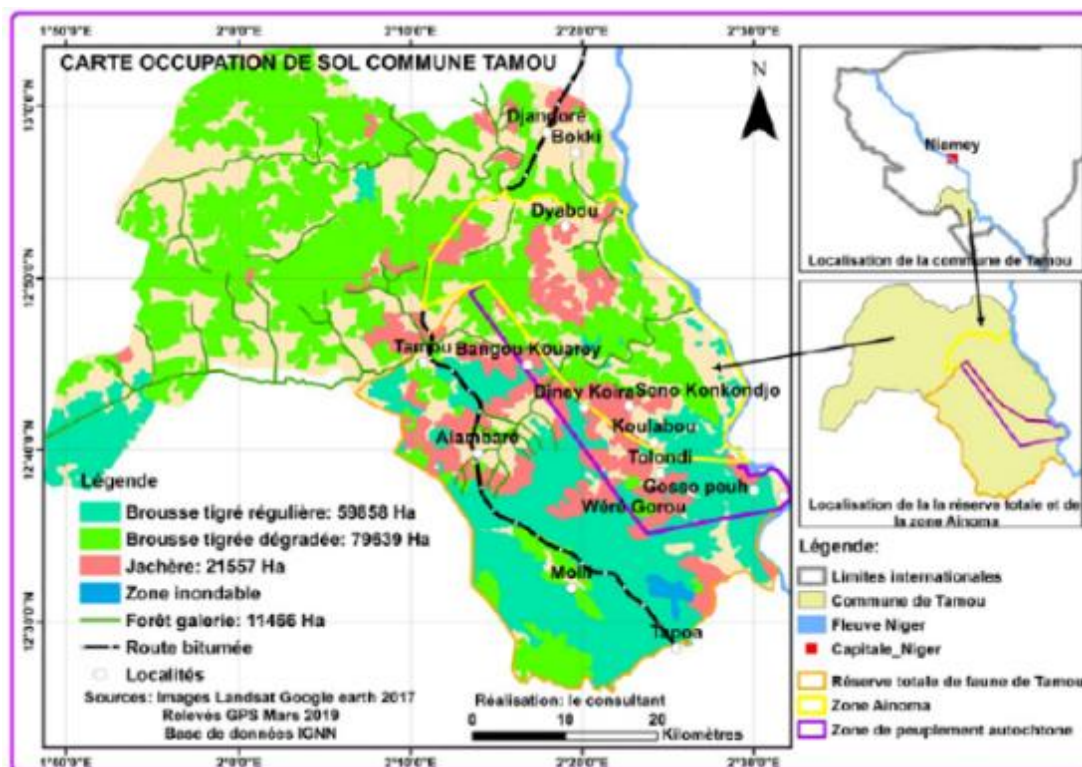


Figure 8: Land use map for Tamou Commune

1.4 RHoMIS (Socio-economy baseline)

The socio-economic study was conducted in December using RHOMIS (Rural House hold survey) to define the base line data in the project area. This will allow to evaluate the achievement of the project in term of economic development at the end of the project. It was conducted across

16 communities – 11 project communities and 5 control. 266 people were interviewed (170 of them project households and 93 non-project households).

Enumerators and CoGeZoH staff were trained by TREE AID UK/TREE AID Burkina Faso staff with experience in training and collecting this data. Some of the relevant results have been included in the logframe baselines and in the narrative reporting against activities and indicators.

1.5 Training M&E collection for the partner

Field staff and technical partners were trained in October 2018 in the TREE AID office on data collection and improving their knowledge to good deliver and monitor the project activities.

1.7 Quarterly follow up by TREE AID

The TREE AID Country Programme Manager for Niger conducted two monitoring visits to the project sites during this year. The visits enabled him to exchange with the local authorities, the technical services, the project team and the local community about the activities and the challenges they faced. Above all, they made it possible to monitor the levels of implementation of project activities and provide practical advice to the project team. He also helped the implementation of the activities of the output 1. The technical staff from the Tamou commune and the District of Say were also involved in the monitoring visits.

TREE AID UK Lead Technical Advisor also visited the project during the period. During his visits, he trained TREE AID Niger and COGEZOH staff as well as the enumerator on the collection of data for the RHoMIS. He also provided technical and practical advice to the project staff.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output Indicator 1.1: 12 COFOB and 1 COFCOM (40% women as members) are established by year 1 and effectively functioning by year 2

We reached our year 1 target. 12 COFOB were restructured and the ratio of women increased from zero to 40 % (2 women out of 5 top members). For the COFOCOM installed the ratio of women has increased from 10% to 28% after the renewal of the structure, which – from the evaluation – seemed to have completely lapsed.

48 COFOB and COFOCOM members out of 65 planned were trained on text and low governing the management of natural resources and land transaction as well as on and conflict management. The remaining members will be trained in April.

Output indicator 1.2: 12 local conventions and one management plan for Tamou Faunal Reserve developed by year 2

The development of the local conventions and the management plans is progressing and should be finished by the second year of the project as planned.

Output indicator 1.3: 40,000 seedlings (from the 3 nurseries established by the project) planted (by year 3) including Khaya senegalensis and Acacia spp species (threatened species) in the peripheral area of the WTBR Year 2: 20 000 and year 3: 20 000

3 nurseries were established and 20 000 plants are in production this year. Among the species we have Adansonia digitate (Baobab), Acacia spp, Eucalyptus, etc. They will be ready to be planted during the rainy season between May and September.

Output indicator 1.4: 70% of the people interviewed acknowledged that their community is involved in the sustainable management of the WTBR by the end of the project Year 1:30% , Year 2: 40% and Year 3: 70%

Our Rural Household Multi Indicator Survey (RHoMIS) showed that communities in our targeted villages feel more engaged in the sustainable management of the WTBR than in other villages. If one takes the respondents for 'Very Well engaged' and 'Moderate engagement' together, then 70% of respondents felt that they are engaged already. This is vs just 52% in control villages. We expect to see the acknowledged engagement in the project villages rise further over the course of the project.

Project Villages

Very well engaged: 57/170 (34%)

Moderate engagement: 62/170 (36%)

No engagement: 9/170 (5%)

Do not know: 39/170 (23%)

Na: 3/170 (2%)

Control Villages

Very well engaged: 10/93 (11%)

Moderate engagement: 38/93 (41%)

No engagement: 8/93 (9%)

Do not know: 37/93 (40%)

Na: 0/93 (0%)

Total Survey

Very well engaged: 67/263 (25%)

Moderate engagement: 100/263 (38%)

No engagement: 17/263 (6%)

Do not know: 76/263 (29%)

Na: 3/263 (1%)

Output indicator 1.5 a): 100% of the lead farmers (600) incorporated good natural resource management practices on their land by year 3 Year 1: 70% Year 2:90% Year 3: 100%

477 lead farmers have been trained on the SWC and ANR techniques during the first year of the project. The rest of the lead farmers will be trained during the second year of the project. 241 farmers are already implementing the techniques learn on their farmland. The project will continue to follow the lead farmers to ensure that all the people trained properly apply the techniques. The project team will start monitoring the progress of this indicator in June as the best period to apply the SWC and ANR techniques on farmland is from April to June/July (beginning of the rainy period).



