



Darwin Initiative: Final Report

To be completed with reference to the “Writing a Darwin/IWT Report” Information Note:
(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms-change-request-forms-and-terms-and-conditions/>).

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

Darwin Project Information

Project reference	25-029
Project title	Rehabilitation of the ecosystem of the Park W landscape
Country(ies)	Niger
Lead organisation	Tree Aid
Partner institution(s)	CoGeZoH (Contribution à la Gestion des Zones Humides, literally ‘Contribution to Wetland Management’, a Nigerien NGO that supports the rural population to manage and use natural resources sustainably)
Darwin grant value	£309,545
Start/end dates of project	1 July 2018 – 31 March 2021
Project leader’s name	Hassane Mounkaila
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.treeaid.org/projects/niger/tamou-restoration/
Report author(s) and date	Sean McGough, Tree Aid Hassane Mounkaila, Tree Aid Abdoulkarim Samna, CoGeZoH August 2021

Acronym List

ANR	Assisted Natural Regeneration
COFOB	Village land tenure commission
COFOCOM	Communal land tenure commission
COGEZOH	Contribution à la Gestion des Zones Humides
HWC	Human-wildlife conflicts
NTFP	Non-timber forest product
SWC	Soil and Water Conservation Techniques
TWR-DMP	Tamou Wildlife Reserve Development and Management Plan
VTE	Village tree enterprise
WTBR	W trans-boundary biosphere reserve

1 Project Summary

Niger is bottom of the Human Development Index¹ ranking 189th out of 189 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).

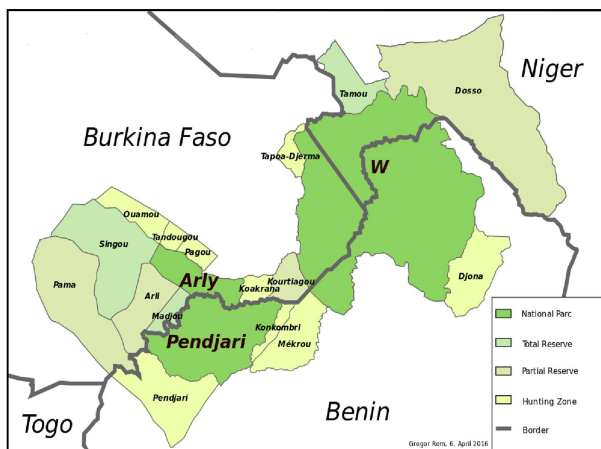


Figure 1 Land use map of Parc W and the total WTBR of Tamou with intervention zone of project in black

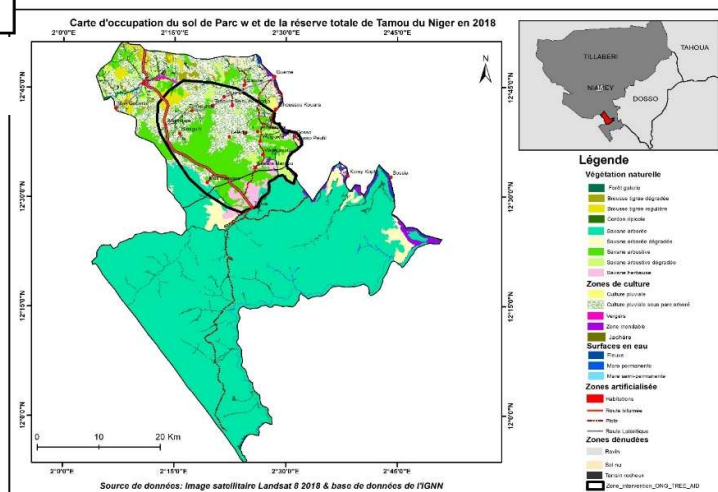
Accelerated population growth, together with high levels of poverty, has put great pressure on the protected areas, threatening natural resources, including dry zone mahogany³ and Acacia⁴, through transhumance, poaching, uncontrolled bushfires, overgrazing and unsustainable harvesting of non-timber forest 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.

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, the project aimed to help communities to improve natural resource management, local forest governance, their collaboration with Park W authorities, and to maximise the sustainable use of NTFPs for alternative economic opportunities.

2 Project Partnerships

Tree Aid has worked together with COGEZOH, our implementing partner, to deliver the project. COGEZOH is a Nigerien NGO with over 18 years' experience delivering sustainable, community-run natural resource management projects in the region of Park W. The project was designed together by COGEZOH and Tree Aid and this collaborative approach has continued throughout delivery through regular (quarterly) meetings between the two organisations and visits from the Tree Aid West Africa Office in Burkina Faso. In general, Tree Aid has built the capacity of CoGeZoH to deliver specific activities. These are overseen by Tree Aid staff through site visits. This report has been developed together with input from the COGEZOH team, incorporated by their Executive Secretary, Sahailou Samaila. The partnership with COGEZOH has worked well but has not been without challenges. Various changes in staff at both organisations created some delays in

The project was implemented in the W transboundary biosphere reserve (WTBR) (Park W) - 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 savannah.² However, the area's biodiversity has suffered severe degradation from anthropogenic pressures and climatic variabilities.



¹ UNDP Human Development Report 2020

² Elephant- *Loxodonta Africana* – vulnerable IUCN Red List 3.1

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

⁴ "Plan d'Aménagement et de Gestion de la Réserve de Biosphère Transfrontalière W - 2006-2010", Volume I : Etat des lieux, Mai 2005

project implementation, but the new staff brought in have done a solid job of improving the running of activities and reporting on financial and project progress.

In addition to COGEZOH, several local stakeholders have been involved in the project implementation, including as part of a framework, established by the project (see annex 11)

- The village communities around Park W (12 villages);
- The COFOCOM of Tamou commune and the COFOBs of the 12 villages
- The 10 VTEs involved in the management and protection of the forests areas;
- The mayoral and commune authorities of Tamou
- The inter-communal unions;
- Technical services (Water and Forest, Agriculture, Livestock, Fishing);
- The administration (Préfet, Sous-préfets);
- Park W management
- Local radio stations

Close collaboration with park management, local authorities and other NGOs and relevant stakeholders has been essential due to the ongoing security situation in the area (see Annexe 8 Security Situation Context) and have also enabled the project to progress with both developing local conventions as well as the Tamou Wildlife Reserve Development and Management Plan (TWR-DMP), which have contributed to Indicators 0.1 and 1.2. These relationships have also been vital for travelling safely in the area. Support and advice from the authorities have helped the project team avoid areas in which armed groups have been operational and happily there were no incidents involving project staff.

Tree Aid took part in a first consultation meeting to create a framework for consultation of actors to share experience and pooling efforts for the implementation of the Park W Priority Intervention Plan (PIP). The project is expected to last for 2 years and is being funded by the EU, GIZ and Zoological Society of London.

Project Achievements

2.1 Outputs

Supporting the final report are the endline surveys – the ecological survey (annex 1) and the household level survey (annex 2).

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

The project approach was focused on the restructuring and capacity development of land management committees at the village and commune level; the development of conventions at village and WTBR level to improve land management; and the adoption of practices that promote sustainable forest management. The results for the indicators are promising, though not every target was realised.

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

The COFOBs and COFOCOM were trained in Natural Resource Management laws, land transactions, conflict management, and the rural code laws. Assessments were made in order to see how functional they were (annex 5) and how they were constituted (focusing on the number of women). Annexes (3) evidence the training provided to the COFOB and COFOCOM.

The results of the work completed include increases in the numbers of women members, including in management positions to around one third (the numbers as of October 2020).

Table 1: Number of women members of land commission committees

Organisation type	Baseline members	Endline members	Variance
COFOBs members	47 members (7 women 14.9%)	215 men (94 women 30.2%)	+15.2%

COFOBs management positions held by women	N/A	39/128 held by women 30.5%	+30.5%
COFOCOM	Not functional	44 members (8 women)	+18%
COFOCOM management positions held by women	Not functional	2/20 held by women = 10%	+10%

Whilst not achieving the overall target, this increase is a significant step towards a more representative legal committee being established in the project area. The assessments of the organisations, carried out in October 2020, also assessed the functionality of the groups. The assessments showed that some progress has been made with the groups, but that more work was required. 3 groups reported that they were using conventions/development plans to inform their decisions and two felt that they understood the laws sufficiently. All groups feel that they contribute to the protection of the park and the reduction of conflict. They meet with varying regularity from monthly, to six-monthly and as-and-when necessary.

Only 50% reported engaging pastoralists, and that was a point of feedback for them during the months of activity between October and June.

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

As attached in annexes 4 (including the validation workshop report), the 12 local conventions and the management plan for the Tamou Faunal reserve were completed by the end of year 2. The conventions outlined the way that each village agreed to the use and management of agricultural soil resources; the use and management of surface water resources (ponds); the use and management of passage corridors and pastoral enclaves; the use and management of forest resources; and procedures for sanctions.

A 5-year plan was developed for the Tamou Faunal reserve. To do this, the methodology adopted consisted in a first step of a diagnosis of the current state of all the socio-demographic, economic, legal-institutional, physical and biological resources. In a second step, the evolutionary trends were identified and the associated factors analysed. From the analyses that followed, a conservation/management strategy for natural resources and sustainable local development was proposed for the reserve. The management plan outlines, with a budget, the key areas for development, which can inform the commune development plan with eight (8) areas of intervention proposed: Axis 1: Governance of natural resources ; Axis 2: Development and integrated management of natural resources; Axis 3: Improvement of knowledge of biological diversity and ecological monitoring of the reserve's natural resources; Axis 4 Optimal valorisation of natural resources for the well-being of local communities; Axis 5: Preservation of the ecosystem; Axis 6: communication and environmental education for the benefit of the reserve; Axis 7: Monitoring and evaluation of the management plan involving local communities; and Axis 8: Establishment of a sustainable financing mechanism for biodiversity conservation.

The plan has been shared with the Park W authorities and the commune authorities to help inform future investments – though nothing concrete has been adopted.

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

Three nurseries were supported through the project and produced 40,000 trees. 37,450 of these trees were planted (see annex 10 for planting report).

The survival rates of trees planted (see outcome section) suggests that the 37,450 trees planted by the project have a strong likelihood of prevailing to increase the numbers of trees in the WTBR. This includes almost 12,000 Acacia Senegal and 2,000 khaya senegalensis – the two trees targeted for enrichment.

Table 2: Trees planted on the project

Scientific Name	NA4
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Acacia senegal	11,793
Adansonia digitata	6,428
Azadirachta indica	800
Bauhinia rufecens	3,333
Cassia sieberiana	3,333
Khaya senegalensis	2,000
Moringa oleifera	6,428
Prosopis africana	3,333

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

Through engagement with village groups such as the COFOBs and VTEs and work towards raising awareness of the conventions and management plan, the community members were implicated in the management of the WTBR. The results of the endline survey show that attitudes regarding how involved the community is have improved. Respondents were more positive about their village involvement in the management of local forest resources. 62% reported that their village was “very well” engaged, up from 25% at baseline (an increase of 37%). The number of respondents who “did not know” reduced from 29% to 6%.

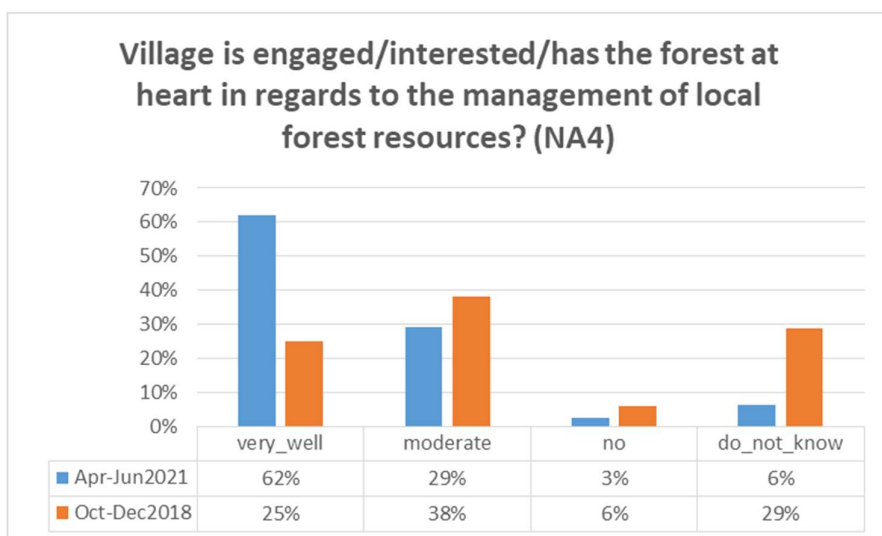


Figure 2: Comparison between 2018 and 2021 responses regarding village engagement in forest management

Regarding training in NRM, the project achieved a fantastic scale of uptake, even if not all lead farmers adopted the practice. 95% of survey respondents report having received NRM training. Training that the respondents recalled receiving included Assisted Natural Regeneration (69%), Stone checkdams (68%) and Half Moons (62%).

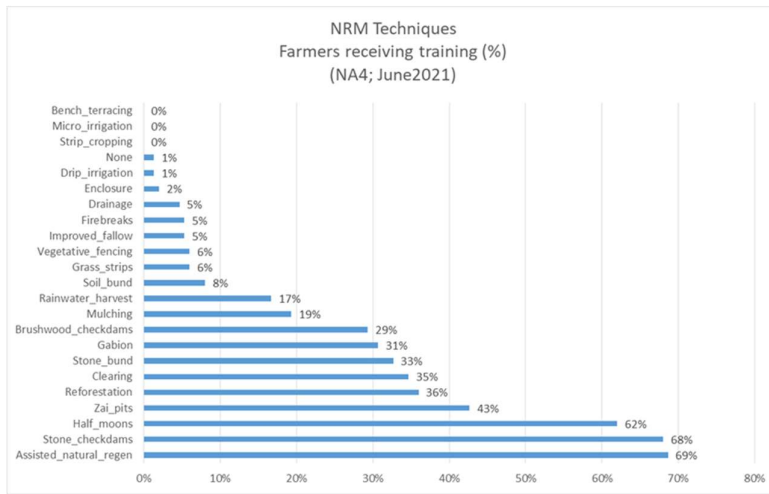


Figure 3: training received by respondents

Output Indicator 1.5: "100% of the lead farmers (600) incorporated good natural resource management practices on their land by year 3

According to the endline survey, 92% of project Lead Farmers report using NRM techniques on their land. This is a 36% increase in the number of Lead Farmers incorporating good NRM practices onto their land, based on the training which they received from Tree Aid, though not quite reaching the 100% target.

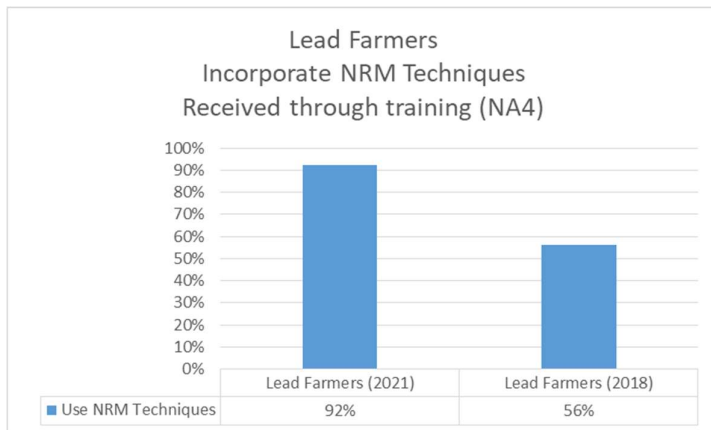


Figure 4: Lead farmers using good NRM practices

Sharing of NRM skills and knowledge was reported by both lead farmers (89%) and other farmers (88%), which suggests that the process can continue to grow organically beyond the lifespan and scope of the project. On average Lead Farmers trained 5.7 Other farmers, and Other Farmers trained 4.6 Other farmers.