Figure 9: women participating to the practical session of the training



Figure 10: the participants of the practical training

Output indicator 1.6 b): 80% of the farmers trainers by the lead farmers incorporated good natural resource management practices on their land by year 3, Year 2: 50 % Year 3: 80%

The training of the lead farmers on ANR and SWC will be completed in the first quarter of year 2. They will then responsible to train each 5 other farmers during year 2 and a post-training adoption survey will be undertaken.

Output indicator 2.1: Coordinated community patrol (24 members) system established and reporting to Park W management by year 1

The indicator progress can be estimated at 100% the patrol team is in place, local informants were equipped with materials that facilitate their works (bicycles, phone etc.) and are trained. They are collecting data on illegal activities and HWC.

Output indicator 2.2: 70% of the people interviewed perceived the park W as being a valuable resource to protect by the end of the project (Year 1: 30%, Year 2: 50% and Year 3: 100%)

Our RHoMIS showed that the overwhelming majority of respondents already value the park and that it should be protected. Only 4.62% responded that it was not valuable and even less that it shouldn't be protected. However, the Knowledge Attitude and Practices survey planned for year one was not undertaken. This will be done in year 2 to check progress with less binary questions to have a more insightful understanding of people's perceptions.

A first awareness campaign took place on the value of the park and the needs of protection. The campaign reached a total of 917 people including 487 men and 430 women.

Output indicator 2.3: 120 (40% women) people trained on protection measures to protect crops and livestock from wild animals from the Park W (e.g. beehives, spices) by year 1 and Demonstration plots established by year 2

The target of this indicator has been achieved. 120 peoples (including 20 women), were trained in March 2019, on protection measures to protect crops and livestock from wild animals from the Park. In addition, the 6 demonstrated plots have been already installed.

Output indicator 2.4: 80% persons trained (96) have implemented at least one HWC prevention and mitigation strategy by the end of the project Year 1: 60% Year 2: 70% and year 3:80%

The training was done in March 2019, there is need to follow up to verify the adoption in year 2 with a post-training survey. This project staff will visit regularly the people trained to support them in the application of the prevention and mitigation strategy taught.

Output indicator 3.1: 10 VTE groups (175 women and 75 men) based on the production, processing and marketing of NTFPs established by year 1, functional by year 2 and profitable by year 3

10 VTEs were selected and the products that they will developed identified. Their capacity assessment is progressing, and it will to help inform the best investment of time and money to

get them functional in year 2. The RHoMIS results showed that NTFPs in general, and the products selected, are viable income sources in the locality (see activity 3.2).

Output indicator 3.2: 3 agreements between VTE groups and buyers signed by year 3 (1 year 2 and 2 year 3)

No progress has been made toward this towards this indicator as we need first to train and equip the VTEs to make them completely functional before linking them to buyers.

Output indicator 3.3: 3 linkages with financial institutions established with VTEs by year 3

No progress has been made toward this indicator as we need first to train and equip the VTEs to make them completely functional before linking them to financial institutions

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Outcome indicator 1: 7,600 hectares in the peripheral area of the WTBR including Tamou Faunal Reserve benefit from improved management of natural resources by local communities with the support of the technical services of Tamou commune by year 3

The local management structures (COFOB and COFOCOM) are in place and have received training on the sustainable management of natural resources. The local conventions and management plan for the Tamou reserve are in development and will be finalised next year, as planned. Their objective is to create the conditions for the sustainable management of the reserve and the peripheral areas.

Outcome indicator 2: Reduction by 30% from baseline of illegal activities (e.g. tree cutting, land clearing, harvesting, fishing) in the WTBR (adjacent to Tamou) by year 3

The project local informants are collecting information on this indicator. Thus far, not a huge amount of data has been captured, raising questions over whether or not particular villages suffer from illegal practices more than others (and why?) and whether or not informants feel emboldened enough to note down illegal activities or not. Of the 5 incidents noted, only 3 villages are covered and 3 come from just one village. Follow-up will be made with the informants as to whether or not this is a true reflection and what challenges there may be in collecting data. The data collected can be seen in the table below:

Informant	Location	Act	Service Informed	Results	Date
Soumana Yombo	Wérégorou	Unknown transporters of green wood from the Park	Base of Tapoa	Arresting of offenders	October 2018
Ali Amadou	Baniguité	Unknown collectors of dead wood in the reserve	Guard Post Alambaréok	Arresting of offenders	October 2018
Ounténi Tchayénou	Molli Haoussa	Unknown collectors of dead wood in the reserve	Guard Post of Molli	Offenders run away	December 2018
Ounténi Tchayénou	Molli Haoussa	Clearing of several hectares	Alambaré Guard Post	Arresting of offenders	February 2019
Ounténi Tchayénou	Molli Haoussa	Illegal wood cutting	Alambaré Guard Post	Arresting of offenders	February 2019

Outcome indicator 3: Reduction of frequency of human- wildlife conflict incidents (destruction of crops and livestock, human injuries from wildlife including from threatened species) by 50% from baseline by year 3 in the WTBR peripheral area

Sensitisation and awareness raising on the impact of the coexistence among human and wildlife and the resulting conflict, the installation of demonstration plots for domestic animals and the training on prevention and mitigation of wildlife human conflicts will significantly contribute to the achievement of this Outcome indicator.

Data collected throughout the year has enabled analysis of which animals are coming into contact with the communities more regularly and where. The figure below shows where the incidence of HWC is occurring most. Data has been collected on the type of animals, the cause of the conflict (targeted resources) and things like whether or not it was day or night. The total number of conflicts recorded is 141.

This information will help inform the project team as to where certain interventions may be necessary to help reduce the HWC.