Output Indicator 1.6: "80% of the farmers trained by the lead farmers incorporated good natural resource management practices on their land by year 3

Whilst lead farmers had not all adopted the NRM practices, 96% of Other Farmers, who received training from Lead Farmers, report using NRM techniques on their own land. This is an increase of 11% from an NRM survey done in March 2020.

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

Output 2 focused on establishing practical ways of monitoring and protecting the biodiversity of the WTBR through the establishment of village-level monitoring patrols that shared information with the park authorities on illegal practices and HWC, as well as promoting HWC mitigation strategies for adoption by community members, and a general promotion of the value of the park amongst the communities themselves.

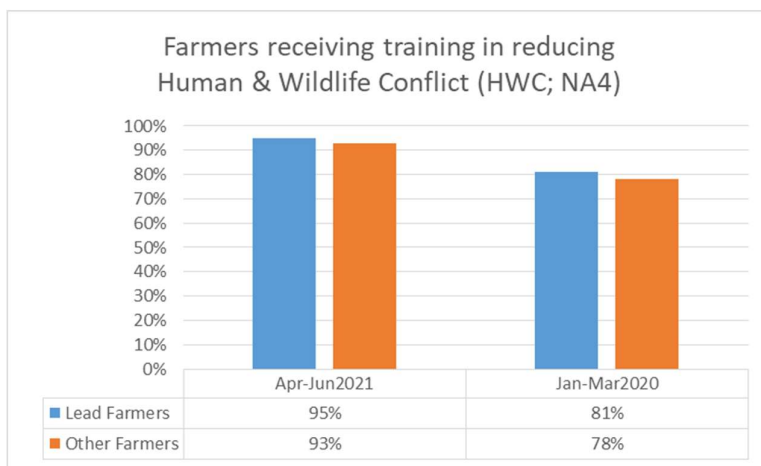


Figure 6: Farmers that report being trained in HWC

Across a survey focused on NRM in early 2020 and the end line survey, it is clear that the awareness of HWC and how to mitigate the risk of it occurring has increased.

The endline survey shows a low number of women have been trained (3% of lead farmers and 16% of other farmers), but this is largely a result of the fact that the survey was conducted by phone and so the number of women reached was relatively low.

Output Indicator 2.4: "80% persons trained (96) have implemented at least one HWC prevention and mitigation strategy by the end of the project"

As with indicator 2.2, the total numbers of participants adopting HWC prevention strategies was high to begin with, but have increased since the project activities were undertaken. The endline survey showed that 99% of households report using at least one form of HWC prevention/mitigation strategy and 100% of households who attended training report using at least one form of HWC prevention/mitigation strategy."

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

This output focused on the establishment of Village Tree Enterprises (VTEs) that could develop Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) for sale. These were to be trained using the MA&D (Market Analysis and Development) approach, which includes the agreement of Enterprise Development Plans that help underpin the business. The project suffered from a lack of expert input after the original NTFP officer left the project. After some time, training was provided and the VTEs were gradually established. By the end of the project, work has been focused on this output to try and make the VTEs as sustainable as possible by ensuring they have the equipment, skills and connections they need to grow. Some of the indicators were not achieved, though progress can be demonstrated.

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

In terms of the VTE groups, an assessment made at the end of the project to assess their capacity and current output (Annex 7). The results show that VTE groups are established (256 women; 4 men) and that 95% (57/60) management positions are held by women. The reported annual sales are modest, with a small profit of \$ reported.

Product	Profit	Quantity
Balanites Soap		773kg
Soap (Derivative):		
Neem Seeds		5kg
Groundnut Oil		10kg

Total		788kg
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(All sales were made through local markets)

The project was able to provide more equipment at the end of the project (two more crushers and two more oil presses), which will grant more groups easier access to processing tools that will enable them to increase quality and quantity of good with value addition. Training was provided throughout the project (see annexes 16).

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

The project has not helped negotiate contracts between VTE groups and buyers as the level of production was not yet sufficient. Instead, the project has linked the VTEs with a national farmers' union, Fédération des Unions des Groupements Paysans du Niger (FUGPN Moriben), through which the VTEs can function and reach wider markets. This platform will provide an easier route to market for the products that the VTEs have started to make.

By the end of the project all the VTEs are trained, equipped and in compliance with the OHADA (ORGANIZATION FOR THE HARMONIZATION OF BUSINESS LAW IN AFRICA) law. The 10 VTEs are all in contact with a microfinance institution with their savings accounts. The VTEs are in contact with FUGPN Moriben, which will support them in selling their products through their participation in various national and international fairs.

In the extension period of the project, the team agreed a service contract for the production and broadcasting of four (4) spots in different languages for the dissemination of the different VTE products based on NTFPs in the whole periphery of the park w in particular and also the commune of Tamou and the departments of Say Kollo and Kirtachi

It will allow the community living on the periphery of the park to raise awareness of their forest resources, and ensure its conservation while exploiting it sustainably.

Output Indicator 3.3: Linkages with financial institutions established with VTEs by year 3

The members of the 10 [cooperatives VTEs](#) travelled to Niamey to establish a relationship with a microfinance institution for the opening of savings and credit accounts and also to establish a relationship with the Fédération des Unions des Groupements Paysans du Niger (FUGPN Moriben). In order to join the national farmers' union, links between VTEs and financial institutions were required. The project facilitated this and each VTE has opened an account with SAHÉLIENNE D'ÉPARGNE ET DE CRÉDIT (SADEC). This will enable groups to organise loans that can support them with any inputs that they need to realise their EDPs.

2.2 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 progress made on this indicator reflects the engagement of communities with the authorities and the awareness of people's rights and responsibilities regarding forest resources. The biggest impact has been around those types of changes. The monitoring of this indicator, via the base and endline ecological surveys was severely impacted by the fact that the consultant conducting the endline survey was not able to return to the sites that he visited at baseline. The data is, therefore, compromised in what it can say by way of comparison between the same sites 2019 to 2021. Below are some indicators of change related to the ecological survey, but also a reflection on the forest governance questions asked to the participants of the household survey.

The survival rates of trees planted suggests that the 37,450 trees planted by the project have a strong likelihood of prevailing to increase the numbers of trees in the WTBR. The survival rates of trees planted that were reviewed showed an overall rate of 78.84%.

Table 3: Survival rates of planted trees

Species	Site de Tondibia
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	Numbers planted	Numbers survivint	Taux de survie (%)
<i>Acacia senegal</i>	492	370	74,59
<i>Bauhinia rufescens</i>	95	95	95
Total	600	473	78,84

Similarly, the rate of regeneration in the visited sites was high, which suggests that new trees will benefit from the better land practices and water retention after the soil and water conservation work undertaken by the project. Within the protected zone of the WTBR the observed regeneration rate was 65.07% i.e. increase of 27.55% points.

The floristic diversity of the tree species fell over the period for the sites that were visited by the consultant. As he also noted some illegal practices (see outcome indicator 2), the challenges of protecting trees, is still seemingly ongoing.

Table 4: Diversity of tree species 2019 v 2021

Environments	Species richness (S)	Density (plants/ha)	diversity		Equitability (E)
			theoretical maximum (Hmax)	Observed diversity (H')	
Situation 2021	33	148,17	5,04	2,65	0,52
Situation 2019	42	232,82	5,39	3,20	0,59

Whilst the management plan for the 77k hectares of the Tamou park is somewhat aspirational still some of the key insights to how the area is being managed came from our household surveys. These showed a greater awareness of the way the park is being managed, but also a feeling that this may not be sufficient.

Figure 7 shows that community awareness of the ways that the forest is being managed has improved, which reflects the work that has been done to develop conventions, and the park management plan.

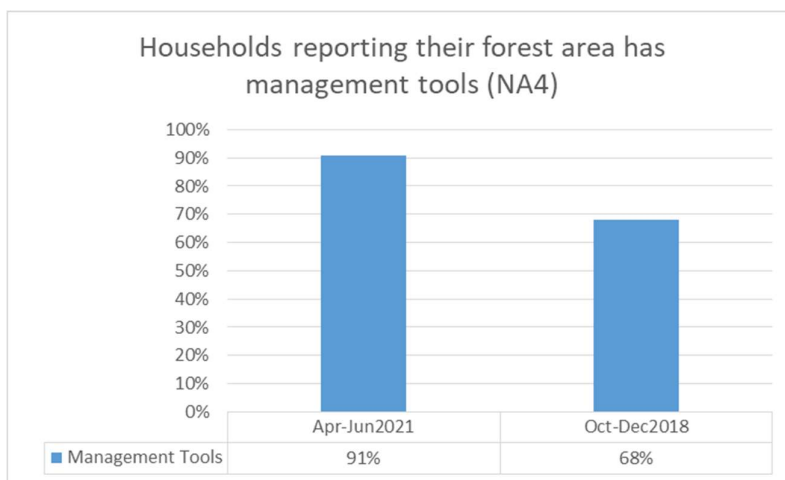


Figure 7: Awareness of management tools for forest management

Figure 8 demonstrates that the community has a similar view of the way the municipality is engaged in forest management. However, there are less people that don't have a strong opinion any more – with a marked increase in those that feel that the municipality could do more.

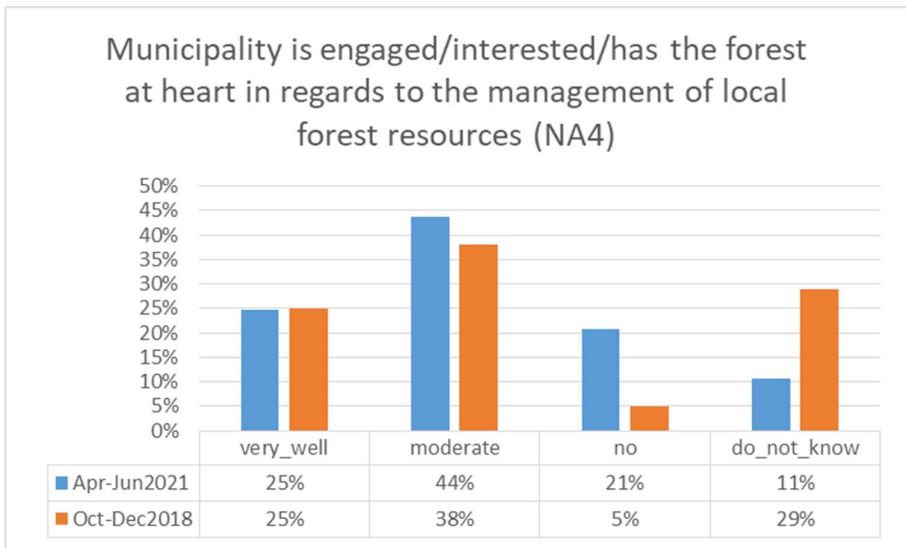


Figure 8: Attitudes towards municipality management of forest

Although the proportion of households reporting ‘equal access’ has not changed, there has been a reduction in the number of households reporting ‘no access’ has seen a 7% reduction.

Households also appear more aware of their rights, with a drop in households reporting ‘do not know’ – a 10% reduction.

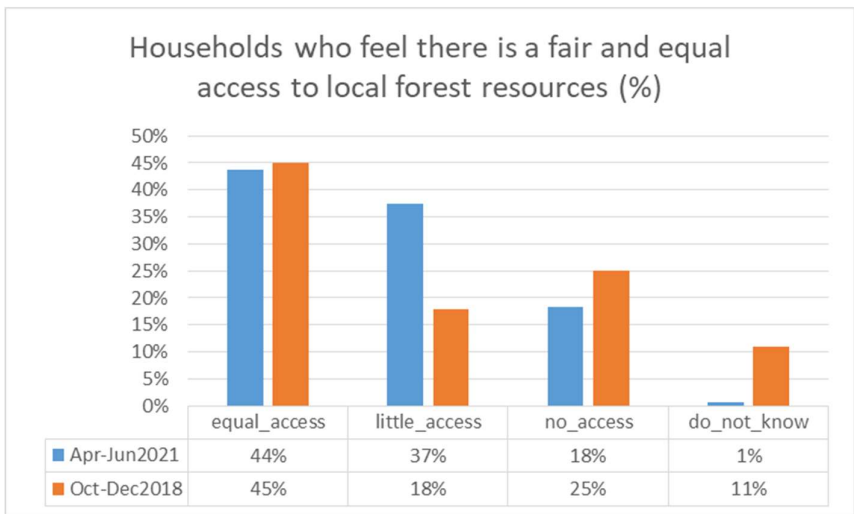


Figure 9: Fair access to forest resources

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

This indicator has suffered most from the lack of security, which has led to a reduction in the reporting of illegal activities. The data up to March 2020 showed that there were a total of 14 cases, 8 of which led to the authorities being notified (2 to the local village chief) – 6 of which ended in arrests and 2 with offenders being taken to village chiefs. 15.5 hectares of land had been cut between October 2018 and February 2020 (annex 6a). The progress made on this front was promising, and the linkage between authorities and local communities is a real strength for how the authorities could continue to monitor and protect the reserve beyond the end of the project.

However, the security situation (as referenced by the endline ecological survey conclusion) has meant that keeping track of the communal forest areas is now more difficult. This has led to a lack of reporting by local informants and a potential increase in illegal activities (also reported by

the ecological survey): *The study also focused on bad practices such as land clearing which threatens to compromise the conservation efforts of the state and its partners; in sites where the forestry brigade's control is impossible, land clearing has become common in the area; it is carried out without the authorisation of the officials in charge of protection. Also, emblematic species are subject to all kinds of pressures (exploitation of bark, collection of unripe fruit and leaves, pruning, burning of living trees for timber exploitation, etc.).*

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

Overall, the number of incidents of HWC has reduced (only 76% of the number of reported cases in Jul20-Jun21 compared to Jul18-Jun19).

Table 5: Cases of HWC in six-monthly periods 2018-21

January-June 2018(Base line)	Jul18 - Dec18	Jan19 - Jun19	Jul19 - Dec19	Jan20 - Jun20	Jul20 – Dec20	Jan21 - Jun21
Cases reported: 25	Cases reported: 90	Cases reported: 38	Cases reported: 80	Cases reported: 37	Cases reported: 60	Cases reported: 38

The greatest reduction has been in the attacks on crops between Jul-Dec, during the main harvesting season. However, attacks on livestock remain steady and increasing. In the 5 villages in which bomas were concentrated (those most at risk of attack from lions and hyenas), the latest figures showed a decrease for the first 6 months of the year, which bodes well for the future:

Table 6: Data on Jan-Jun attacks on cattle focusing on those villages with bomas

Village	Count of Frequency of attacks on cattle				
	2018 Total Jan-Jun	2019 Total Jan-Jun	2020 Total Jan-Jun	2021 Total Jan-Jun	Grand Total Jan-Jun
Akouna Abdou				1	1
Baniguitti		6	3	6	15
Windeboga		11	4		15
Gosso	5	8	4	1	18
Kouara Margou	2	3			5
Leledjé		5	10	3	18
Moli Haoussa	7	1	2	15	25
Tankoundé		1			1
Tolondi		1			1
Weregrou	6	2	5		13
Grand Total	20	38	28	26	112

*villages in yellow are those with bomas

Table 7: Adoption of HWC prevention and mitigation techniques for cattle

Types	Molli	K.Margou	Wérégorou	Windéboga	Gosso
Project Bomas	2	2	5	1	3
Rudimentary Enclosures	11	17	15	13	7
Guard dogs	1	4	3	2	1

(see annex 6b HWC data)

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

There has been a remarkable increase in income from NTFPs at the household level, when looking at the general results from the household survey at endline. The project's investment into the processing equipment and the structure of VTEs may have impacted this change.

As reported in previous years, the project identified more than 1,000 women already part of village groups – engaged in savings and some NTFP work already. The 250 targeted women for the project VTEs came from these groups. Whilst the VTEs as entities are only modestly profitable, it appears that the NTFP trade has increased at the household level, regardless. The median income from NTFPs has lifted dramatically from \$0, to more than \$200 and the mean income has increased 4-fold for households that are members of VTE groups.