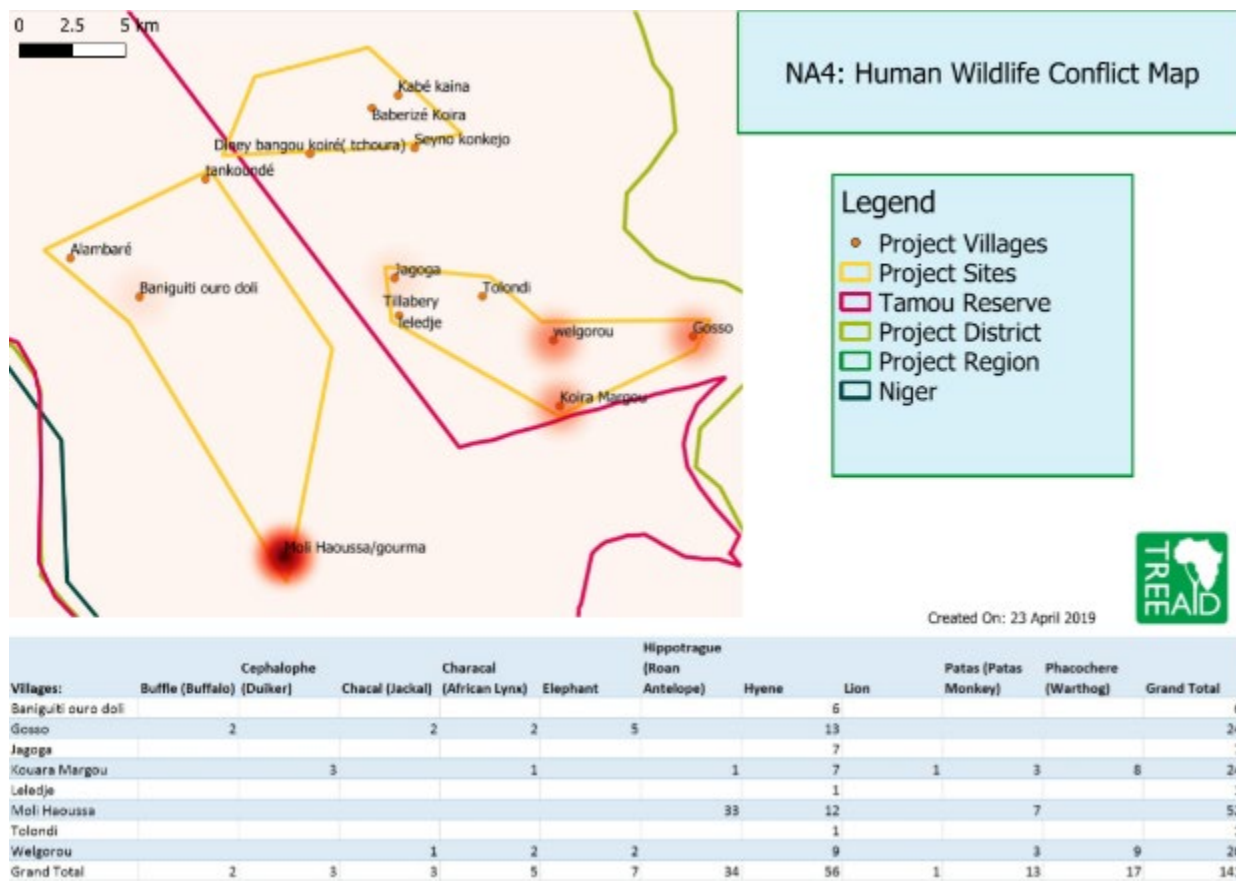


Figure 11: Map of Human-Wildlife Conflict in project villages

Outcome indicator 4: Increased income from NTFPs by 100% from baseline for the 250 household involved in VTEs by the end of year 3

Data collected through the RHoMIS survey shows that the mean average annual NTFP income amongst project beneficiaries is: \$402.87.

For the 21 members of VTEs that responded to the survey the mean average income from NTFPs was \$1157 (skewed by one or two large incomes derived from people working in the honey value chain).

The median NTFP income for VTE members was \$353.

This will be monitored again at the end of the project for members of VTE groups.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Outcome assumptions:

Assumption 1: Legislation and decentralisation of natural resource management remains favourable to local authorities

Comments: Still true

Assumption 2: The local communities work together in forest protection and tree planting activities

Comments: Still true

Assumption 3: Community nurseries will be well functioning and organised, following training and provision of materials (output 1). They will have the capacity to cultivate the required amount of seedlings

Comments: Still true

Output assumptions:

Assumption 4: TREE AID and COGEZOH are able to effectively engage community members to participate in the forest management

Comments:

Assumption 5: Training is effective in building the NRM capacity and knowledge of biodiversity of the communities

Comments:

Assumption 6: TREE AID and COGEZOH are able to effectively engage community members on the HWC activities

Comments:

Assumption 7: Climatic conditions continue to favour the products value chains of selected by the VTEs

Comments:

The risks:

Violence/political insecurity:

The Tillabery department including Say and Tamou project areas was declared in December 2018 by the government an insecure zone at high level risk. As result the project team, are very vigilant and are taking extra security measures when traveling. The security situation is monitored closely by the project team. Up to now, the situation didn't prevent the implementation of any activity.

The other risks are unchanged and are still true

Fraud/corruption: Effective financial management procedures with checks and balances across stakeholders to prevent fraud and corruption will be established. TREE AID will review partner expenditure and supporting documentation. The procurement of equipment and recruitment of consultants will be carried out in accordance to TREE AID procurement procedures to ensure transparency and value for money.

Climatic change/weather: To reduce the adverse impacts of climate change on the local community (including drought), communities will be trained in effective planning of NRM actions.

Benefits not shared sufficiently with women: For this project, women are being actively targeted to ensure they are the majority recipient of NTFP benefits. Training activities will be designed to build women's capacities to negotiate with buyers, and they will be encouraged to take leadership positions.

Partner narrative and financial reporting capacity: To reduce the risk of delay in reporting, TREE AID will train partners in reporting procedures and closely monitor its partner and request regular internal interim reports.

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

By improving the management of 7,600 hectares in the WTBR and the sustainable land management skills of 3,000 smallholder farmers and developing enterprises based on NTFP products the project will protect and restore the biodiversity of the WTBR while contributing to poverty reduction. We will work with members of 13 COFOB/COFOCOM to improve their skills and knowledge in order for them to develop and implement participatory governance (including local conventions and management plans). The plantation of 40,000 threatened indigenous tree species in the WTBR by communities will set in motion restoration of biodiversity, thereby strengthening key resources which local livelihoods rely on. The creation of 10 VTEs based on NTFP products from outside the protected areas of the WTBR, will create an incentive for the communities to protect and sustainably managed the natural resources while improving livelihoods and increase incomes. Through these viable economic opportunities, people will be empowered with new, alternative livelihoods to alleviate poverty and increase their well-being, whilst also preventing exploitation of resources from Park W.

During this first year of implementation, the 3 project nurseries have been set up and the nursery staff trained. 20,000 tree seedlings are currently being grown and will be planted in year 2. The process to develop the local conventions and the management plan for the Tamou started. The COFOB and COFOCOM in charge of the sustainable management of the shared natural resources were re-structured and trained in order to be able to full-fill their role.

The 10 VTEs have been selected as well as the product they will transform and commercialise. The capacity assessment of the VTEs is progressing. This is essential to determine the training and the equipment to provide to each VTEs.

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

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): This project contributes to various SDGs, including: **Goal 15: Life on Land.** This project contributes strongly to this SDG, which includes the target: *“By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.”* This project will contribute to the sustainable management of WTBR, while contributing to reforestation and the restoration of degraded forests through the regeneration of threatened species. This year 20,000 are in production in the nurseries and 481 lead farmers have been trained on SWC and ANR techniques. In addition, the process of developing local conventions and a management plan for Tamou reserve started.

Goal 1: End Poverty in all its forms everywhere. The project will support households in targeted villages to form 10 new Village Tree Enterprises (VTEs), in order to increase incomes from the production, processing and sale of NTFPs, to provide sustainable livelihoods and reduce local poverty. The project will also reduce the frequency of HWC incidents, enabling further economic development. This year, the 10 VTEs have been selected as well as the product they will transform and commercialise. The capacity building of the VTEs will be organised next year. In addition, 120 people were trained on the techniques of prevention and management of HWC and the importance of the HWC mitigation mechanisms in the area. 6 demonstrated plots for physical protection techniques against Human-Wildlife conflicts have been set-up. Finally, 24 local informants forming the local patrol have been selected and trained. They are in charge of collecting data on any HWC incidents.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. TREE AID and local partners will actively work to target women and ensure inclusion in all activities. This will involve overcoming certain barriers around women’s perceived traditional roles in the intervention areas, through knowledge-sharing, training, equipment and discussion. Women will be engaged in initiatives including forest management, NRM and VTE activities. This year 245 women were trained on ANR and SWC techniques out of 481 participants. 12 women’s leaders participated to the training on land tenure law, transaction law and communal conflict management.

5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

Our project aims to contribute to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), particularly the article 8 (c, d, e and f) on the in-situ Conservation and the article 10 c) on the sustainable use of components of biological diversity. It also contributes to the aichi target 5, 7, 12 and 14 and to the Strategic goal B, C and D

In 2014, Niger adopted a new National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for implementing the CBD at the national level. Objective 1 of the Strategy is to “conserve and sustainably exploit ecosystems, species and genetic resources” and objective 3 is to “improve and develop tools for managing protected areas”. The project will contribute to this by working with communities to improve their capacities on forest governance and NRM and their collaboration with Park W authorities to effectively conserve and manage forests, while increasing economic benefits through strengthening VTEs.

The project team is regularly in contact with the Executive Secretary of the National Council for Environment and Sustainable Development, who is the focal point of the CBD in Niger. This department of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development is a strategic partner for the project and with whom project data and results are shared.

Staff from the Ministry of Environment are actively participating to the project. They attended the programme start up workshop as well as the project launch and the high-level exchange forum on the 22nd of January. They are also involved in the early warning system when needed.

6. 1. Project support to poverty alleviation

The project aims to increase income from NTFPs by 100% for the 250 people involved in the NTFPs enterprise (outcome indicator 4). These people will be able to use the increased income to meet their basic household needs. Women, who are the most significantly impacted by poverty, compose 91% of the direct recipients of this support. Because of the sustainable nature of the NTFP enterprise interventions, household income increases will continue after project completion. Additionally, by connecting VTEs with buyers and financial institutions, they will be empowered to continue their income generating activities and benefit in the long-term. To achieve this objective VTEs members will be trained on MA&D and equipped in order to increase their productivity and their profit. This activity had a face a small delay. The 10 VTEs have been selected as well as the product they will transform and commercialise. However, their capacity assessment is still on going. This capacity assessment is essential to know which the training and equipment they need. The MA&D and the distribution of the equipment will start shortly after (beginning of year 2) Furthermore, 3,000 will be trained in good natural resource management practices in order to increase their land productivity (crop yields). This will contribute in the long term to increase the household income and so participating to the sustainable reduction of poverty in the project area. This year 481 lead famers have been trained on SWC and ANR techniques. Additional lead farmers will be trained in year 2. They will be then responsible to train other farmers in their communities during year 2.

The reduction in HWC incidents will also allow greater economic development of the local communities through protection of their livelihoods (agriculture and livestock) as well as reducing the pressure on wildlife. 120 people have already been trained on the techniques of prevention and management of HWC and the importance of the HWC mitigation mechanisms in the area. 6 demonstrated plots for physical protection techniques against Human-Wildlife conflicts have been set-up.

Through these viable economic opportunities, people will be empowered with new, alternative livelihoods to alleviate poverty and increase their well-being, whilst also preventing exploitation of resources from Park W.

7. Project support to gender equality issues

The project is actively targeting women and ensure inclusion in project inputs and outcomes (e.g. 40% training attendance). This involves tackling certain barriers around women's perceived traditional roles. To ensure women's effective participation and long-term attitudinal change, we employ proven techniques such as sensitising community leaders and project stakeholders to gender issues. Women will be supported to actively participate in governance structures (e.g. 40% women in COFOB/COFCOM) and management arrangements across all outputs in order to increase their capacity to understand and implement sustainable forest management and their sense of ownership over natural resources. It will also increase women's voice and community decision-making power. Additionally, 70% of VTE members will be women. Through these women will be empowered by contributing household income, increasing their skills and confidence through training, and taking up leadership positions within VTEs. This will increase women's voice in household decision-making and control over their lives

This year 245 women were trained on ANR and SWC techniques out of 481 participants. 12 women's leaders participated to the training on land tenure law, transaction law and communal conflict management. In addition, with the re-structuration of the land tenure commissions, the COFOCOM have now 28% of women and the COFOB 40% of women. Finally, the 10 VTEs selected have 195 women for 20 men so about 91% of women.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

TREE AID has invested in M&E staff, systems and tools which are utilised within this project, to effectively measure the outcomes and feed learning into adapting on-going project management.