As a reminder, there was no control group at project endline due to limitations of telephone survey (due to security restrictions)

Section 5.2.1 in the ecological survey also details how the cash-for-work scheme, carried out in Aug 2019 to support in anti-erosion and water retention (labour-intensive) work, supported income generation. According to the results of the focus group discussions, 65% of the money earned by the beneficiaries was used to buy food to support their households. This helped them to get through the lean season. The percentage of expenditure allocated to medical care was 12%, followed by ceremonies, which represent only 4%. Debt repayment, clothing and the purchase of animals represent only 17% of the amount received.

2.3 Monitoring of assumptions.

Level	Assumption	Comment
Outcome assumptions	<i>Assumption 1:</i> Legislation and decentralisation of natural resource management remains favourable to local authorities	Still true. Engagement from government agencies in development and adoption of TWR-DMP and conventions.
	<i>Assumption 2:</i> The local communities work together in forest protection and tree planting activities	True – engagement from communities in tree planting and weeding grazing land was strong.
	<i>Assumption 3:</i> 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	Still true – the communities work together to produce the required amount of seedlings
Output assumptions	<i>Assumption 4:</i> Tree Aid and COGEZOH are able to effectively engage community members to participate in the forest management	True – informants and other beneficiaries are demonstrating their engagement.

	<i>Assumption 5:</i> Training is effective in building the NRM capacity and knowledge of biodiversity of the communities	Training has generally led to good adoption of the techniques shared.
	<i>Assumption 6:</i> Tree Aid and COGEZOH are able to effectively engage community members on the HWC activities	True – adoption of HWC strategies and reduction in HWC – especially around crops.
	<i>Assumption 7:</i> Climatic conditions continue to favour the products value chains of selected by the VTEs	True – although the ongoing impact of climate change is negative, it has not resulted in seasonal dip in resources.

The issues: Two major issues have hampered the project. 1) The ongoing security issues in the area and 2) COVID-19. Please see Annex 8 on the security situation and see question 7 for COVID-19.

The other risks around fraud, climate, women’s role, and partner capacity are unchanged and still true.

2.4 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 participated to the protection and restoration of the biodiversity of the WTBR while contributing to poverty reduction.

During the life span of the project, 40,000 tree seedlings have been produced in the project nurseries among which 37,450 have been planted on farmland. The plantation of the threatened indigenous tree species (e.g 2,000 *Khaya senegalensis* and 11,793 *Acacia* spp species) in the WTBR by communities will set in motion restoration of biodiversity, thereby strengthening key resources which local livelihoods rely on.

The local conventions and TWR-DMP have been finalised in March 2020 based on the updated land use maps. They are key documents, in order to protect and sustainably manage the WTBR. In order to protect further the WTBR a monitoring unit has been established. Since the project was set up there have been a total of 14 notices of illegal activities compared to zero before the project, including 10 cases of illegal clearing as well as 9 cases of arrests and fines. The increase in reported cases of illegal activities and punishment is showing the efficiency of the monitoring system established by the project. This will lead naturally to a reduction of the illegal cases over time.

In total, 707 lead farmers were directly trained on SWC and ANR techniques (see annex 9) and 93% of them report using NRM techniques on their land. On average, the lead farmers trained 5.7 other farmers, and the other farmers trained themselves on average 4.6 other farmers. 96% of the other farmers, who received training from lead farmers, report using NRM techniques on their own land. Through the improved on-farm management practices, need for agricultural expansion of the forest will reduce while increasing the land productivity and income of the farmers. The project also reduces the HWC in the area reducing the loss for the farmers. The data shows that the overall reported cases of HWC incidents have reduced as result from the training held on prevention and mitigation strategies and the adoptions of these techniques by the local communities.

The 10 VTEs are fully functioning, they received their business and technical training as well as their small processing equipment. They have also been linked to a cooperative union and financial institution to ensure their access to market and credit in the long-term. This is creating

an incentive for the communities to protect and sustainably managed the natural resources while improving livelihoods and increase incomes.

3 Contribution to Darwin Initiative Programme Objectives

3.1 Contribution to Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): This project contributes to various SDGs, including:

Goal 15: Life on Land. In total 40,000 tree seedling were produced in the project nurseries and 37,450 of them were planted on private farmland. 707 lead farmers directly trained on SWC and ANR practices by the project trained 4,030 additional farmers who trained themselves 18,537 farmers (23,274 trained in total). This ensures the rehabilitation of a large number of hectares of farmland. In addition, the 13 COFOB and COFOCOM have been established and trained to ensure the good management of the local natural resources including through the implementation of the local conventions and the TWR-DMP. Finally, more than 50ha have been delimited for rehabilitation and grazing.

Goal 1: End Poverty in all its forms everywhere. The project supported the establishment of 10 new VTEs, in order to increase incomes from the production, processing and sale of NTFPs, to provide sustainable livelihoods and reduce local poverty. The 10 VTEs have been trained, equipped and supported to develop their EDP and strategic partnerships with financial institutions and cooperative unions. The project also reduced the frequency of HWC incidents, enabling further economic development. 1,981 people were trained on the techniques of prevention and management of HWC and the importance of the HWC mitigation mechanisms in the area. 99% of them report using at least one form of HWC prevention/mitigation strategy. 13 Bomas (enclosures with three levels of protection: dead hedge inside, surrounded by a live hedge based on cuttings of *Commiphora africana*, itself protected by a wire mesh belt) have been created as well as 63 rudimentary enclosures. As a results, the reported cases of HWC incidents by the local patrol, have been reduced. Finally, the adoption of SWC and ANR techniques by the local farmers will contribute to increase the soil fertility and so increase the household income in the long-term.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Tree Aid and local partners have actively worked to target women and ensure inclusion in all activities. This involves overcoming certain barriers around women's perceived traditional roles in the intervention areas, through knowledge-sharing, training, equipment and discussion. Women was engaged in initiatives including forest management, NRM and VTE activities. In total, 338 women were directly trained on ANR and SWC techniques by the project team out of the 707 lead farmers. In addition, the participation of women in the COFOBS has increased by 15% and in the COFOCOM by 18%. Women has now also access to management positions in the COFOBS and COFOCOM. Finally, the 256 people involved in the VTEs are women. This actively contribute to the financial independence of women and to their well-being.

3.2 Project support to the Conventions or Treaties (e.g. CBD, Nagoya Protocol, ITPGRFA, CITES, Ramsar, CMS, UNFCCC)

Our project directly contributes to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), particularly the article 8 (c, d, e and f) on in-situ conservation and article 10 c) on the sustainable use of components of biological diversity. It also contributes to the 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 has contributed 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 supported the development of the TWR-DMP and 13 local conventions as well as the capacity building of 13 COFOB/COFOCOM. In addition, an exchange forum has been held to ensure the conformity of the convention and the management

plan to the WTBR management plan. Several consultation forums for the management of the Park W took place during the project life span with the different project stakeholders. These forums, have led to a decree on the creation, attributions and organisation of the concertation framework. This allows the formalisation of the co-management of the Park W and ensure the sustainability of this collaboration between the local communities and the Park W authorities.

The project team was 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 and with whom project data and results are shared.

3.3 Project support to poverty alleviation

The project aimed to increase income from NTFPs by 100% for the 250 people involved in the NTFPs enterprise (outcome indicator 4). The median income from NTFPs has lifted dramatically for the member of the VTEs and for the overall project beneficiaries. Women, who are the most significantly impacted by poverty, compose 100% of the direct recipients of this support. In addition, cash-for-work scheme allowed its beneficiaries to use the extra cashed to buy food which help them to get through the lean season or to cover some medical case. The SWC and ANR practices adopted by a large number of farmers in the intervention area (an estimated 24,389 farmers) will contribute to increase their land productivity (crop yields) and the household income in the long-term. The reduction in HWC incidents allows also a greater economic development of the local communities through protection of their livelihoods (agriculture and livestock) as well as reducing the pressure on wildlife.