A programme start-up workshop was carried out between TREE AID, COGEZOH, the Ministry of Environment and the WTBR management unit. The three days meeting have brought a common understanding of the project and the logical frame, defined M&E plan, and defined the role of the stakeholder in the project

Baseline were carried out this year in order to assess the current household status. TREE AID used the newly developed tool Rural Household Multi Indicator Survey (RHoMIS), to measure the socio-economic aspects of the outcome. RHoMIS is a rapid, cost-effective, digital household-level survey and analytical engine for characterising, targeting and monitoring household and natural resource practices. We used RHoMIS to capture detailed information around household level income from NTFPs. In addition, RHoMIS enabled us, to capture data beyond that outlined in the project logframe such as food security, livelihood strategies and women's decision-making power. This additional information gained understanding of the wider impacts of the project on the poverty and wellbeing of beneficiaries.

An ecological survey will be conducted at the beginning of the second year to assess the forest conditions, current state of biodiversity and characteristics of the land. A consultant specialist in forest ecology and strong experience in the project area has been selected in March to conduct the study.

These elements will be re-examined during the final evaluation.

Outputs indicators:

They are captured by the project team using TREE AID tools designed to capture regular and appropriate data. Data for key indicators are collected as detailed below:

Biological monitoring:

- The number of trees planted and regenerated are monitored through field surveys and observation every six months.

COFOB/COFCOM monitoring:

- COFOB/COFCOM records are used to collect data on group formation, function and membership numbers and composition (gender and social grouping), and NRM activities undertaken

VTE monitoring:

- Business records are used to collect data on enterprise development, function and membership numbers and composition (gender and social groups).

- Enterprise development plan (EDP) implementation will be monitored through self-monitoring by entrepreneurs as well as regular monitoring by the project team who will check the records and compare the results to the targets established in the EDP.

Monitoring training:

- After each training session participants is completing a survey asking, how effective they found the training, what new skills were picked up and how they plan to use the skills.

Monitoring of HWC incidents:

- After each incident, the local patrol members fill in an information sheet

Monitoring the change in knowledge, attitudes and practices

- A KAP survey will be used to monitor behaviour changes among the community during the second year of the project.

The **COGEZOH staff** responsible for directly implementing activities is **using monitoring tools and keep activity records** to ensure appropriate data collection (detailed above). COGEZOH provides also quarterly reports to TREE AID. COGEZOH management is carrying out frequent monitoring visits and present monitoring and financial reports.

TREE AID's Project Leader is carrying out **regular monitoring missions** including with the technical staff from the Tamou commune and the district of Say , which simultaneously includes capacity building initiatives for local communities and the field teams, as well as implementation of certain activities (namely towards Output 1).

The regular monitoring of progress will allow the project team to detect early signs of potential problems. Any issues and lessons identified will be discussed between project partners, and modifications made accordingly. In the same way any mid-course feedback from the donor, stakeholders or/and beneficiaries will be discussed, and the appropriate corrections made.

9. Lessons learnt

Some communities had to be encouraged to raise trees to be planted out. Group work was organised with the promise of coffee breaks and lunch in order to encourage active participation in seedling raising.

Further changes could be made to partner staffing structure using underspend from year 1. This (likely an upskilling of positions) is being explored and will be formally requested through the change request process if approved internally. This change will allow the implementing partner to gain in efficiency and to deliver activities and report of high quality. In addition, a capacity development plan for the implementing partner have been developed by the TREE AID team.

The number of COFOBs and COFOCOM that were not functional when analysed would suggest that plenty of work would need to be put in to ensuring their long-term sustainability.

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

N/A

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

N/A

12. Sustainability and legacy

The local and national authorities have been informed and involved throughout this first year of the project. First of all, they attended the project launch in august 2018. They were also involved in the re-structuration process of the COFOB and COFOCOM as well as in the local conventions and management plan development process. They will also be completely involved in the update of the land use maps. They participated to the local and the high-level exchange forums held respectively in October 2018 and in January 2019. Finally, they are part of the coordination units of the local patrols and of the early warning system.

Our exit strategy is still the same and the key activities are:

- Continued strengthening and building the capacity of the COFOB/COFOCOM to ensure a sustainable management of the forests and natural resources in the long-term
- Continue to support the close collaboration between the different project stakeholders (communities, park management unit and the Ministry of Environment). The relationships created will ensure the successful implementation of our project but also the long-term impact of our intervention.
- NRM capacity building, so village leaders and COFOB/COFOCO members can continue to carry out various NRM techniques following the project's end.
- The established community nurseries will continue to operate and produce seedlings after project completion, to be sold to farmers for agroforestry planting.
- Activities to increase VTEs capacities' to be fully functional in order for them to sustain and increase profits and linkages to businesses, so they continue to grow their businesses without further support

The technical reports and data sets derived through the project are made available as relevant through the TREE AID website and shared with appropriate stakeholders (Park W authorities, Niger CBD focal points and different departments of the Ministry of Environment). This will include:

- **Baseline Survey:** The baseline will include household survey and a participatory resource inventory to be completed at the start of the project.
- **Biodiversity data:** Fauna and flora data collected throughout the project will be shared with relevant authorities and institutions.
- **GPS Mapping:** All of the locations on which natural resource management activities will be carried out will be geo-referenced, to determine their specific coordinates and area. All HWC incidents in the peripheral area will also be geo-referenced and the data will be shared with the forest guards of the WTBR.

Photos and case studies about the project will be shared through our social media channels (facebook, twitter and linkedin).

13. Darwin identity

The Darwin logo is used on all the project equipment in order to advertise the origin of the funding. The Darwin logo was used on the motorbikes bought by the project.

Furthermore, as the information below shows, TREE AID has utilised its social media accounts to promote the relationship between Darwin and TREE AID and news about the project.

- And introduced the Niger project: <https://www.treeaid.org.uk/2018/protecting-biodiversity-in-a-world-heritage-site/>
- **Twitter** (6,455 followers): 8 Tweets from April 2018 – March 2019 tagged Darwin (see example tweets below).
- **Facebook** (5,845 followers): 4 posts from April 2018 – March 2019 tagging Darwin (see examples below).
- **LinkedIn** (1947 followers): 1 post tagged Darwin Initiative (see below).
- **UPDATE magazine** double-page feature (sent to more than 4,200 people) in March 2019 talks about Darwin Initiative: https://www.treeaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/TA_UPDATE_12pp_Mar19-WEB.pdf
- **Annual Review** 2017-2018 (more than 3,300 recipients) featured a thank you to Darwin: <https://www.treeaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/TREE-AID-Annual-Review-2017-18.pdf>

Twitter examples:



TREE AID @TREEAID · Jan 15

The global loss of forest habitat is one of the biggest causes of #climatechange around the world. With support from @Darwin_Defra we are fighting to change this. Read more at bit.ly/2Fq6y7r #transformationtuesday




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Facebook examples:

TREE AID Published by Hootsuite [9] · 15 January · 🌐

Read about how we are working with Darwin Initiative to protect biodiversity in National Park W in Niger.