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

3.4 Gender equality

The project has actively targeted women and ensure inclusion in project inputs and outcomes. To ensure women's effective participation and long-term attitudinal change, we employed proven techniques such as sensitising community leaders and project stakeholders to gender issues. Women have been supported to actively participate in governance structures 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. As result, the participation of women in the COFOBS has increased by 15% and in the COFOCOM by 18% and women had access to management positions. In addition, 338 women were directly trained on ANR and SWC techniques by the project team out of the 707 lead farmers.

The VTE groups have eventually been created with 256 women and 4 men. Through trainings and taking up leadership positions within VTEs (95% management positions held by women), women increased their skills and confidence. Furthermore, the considerable increased in NTFP income for VTE members will contribute to the financial independence of women, to increase women's voice in household decision-making and to take control over their lives.

3.5 Programme indicators

The project supported the development of 13 local conventions and the TWR-DMP. The documents are aligned to the WTBR Management Plan and have been validated by the local authorities. The development of the local convention and the TWR-DMP is based on the land use maps that has been updated by the project. The land use maps present the land use status of the project area from 1979 to 2018. It allows demonstrations of the trends over time and helps find an agreement on how to manage threats to the environment. The local population participated directly by providing guidance as to the land uses that would form the basis for the manual classification. Final documents were then shared with the communities. The local stakeholders including the local communities and the local authorities actively took part in the development of the local conventions and the management plan. They were present in all the meetings and workshops held on the subject. To ensure good implementation of the local agreements in the 12 targeted villages, the dissemination has been done through village assemblies and the use of community radios.

The conventions and the management plans are directly implemented by the COFOBs and the COFOCOM who have seen their capacities increased through the project. The participation of women in the COFOCOM and COFOBs has highly increased including in management positions.

Due to security issues, we couldn't access the project areas to collect data for the endline. We had to do a shortened telephone survey (shortened version of the RHoMIS). In this survey we focused on income from NTFPs as this was our outcome level indicator in the logframe), and did not collect data on other forms of income. So, we have information of the overall household income however we have good data on the income from NTFPs. Indeed, the median NTFP income of project participants increased.

3.6 Transfer knowledge

The updated land use maps were distributed to the local authorities and communities for use. The local conventions and the management plans which were developed based on the land use maps were disseminated through the local population of the 12 targeted villages through village sessions and radio communications.

The project supported the establishment of local platform of discussion between the local communities and the Park W authorities. This formalised consultation framework will ensure the co-management of the Park W and the exchange of information.

Throughout the project, the reports and data sets derived have been 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 and Sustainable Development). This includes: the baseline survey, the biodiversity data and the GPS mapping. The key findings from the final evaluation will also be shared with project stakeholders.

3.7 Capacity building

The project supported partner and local decentralised extension workers from government agencies with training for delivering project activities. This helped them in supporting communities through project activities and to increase community awareness and capacity to manage forest resources sustainably.

4 Sustainability and Legacy

The National Director of Wildlife Hunting and Protected Areas under the Ministry of Environment and Water and Forestry, got involved in the development of the TWR-DMP for the reserve and participated in the exchange forum held in March 2020 on the harmonisation of the local conventions and the TWR-DMP with the WTBR plan. Finally, they are part of the coordination units of the local patrols and of the early warning system.

In the final review workshop (annex 12), the stakeholders outlined that more could still be done – with a call for more work with literacy and capacity of groups that are being worked with, the growth of more trees of economic value for VTEs, more training for local informers and facilitators and surveillance brigades at the commune level. They did reflect that the project had strengthened relations between the state and villages, and that the development of COFOBs/COFOCOM and the network of informants has been successful. The process of restoring degraded land and developing NTFPs around oils such as balanites, was also listed as a key success. The main tenets of the exit strategy were:

Strategy	Status
Strengthened capacity of the COFOB/COFOCOM to ensure a sustainable management of the forests and natural resources in the long-term	COFOBs/COFOCOM in much better situation than at beginning of project and can continue to function.
Close collaboration between the different project stakeholders (communities, park	Community and state stakeholders are definitely more collaborative. Results

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.	from endline survey suggest that communities are not completely happy with the state's efforts, so more work to improve that is required.
NRM capacity building, so village leaders and COFOB/COFOCOM members can continue to carry out various NRM techniques following the project's end.	Adoption of practices around NRM and HWC has been very high.
The established community nurseries will continue to operate and produce seedlings after project completion, to be sold to farmers for agroforestry planting.	This is possible, but unsure as to whether or not it will be undertaken by nursery managers.
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.	Small profit is being realised, and equipment is available and relations with microfinance institutions and potential market for buyers have been established.

5 Lessons learned

In terms of VTE development, the potential of working with people from existing structures that require an element of social cohesion, enterprise and development of shared assets (including access to cash), can provide fertile ground for our VTE establishment process. If we can show that VTEs can be developed quicker and more effectively this way, it is an option for Tree Aid to take forward.

Remote working – the issues with security and COVID-19 have put project activities in question due to restrictions. We, like many NGOs, are exploring ways of delivering activities remotely and acquiring information from community members directly. The fact that the project has a network of beneficiaries with phones and training means that we have a ready-made link. We used this link to do our first ever telephone survey. This proved the adaptability of the project team as well as our capacity to find solutions to the current restrictions

Indicators – certain indicators have been achieved very quickly and developing more nuanced indicators would be advantageous to understanding change over time.

It will be important as much as possible to target other stakeholders – namely transhumance herders that pass through the zone that may contravene to the well-being of the ecosystem.

5.1 Monitoring and evaluation

Security meant that we couldn't replicate the ecological or household surveys as we did them at baseline. The ecological survey was a much-reduced sample size compared to baseline, which somewhat limits what we can take from the results. The RHoMIS survey was conducted remotely by telephone and so was dependent on who owned and answered the phone, meant that we felt unable to interview control groups and could only ask a certain number of questions to a reduced sample size.

Despite the challenges, just being able to get some end results is a real testament to the work put in by the teams and the solutions found to the limiting security situation.

The endline captured essential information on the increase of income from NTFPs for the members of the VTEs as well as for the other project participants. It also captured the implementation of the different techniques taught by the project such as SWC, ANR or HWC

mitigations techniques. Finally, it underlines the importance of the park for the local communities. The key findings are:

- 99% of the respondent think the Park W should be protected
- 92% of project lead farmers report using NRM techniques on their land
- 96% of other farmers, who received training from lead farmers, report using NRM techniques on their own land.
- 100% of households who attended training report using at least one form of HWC prevention/mitigation strategy
- The median income from NTFPs has lifted dramatically from \$, to more than \$ and the mean income has increased 4-fold for households that are members of VTE groups.

Certain indicators have been achieved very quickly and were maybe not the best to show the change over time. This will be corrected in future projects. Focus Group discussions were introduced to the M&E plan in order to understand in more detail the functioning of the COFOBs and COFOCOMs.

Finally, the use of local community members as informants promised to be a very practical and insightful approach. However, the security situation meant that the data on illegal practices stopped, which was a shame. Information on HWC was more easily captured as the occurrences were not on communal land, but in farmers' fields. The difficulty with the indicators based on data collected by informants also centres on a lack of baseline. In a 3-year project, establishing the network of data collectors, collecting data and then monitoring a change is difficult – especially on information that may not be a month-to-month occurrence.

5.2 Actions taken in response to annual report reviews

Feedback	Response
Please provide more details of how the project partnerships are managed on a day-to-day basis and the various mechanisms involved.	See section 2
Provide evidence for the uptake of sustainable practices described under Section 3.2	See section 3.2 in this report.
More detail on how the community control system (output indicator 2.1) works?	See output indicator 2.1 in the report.
Information on potential markets for NTFPs	See section on Outcome 3 and Output 3.2. The potential markets sit through the farmer's union that the VTEs have joined. There is a strong national market for the types of products that the VTEs are producing.
Provide more information in the report narrative on how the poor security situation has affected project implementation	See Annex 8 and throughout the report. Essentially, threat of attacks from terrorist groups led to reduced visits into the field, reduced engagement by community members and monitoring of communal forest sites, inability to repeat hh surveys, and limited movement – especially in vehicles highlighting NGO or state support. At times there were motorbike bans.