Darwin Initiative 15 January · 🌐 [Like Page](#)



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TREE AID Published by Sally Airey [9] · 28 December 2018 · 🌐 [Like Page](#)

In 2018, we launched an exciting new initiative in a national park in Niger thanks to Darwin Initiative. Park W is the largest and most important ecosystem in the West African savannah belt and home to cheetahs, leopards, lions and the majority of elephants in West Africa. This blog explains all...



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People reached	8.2K	Landing page views	256
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👍❤️🗨️ David Powner, Ciprian Cismasu and 88 others 22 shares

14. Project expenditure

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

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2018/19 Grant (£)	2018/19 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL				

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

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2018 - March 2019	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>The W Trans-boundary Biosphere Reserve in Niger is a thriving ecosystem supported by local communities</p>		<p>During this first year of implementation, the 3 project nurseries have been set up and the staff trained. 20,000 tree seedlings are currently being grown and will be planted in year 2. The process to develop the local conventions and the management plan for the Tamou started. The COFOB and COFOCOM in charge of the sustainable management of the shared natural resources were re-structured and their training started in order to be able to full-fill their role.</p> <p>The 10 VTEs have been established. The capacity assessment of the VTEs is progressing.</p>	
<p>Outcome</p> <p>Threatened species protection and community forest management in the WTBR/Niger, supported by sustainable economic development of local communities.</p>	<p>0.1 7,600 hectares in the peripheral area of the WTBR including Tamou Faunal Reserve benefit from improved management of natural resources by local communities with the support of the technical services of Tamou commune by year 3</p> <p>0.2 Reduction by 30% from baseline of illegal activities (e.g. tree cutting, land clearing, harvesting, fishing) in the WTBR (adjacent to Tamou) by year 3</p> <p>0.3 Reduction of frequency of human-wildlife conflict incidents (destruction of crops and livestock, human injuries from wildlife including from threatened species) by 50% from baseline by year 3 in the WTBR peripheral area</p> <p>0.4 Increased income from NTFPs by 100% from baseline for the 250 household involved in VTEs by the end of year 3</p>	<p>0.1 Management plan and local conventions in development and capacity building of the COFOB and COFOCOM</p> <p>0.2 Establishment of the local patrol and the unit coordination of the unit of the patrol. Training and equipment of the local informant.</p> <p>0.3 6 demonstration plots in place and 120 people trained on the techniques of prevention and management of HWC. Set up of the early warning system.</p> <p>0.4 Selection of the 10 VTEs and capacity assessment started</p>	<p>01. Finalisation and validation of the Management plan and the local conventions. Update of the land use map.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>0.4 Training of the VTEs on MA&D and distribution of equipment.</p>

<p>Output 1. Local communities in 12 villages in the peripheral area of the park W have their capacities strengthened in sustainable forest management</p>	<p>1.1 12 COFOB and 1 COFOCOM (40% women as members) are established by year 1 and effectively functioning by year 2 1.2 12 local conventions and one management plan for Tamou Faunal Reserve developed by year 2 1.3 40,000 seedlings (from the 3 nurseries established by the project) planted (by year 3) including Khaya senegalensis and , Acacia spp species (threatened species) in the peripheral area of the WTBR Year2: 20 000 and year3: 20 000 1.4 70% of the people interviewed acknowledged that their community is involved in the sustainable management of the WTBR by the end of the project Year 1:30% , Year 2: 40% and Year 3: 70% 1.5 a)100% of the lead farmers (600) incorporated good natural resource management practices on their land by year 3 Year 1: 70% Year 2:90% Year 3: 100% b) 80% of the farmers trainers by the lead farmers incorporated good natural resource management practices on their land by year 3 Year 2 : 50 % Year 3: 80%</p>	<p>1.1 The 12 COFOC and the COFOCOM have been re-structured. 40% of the COFOB members are women and 38% of the COFOCOM. The new structure is being approved by the local authorities. The training have started and will continue in year 2.</p> <p>1.2 The local conventions and the management plan are under development. The process started in February 2019.</p> <p>1.3 The 3 nurseries have been set up and the staff trained. 20,000 tree seedlings are being grown and will be planted during the next planting season.</p> <p>1.4 Campaign on the value of the park and the needs of protection took place in January 2019 in the 12 villages. The campaign reached a total of 917 people including 487 men and 430 women.</p> <p>1.5 a) 481 lead farmers have been trained. 282 farmers are already applying the techniques. The monitoring for this indicator will happen starting from June as the best period to apply these techniques are from April to June/July.</p> <p>b) No progress, toward this indicator. The lead farmers will start the training of the other farmers next year</p>
<p>Activity 1.1 Assessment of the COFOBs and COFCOM in the intervention area</p>	<p>Activity completed</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Activity 1.2, Training of 65 COFOB/COFCOM members on land tenure law, land transaction law and communal conflict management.</p>	<p>Activity in progress 46 members trained</p>	<p>The other members will be trained in April 2019.</p>
<p>Activity 1.3 Support and follow up of the COFOBs/COFCOM especially on the development and implementation of the management plan and on the implementation of the local conventions</p>	<p>Activity due in y2.</p>	<p>The project team will provide support to each of the COFOB and COFOCOM for the implementation of the local conventions by the development of an</p>

		action plan in the months following the completion and approval of the conventions (expected Q1 y2).
Activity 1.4 Update land use maps of the Tamou Faunal Reserve	Activity in progress. Some information gathered through ecological study.	Update the land use map after conventions have been agreed
Activity 1.5 Development of 12 local conventions and one management plan for the Tamou Faunal Reserve based on the updated land use maps.	Activity in progress	Finalisation of the local conventions and the management plans.
Activity 1.6 Exchange forum on the local conventions. With support of communal and regional government stakeholders	Not yet started. Need the development of the local conventions first.	Validation of the local conventions through the exchange forum.
Activity 1.7 Training of the population on SWC and ANR techniques.	Not yet started. Need the completion of the lead farmer training first	Training of 3,000 farmers by the lead farmers in year 2.
Activity 1.8 Training of the population on the plantation and management of trees	Activity in progress, training the nurseries staff on maintenance methods, seedling production and tree management. With the remaining budget	A specific session is planned in the second year nearer the time for planting to ensure that trees are well planted.
Activity 1.9 Setting up 3 nurseries and training of the 9 nursery staff	Activity completed	N/A
Activity 1.10 Delineation of 25 ha of pastureland	Not yet started.	The de-weeding of the 25ha will start in June 2019
Output 2. Developed partnership between Park W management authorities and local communities in order to protect the biodiversity of the WTBR/Niger	2.1 Coordinated community patrol (24 members) system established and reporting to Park W management by year 1 2.2 70% of the people interviewed perceived the park W as being a valuable resource to protect by the end of the project Year1: 30%, Year2: 50% and Year3; 100% 2.3 120 (40% women) people trained on protection measures to protect crops and livestock from wild animals from the Park W (e.g. beehives, spices) by year 1 and Demonstration plots established by year 2 2.4 80% persons trained (96) have implemented at least one HWC	2.1 The community patrol is established and functional. It captures incidents and reports them to the Park W management. 2.2 RHoMIS data is the only information derived in year 1 and that shows that opinion amongst interviewees was that the park is valuable (over 90%). However, a less binary surveying technique will be used in year two. 2.3 120 people have been trained and the 6 demonstration plots have been established.

	prevention and mitigation strategy by the end of the project Year1: 60% Year 2: 70% and year 3:80%	2.4 A follow-up survey of those trained will need to be implemented early in year 2.	
Activity 2.1. Local exchange forum between the forest guards, the management unit of the WTBR and 24 patrol members in order to establish system of data collection, protection and surveillance.		Activity in progress, the first exchange forum took place	Organisation of 3 additional exchange forum in the two next years of the project.
Activity 2.2. Regional and National exchange forum with the different departments of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the project partners.		Activity in progress, the first exchange forum took place	Organisation of one high-level exchange forum per year.
Activity 2.3 Training of the 24 patrol members on the different fauna species in the area and on data collection		Activity completed	N/A
Activity 2.4 Development of a coordination unit for local patrol and follow up activities		Activity in progress, the coordination unit is in place	The coordination unit will be supported by the project team in their monitoring activities.
Activity 2.5 Awareness raising programme on the value of the park		Activity in progress, on awareness campaign organised this year	Other campaigns will be organised.
Activity 2.6 Organisation of awareness raising campaigns at the village level in the project area on wildlife behaviour and strategies to prevent HWC.		Activity delayed to year 2.	Training planned for April 2019.
Activity 2.7 Organization of training sessions in the targeted villages on the HWC prevention and mitigation strategies		Activity completed – 120 people trained	N/A
Activity 2.8 Establishment of demonstration plots for physical protection techniques against HWC		Activity completed	N/A
Activity 2.9 Establishment of an early warning system.		Activity completed	N/A
Output 3. Supporting local economic development through the establishment 10 VTEs based on sustainable forest product value chains	3.1 10 VTE groups (175 women and 75 men) based on the production, processing and marketing of NTFPs established by year 1, functional by year 2 and profitable by year 3 3.2 3 agreements between VTE groups and buyers signed by year 3 (1 year 2 and 2 year 3) 3.3 3 linkages with financial institutions established with VTEs by year 3	3.1 The 10 VTEs have been selected among already existing VTEs. The capacity assessment is progressing. 3.2 No progress toward this indicator. The training and equipment of the VTEs need to happen first 3.3 No progress toward this indicator. The training and equipment of the VTEs need to happen first	
Activity 3.1 Training on MA&D for the 10 VTEs		Activity in progress – the project staff have been trained and some VTE members trained in Phase I of MA&D.	The project staff will train the 10 VTEs

Activity 3.2 Follow up on the 10 VTEs established and distribution of equipment/material	Activity in progress	The equipment will be distributed once the capacity assessment will be completed.
Activity 3.3 Dissemination of information on the VTEs' products through local radios.	Activity no yet started	Prospect research will start find a local radio partner. The messages will be developed
Activity 3.4 Organise exchange visits for VTE members	Activity no yet started	10 people (one per VTE) will participate in a 4 days exchange visit (the location need to be confirmed)
Activity 3.5 Participation in a regional event to present the VTEs products	Activity no yet started	Planned for year 3
Activity 3.6 Participation in a national event to present the VTEs products	Activity no yet started	Planned for year 3
Activity 3.7 Establishment of 5 agreements between the VTEs and private/buyers	Activity no yet started	The priority will be given to the business can work (MA&D, EDPs developed, inputs of material, products start to be made and buyer sought). The team expect the first agreement before the end of next year
Activity 3.8 Establishment of links with microfinance institutions	Activity no yet started	The priority will be given to the business can work (MA&D, EDPs developed, inputs of material, products start to be made and buyer sought).. First contacts will be established next year but depending on the maturity of the VTEs the official linkage might start only in year 3.

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: The W Trans-boundary Biosphere Reserve in Niger is a thriving ecosystem supported by local communities</p>			
<p>Outcome: Threatened species protection and community forest management in the WTBR/Niger, supported by sustainable economic development of local communities.</p>	<p>0.1 7,600 hectares in the peripheral area of the WTBR including Tamou Faunal Reserve benefit from improved management of natural resources by local communities with the support of the technical services of Tamou commune by year 3</p> <p>0.2 Reduction by 30% from baseline of illegal activities (e.g. tree cutting, land clearing, harvesting, fishing) in the WTBR (adjacent to Tamou) by year 3</p> <p>0.3 Reduction of frequency of human- wildlife conflict incidents (destruction of crops and livestock, human injuries from wildlife including from threatened species) by 50% from baseline by year 3 in the WTBR peripheral area</p> <p>0.4 Increased income from NTFPs by 100% from baseline for the 250 household involved in VTEs by the end of year 3</p>	<p>0.1 Updated land use maps, ecological surveys and final evaluation</p> <p>0.2 Ecological baseline survey, TREE AID and partner activity records, final evaluation</p> <p>0.3 Socio-economic baseline-final evaluation, updated land use maps, data from Park W management, data from the patrols</p> <p>0.4 Socio-economic baseline-end line,</p>	<p>Legislation and decentralisation of natural resource management remains favourable to local authorities</p> <p>The local communities work together in forest protection and tree planting activities</p> <p>Community nurseries will be well functioning and organised, following training and provision of materials (output 1). They will have the capacity to cultivate the required amount of seedlings</p>
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Local communities in 12 villages in the peripheral area of the park W have their capacities strengthened in sustainable forest management</p>	<p>1.1 12 COFOB and 1 COFCOM (40% women as members) are established by year 1 and effectively functioning by year 2</p> <p>1.2 12 local conventions and one management plan for Tamou Faunal Reserve developed by year 2</p>	<p>1.1 TREE AID field monitoring, COFOBs/COFCOM documentation including certificates and agreements</p> <p>1.2, TREE AID and partner field monitoring, physical documents of the local conventions and the management plan</p>	<p>TREE AID and COGEZOH are able to effectively engage community members to participate in the forest management</p> <p>Training is effective in building the NRM capacity and knowledge of biodiversity of the communities</p>