6 Darwin identity

See Annex 7 below

7 Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery

COVID-19 impacted the daily life of many Nigeriens through the restriction on movement and assembly as well as the requirements for social distancing, wearing of masks and lockdown of

Niamey. The activities which required assembly of people had to be delayed in time and/or done in a small committee to respect the restrictions in place. This meant that a change request was required to carry more funds from 19/20 to 20/21 than planned and then an extension was required. Safety equipment was purchased to enable project activities to continue (masks, sanitiser).

COVID-19 also prevented international travel. As a consequence, the Tree Aid UK staff couldn't perform its monitoring visits. They had to support and trained the project team remotely. Visits by the team in Burkina Faso were able to resume in 2020, and enabled auditing and workplanning with the Niger team. This actually helped uncover some fraudulent activities, which were reported to Darwin (Annex 13a and 13b).

8 Finance and administration

8.1 Project expenditure

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2020/21 Grant (£)	2020/21 Total actual Darwin Costs (£) + Apr-Jun 2021	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)	£ [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
Consultancy costs		[REDACTED]		Small additional expenditure to support survey data collection
Overhead Costs	£ [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
Travel and subsistence	£ [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Travel costs have been consistently undersper due to security issues.
Operating Costs		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)	£ [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
TOTAL		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	

Staff employed (Name and position)	Cost (£)
Hassane Mounkaila -Project Lead	[REDACTED]
Ramadou Maikarfi- Administration and Finance Assistant	[REDACTED]
Desire Ouedrago -Director of West Africa Operations	[REDACTED]
Georges Bazongo – Director of Operations	[REDACTED]
David Baines- Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Adviser	[REDACTED]
Pietro Carpena- Lead Technical Advisor	[REDACTED]
Sean McGough- Programme Manager	[REDACTED]
Julie Violet- Finance Manager	[REDACTED]
Project Officer COGEZHO	[REDACTED]

Village Extension Officer COGEZHO	
Village Extension Officer COGEZHO	
Village Extension Officer COGEZHO	
Village Extension Officer COGEZHO	
Accounting	
Executive Secratry	
TOTAL	£

Capital items – description	Capital items – cost (£)
TOTAL	

Other items – description	Other items – cost (£)
Medical cover	
TOTAL	

8.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Source of funding for project lifetime	Total (£)
Taronga Conservation Society Australia	
Oak Philanthropy UK	
The Stephen Clark 1965 Charitable Trust	
Oak Philanthropy UK	
Stephen Dawson	
TOTAL	

Source of funding for additional work after project lifetime	Total (£)
TOTAL	

8.3 Value for Money

Tree Aid takes into account economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity in project planning and budgeting to ensure value for money in project inputs and outcomes

Regarding increases income, the median income from NTFPs has lifted dramatically from \$0, to more than \$ and the mean income has increased 4-fold for households that are members of VTE groups. Against the cost per beneficiary of £ (based on 256 women members), there was a \$ increase in income on average for VTE households. This shows value for money from the project budget - a return on investment of around 4:1.

A training of trainer approach was used for disseminating skills on SWC and ANR. 707 lead farmers directly trained by the project, went on to train 4,030 other farmers who also went on to train 18,537 themselves (a total of 23,274 trained). This will contribute to restoring a greater area of farmland.

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

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

Annex 1 Project's original (or most recently approved) logframe, including indicators, means of verification and assumptions.

Note: Insert your full logframe. If your logframe was changed since your Stage 2 application and was approved by a Change Request the newest approved version should be inserted here, otherwise insert the Stage 2 logframe.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: The W Trans-boundary Biosphere Reserve in Niger is a thriving ecosystem supported by local communities			
Outcome: Threatened species protection and community forest management in the WTBR/Niger, supported by sustainable economic development of local communities.	<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>
Outputs:	1.1 12 COFOB and 1 COFCOM (40% women as members) are	1.1 Tree Aid field monitoring, COFOBs/COFCOM documentation	Tree Aid and COGEZOH are able to effectively engage community

<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>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>1.3 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>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>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>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>2. Developed partnership between Park W management authorities and local communities in order to</p>	<p>2.1 Coordinated community patrol (24 members) system established</p>	<p>2.1 Patrol records, Tree Aid field monitoring, interviews</p>	<p>Tree Aid and COGEZOH are able to effectively engage community members on the HWC activities</p>

<p>protect the biodiversity of the WTBR/Niger</p>	<p>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</p> <p>Year 1: 30%, Year 2: 50% and Year 3; 100%</p> <p>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</p> <p>2.4 80% persons trained (96) have implemented at least one HWC prevention and mitigation strategy by the end of the project</p> <p>Year 1: 60% Year 2: 70% and year 3:80%</p>	<p>2.2 Regular KAP surveys, Focus groups, Tree Aid and partner field monitoring</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</p>	<p>Climatic conditions continue to favour the products value chains of selected by the VTEs</p>

	monitoring, interviews, final evaluation	
<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> <p>Output 2</p> <p>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.</p> <p>2.2 Regional and National exchange forum with the different departments of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the project partners.</p> <p>2.3 Training of the 24 patrol members on the different fauna species in the area and on data collection</p> <p>2.4 Development of a coordination unit for local patrol and follow up activities.</p> <p>2.5 Awareness raising programme on the value of the park.</p> <p>2.6 Organisation of awareness raising campaigns at the village level in the project area on wildlife behaviour and strategies to prevent HWC.</p> <p>2.7 Organization of training sessions in the targeted villages on the HWC prevention and mitigation strategies</p> <p>2.8 Establishment of demonstration plots for physical protection techniques against HWC.</p> <p>2.9 Establishment of an early warning system.</p>		

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 form Tree Aid West Africa and Tree Aid UK

Annex 2 Report of progress and achievements against final project logframe for the life of the project

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements																					
<p>Impact:</p> <p>The W Trans-boundary Biosphere Reserve in Niger is a thriving ecosystem supported by local communities</p>		<p>Representative and functional land commissions at village and commune level.</p> <p>Local conventions and reserve-level management plan developed to help outline best practice/rules for use of natural resources. And pastoral area delimited and weeded.</p> <p>Adoption of sustainable land management practices by project and non-project beneficiaries through trainer-of-trainer approach.</p> <p>Well-functioning network of informants to report / Increase in reporting of illegal practices and arrests for infringements will reduce infractions.</p> <p>Reduction in HWC conflict overall.</p> <p>Enterprises trained in how to develop NTFPs; provided with processing equipment and supported to secure linkages with markets and finance institutions.</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 developed. COFOB and COFOCOM functional and more than 50 ha delimited for rehabilitation/grazing.</p> <p>0.2 Regular data was being collected and submitted by informants, enabling authorities to make arrests and hand out fines. Security an issue.</p> <p>0.3 13 enclosures set up. Huge adoption of rudimentary enclosures and other strategies have seen a drop in HWC overall. Regular data collected and submitted by informants.</p> <p>0.4 Income from NTFPs</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1062 1016 1986 1375"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Baseline (July 2018)</th> <th>Endline (June 2021)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>All project beneficiaries</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> Mean</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> Median</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Members of VTE groups</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> Mean</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> Median</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Baseline (July 2018)	Endline (June 2021)	All project beneficiaries			Mean			Median			Members of VTE groups			Mean			Median		
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Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements					
		Project beneficiaries (not VTE members) Mean Median					
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 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 Year 2: 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	<p>N.B. No control at project endline due to limitations of telephone survey (due to security restrictions)</p> <p>1.1 12 COFOB and 1 COFOCOM (29% women as members, 28% management positions held by women) were established by year 1 and effectively functioning by year 2 – see output section and annex 5.</p> <p>1.2 12 local conventions and one management plan have been completed – see output section and annex 4.</p> <p>1.3 A total of 37,450 trees planted: 20,000 trees in year 2 & 17,450 trees in year 3. Species include Acacia senegal, Adansonia digitata, Bauhinia rufecens, Cassia sieberiana, Moringa oleifera and Prosopis Africana. – see outcome section and annex 10.</p> <p>1.4 Results from year 3 survey of project villages (see output section and annex 2</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1108 881 1982 984"> <tr> <td>Very well engaged: 62% (+37%)</td> <td>No engagement: 3% (-3%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moderate engagement: 29% (-9%)</td> <td>Do not know: 6% (-23%)</td> </tr> </table> <p>Total of people believing community is engaged with the WTBR and its sustainable management = 89%</p> <p>1.5 a) 89% of Lead Farmers report training non-project farmers. An average of 5.7 other farmers each. b) 96% of other farmers, who received training from Lead Farmers, report using the NRM techniques.</p> <p>See output section and annex 2.</p>		Very well engaged: 62% (+37%)	No engagement: 3% (-3%)	Moderate engagement: 29% (-9%)	Do not know: 6% (-23%)
Very well engaged: 62% (+37%)	No engagement: 3% (-3%)						
Moderate engagement: 29% (-9%)	Do not know: 6% (-23%)						