	<p>1.3 40,000 seedlings (from the 3 nurseries established by the project) planted (by year 3) including <i>Khaya senegalensis</i> and , <i>Acacia spp</i> species (threatened species) in the peripheral area of the WTBR Year2: 20 000 and year3: 20 000</p> <p>1.4 70% of the people interviewed acknowledged that their community is involved in the sustainable management of the WTBR by the end of the project Year 1:30%, Year 2: 40% and Year 3: 70%</p> <p>1.5 a)100% of the lead farmers (600) incorporated good natural resource management practices on their land by year 3 Year 1: 70% Year 2:90% Year 3: 100%</p> <p>b) 80% of the farmers trainers by the lead farmers incorporated good natural resource management practices on their land by year 3 Year 2 : 50 % Year 3: 80%</p>	<p>1.3 TREE AID and partner field monitoring, observation, photos</p> <p>1.4 Regular KAP surveys, Focus groups, TREE AID and partner field monitoring</p> <p>1.5 Regular KAP surveys, observation, photos, TREE AID and partner field monitoring</p>	
<p>2. Developed partnership between Park W management authorities and local communities in order to protect the biodiversity of the WTBR/Niger</p>	<p>2.1 Coordinated community patrol (24 members) system established and reporting to Park W management by year 1</p> <p>2.2 70% of the people interviewed perceived the park W as being a valuable resource to protect by the end of the project Year1: 30%, Year2: 50% and Year3; 100%</p> <p>2.3 120 (40% women) people trained on protection measures to protect crops and livestock from wild</p>	<p>2.1 Patrol records, TREE AID field monitoring, interviews</p> <p>2.2 Regular KAP surveys, Focus groups, TREE AID and partner field monitoring</p>	<p>TREE AID and COGEZOH are able to effectively engage community members on the HWC activities</p>

	<p>animals from the Park W (e.g. beehives, spices) by year 1 and Demonstration plots established by year 2</p> <p>2.4 80% persons trained (96) have implemented at least one HWC prevention and mitigation strategy by the end of the project Year1: 60% Year 2: 70% and year 3:80%</p>	<p>2.3. Training records, Photos, observation, TREE AID and partner field monitoring,</p> <p>2.4 Regular KAP survey, Photos, observation, TREE AID and partner field monitoring</p>	
<p>3. Supporting local economic development through the establishment 10 VTEs based on sustainable forest product value chains</p>	<p>3.1 10 VTE groups (175 women and 75 men) based on the production, processing and marketing of NTFPs established by year 1, functional by year 2 and profitable by year 3</p> <p>3.2 3 agreements between VTE groups and buyers signed by year 3 (1 year 2 and 2 year 3)</p> <p>3.3 3 linkages with financial institutions established with VTEs by year 3</p>	<p>3.1 Business plans, VTE records, interviews, TREE AID field monitoring, final evaluation</p> <p>3.2 Contracts, VTE records, TREE AID field monitoring, interviews, final evaluation</p> <p>3.3 VTE records, TREE AID field monitoring, interviews, final evaluation</p>	<p>Climatic conditions continue to favour the products value chains of selected by the VTEs</p>
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p>Output 1</p> <p>1.1 Assessment of the COFOBs and COFCOM in the intervention area.</p> <p>1.2 Training of 65 COFOB/COFCOM members on land tenure law, land transaction law and communal conflict management.</p> <p>1.3 Support and follow up of the COFOBs/COFCOM especially on the development and implementation of the management plan and on the implementation of the local conventions.</p> <p>1.4 Update land use maps of the Tamou Faunal Reserve</p> <p>1.5 Development of 12 local conventions and one management plan for the Tamou Faunal Reserve based on the updated land use maps.</p> <p>1.6 Exchange forum on the local conventions. With support of communal and regional government stakeholders</p> <p>1.7 Training of the population on SWC and ANR techniques.</p> <p>1.8 Training of the population on the plantation and management of trees.</p> <p>1.9 Setting up 3 nurseries and training of the 9 nursery staff.</p> <p>1.10 Delineation of 25 ha of pastureland</p> <p>1.11 Rehabilitation and enrichment of degraded the 25 ha by the communities</p> <p>1.12 Plantation of indigenous nutritional tree species on farm land.</p>			

Output 2

- 2.1 Local exchange forum between the forest guards, the management unit of the WTBR and 24 patrol members in order to establish system of data collection, protection and surveillance.
- 2.2 Regional and National exchange forum with the different departments of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the project partners.
- 2.3 Training of the 24 patrol members on the different fauna species in the area and on data collection
- 2.4 Development of a coordination unit for local patrol and follow up activities.
- 2.5 Awareness raising programme on the value of the park.
- 2.6 Organisation of awareness raising campaigns at the village level in the project area on wildlife behaviour and strategies to prevent HWC.
- 2.7 Organization of training sessions in the targeted villages on the HWC prevention and mitigation strategies
- 2.8 Establishment of demonstration plots for physical protection techniques against HWC.
- 2.9 Establishment of an early warning system.

Output 3

- 3.1 Training on MA&D for the 10 VTEs
- 3.2 Follow up on the 10 VTEs established and distribution of equipment/material
- 3.3 Dissemination of information on the VTEs' products through local radios.
- 3.4 Organise exchange visits for VTE members
- 3.5 Participation in a regional event to present the VTEs products
- 3.6 Participation in a national event to present the VTEs products.
- 3.7 Establishment of 5 agreements between the VTES and private/buyers
- 3.8 Establishment of links with microfinance institutions

Project Start-Up, Monitoring & Evaluation

- 1 Project launch workshop
- 2 Workshop to define the M&E plan with the partner
- 3 Establishment of project baseline (baseline on biodiversity)
- 4 RHoMIS (Socio-economy baseline)
- 5 Training M&E collection for the partner
- 6 Bi-annual workshops
- 7 Quarterly follow up by TREE AID
- 8 Project capitalisation
- 9 Final evaluation
- 10 International monitoring field visit from TREE AID West Africa and TREE AID UK

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	COFOB/COFCOM members on land tenure law, land transaction law and communal conflict management	40% women	Nigerien	46	19			65
6A	Local informants were trained on species, collection and transmission of data on wildlife and environmental problems.		Nigerien	24				
6A	Farmers trained on SWC and ANR techniques	245 women	Nigerien	481	3119			3,600
6A	People trained on protection measures to protect crops and livestock from wild animals from the Park W	40% women	Nigerien	120				120
6A	VTEs members trained on MA&D	195 women	Nigerien		215			215

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)

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