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
	Year 2 : 50 % Year 3: 80%	
Activity 1.1 Assessment of the COFOBs and COFCOM in the intervention area		Complete
Activity 1.2. Training of 65 COFOB/COFCOM members on land tenure law, land transaction law and communal conflict management.		Complete
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		Complete
Activity 1.4 Update land use maps of the Tamou Faunal Reserve		Complete
Activity 1.5 Development of 12 local conventions and one management plan for the Tamou Faunal Reserve based on the updated land use maps.		Complete
Activity 1.6 Exchange forum on the local conventions. With support of communal and regional government stakeholders		Complete
Activity 1.7 Training of the population on SWC and ANR techniques.		Complete
Activity 1.8 Training of the population on the plantation and management of trees		Complete
Activity 1.9 Setting up 3 nurseries and training of the 9 nursery staff		Complete
Activity 1.10 Delineation of 25 ha of pastureland		Complete
Activity 1.11 Rehabilitation and enrichment of 25ha communal degraded land		Complete
Activity 1.12 Planting of native trees on private land.		Complete- 37,450 trees planted on private land
<p>Output 2</p> <p>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>2.1 Complete (see annex 14)</p> <p>2.2 Respondents who think the Park W is a precious resource: Project beneficiaries: 99% (+4%)</p> <p>Respondents who think the Park W should be protected: Project beneficiaries: 100% (+4%) (Source: End Line RHoMIS; Apr-Jun2021 – annex 2)</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
	<p>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</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 61/64 (95%) of Lead Farmers report receiving training on HWC (3% of these were women)</p> <p>87/94 (93%) of Other Farmers report receiving training on HWC (16% of these were women) - annex 2</p> <p>2.4 99% of households report using at least one form of HWC prevention/mitigation strategy</p> <p>100% of households who attended training report using at least one form of HWC prevention/mitigation strategy.</p> <p>See Output section and annexes 2 and 15</p>
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.		Complete
Activity 2.2. Regional and National exchange forum with the different departments of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the project partners.		Complete
Activity 2.3 Training of the 24 patrol members on the different fauna species in the area and on data collection		Complete
Activity 2.4 Development of a coordination unit for local patrol and follow up activities		Complete
Activity 2.5 Awareness raising programme on the value of the park		Complete
Activity 2.6 Organisation of awareness raising campaigns at the village level in the project area on wildlife behaviour and strategies to prevent HWC.		Complete
Activity 2.7 Organization of training sessions in the targeted villages on the HWC prevention and mitigation strategies		Complete
Activity 2.8 Establishment of demonstration plots for physical protection techniques against HWC		Complete
Activity 2.9 Establishment of an early warning system.		Only through informants.
<p>Output 3.</p> <p>Supporting local economic development through the establishment 10 VTEs</p>	<p>3.1 10 VTE groups (175 women and 75 men) based on the production, processing and marketing of NTFPs</p>	<p>See Outcome section indicator 4, Output indicators 3.1-3.3 and annexes 16.</p> <p>3.1 10 VTEs functional and turning a small profit</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
based on sustainable forest product value chains	<p>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>3.2 VTEs linked to a market via farmer's union. No agreements with buyers established</p> <p>3.3 Links with financial institution established for all 10 VTEs.</p>
Activity 3.1 Training on MA&D for the 10 VTEs		Complete
Activity 3.2 Follow up on the 10 VTEs established and distribution of equipment/material		Complete
Activity 3.3 Dissemination of information on the VTEs' products through local radios.		Complete
Activity 3.4 Organise exchange visits for VTE members		Complete
Activity 3.5 Participation in a regional event to present the VTEs products		Complete
Activity 3.6 Participation in a national event to present the VTEs products		N/A
Activity 3.7 Establishment of 5 agreements between the VTEs and private/buyers		N/A
Activity 3.8 Establishment of links with microfinance institutions		Completed

Annex 3 Standard Measures

We use these figures as part of our evaluation of the wider impact of the Darwin Initiative programme. Projects are not evaluated according to quantity. That is – projects that report few standard measures are not seen as being of poorer quality than those projects which can report against multiple standard measures.

Please quantify and briefly describe all project standard measures using the coding and format of the Darwin Initiative Standard Measures. Download the updated list explaining standard measures from <http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/resources/reporting/>. If any sections are not relevant, please leave blank.

Code	Description	Total	Nationality	Gender	Title or Focus	Language	Comments
Training Measures							
1a	Number of people to submit PhD thesis						
1b	Number of PhD qualifications obtained						
2	Number of Masters qualifications obtained						
3	Number of other qualifications obtained						
4a	Number of undergraduate students receiving training						
4b	Number of training weeks provided to undergraduate students						
4c	Number of postgraduate students receiving training (not 1-3 above)						
4d	Number of training weeks for postgraduate students						
5	Number of people receiving other forms of long-term (>1yr) training not leading to formal qualification (e.g., not categories 1-4 above)	6	Nigerien	Male	Market analysis and development approach	French	CoGeZoH staff trained in how to deliver MA&D
		277	Nigerienne	Female	Market analysis and development approach	Hausa	VTE members

6a	Number of people receiving other forms of short-term education/training (e.g., not categories 1-5 above)	2481	Nigerien	245 women	Farmers trained on SWC and ANR techniques	Hausa	
6b	Number of training weeks not leading to formal qualification						
7	Number of types of training materials produced for use by host country(s) (describe training materials)						
Research Measures		Total	Nationality	Gender	Title	Language	Comments/ Weblink if available
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) produced for Governments, public authorities or other implementing agencies in the host country (ies)						Participatory process?
10	Number of formal documents produced to assist work related to species identification, classification and recording.						
11a	Number of papers published or accepted for publication in peer reviewed journals						
11b	Number of papers published or accepted for publication elsewhere						Location?
12a	Number of computer-based databases established (containing species/generic information) and handed over to host country						
12b	Number of computer-based databases enhanced (containing species/genetic information) and handed over to host country						
13a	Number of species reference collections established and handed over to host country(s)						

13b	Number of species reference collections enhanced and handed over to host country(s)						
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Dissemination Measures		Total	Nationality	Gender	Theme	Language	Comments
14a	Number of conferences/seminars/workshops organised to present/disseminate findings from Darwin project work	3	Niger		Annual workshops		
14b	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.						

Physical Measures		Total	Comments
20	Estimated value (£s) of physical assets handed over to host country(s)		
21	Number of permanent educational, training, research facilities or organisation established		
22	Number of permanent field plots established		Please describe

Financial Measures		Total	Nationality	Gender	Theme	Language	Comments
23	Value of additional resources raised from other sources (e.g., in addition to Darwin funding) for project work <i>(please note that the figure provided here should align with financial information provided in section 8.2)</i>						

Annex 4 Aichi Targets

Please note which of the Aichi targets your project has contributed to.

Please record only the **main targets** to which your project has contributed. It is recognised that most Darwin projects make a smaller contribution to many other targets in their work. You will not be evaluated more favourably if you tick multiple boxes.

	Aichi Target	Tick if applicable to your project
1	People are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	x
2	Biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.	x
3	Incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.	
4	Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	
5	The rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.	
6	All fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.	
7	Areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	x
8	Pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.	
9	Invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	
10	The multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.	
11	At least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	
12	The extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	

13	The genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.	
14	Ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	
15	Ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.	
16	The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.	
17	Each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.	
18	The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.	
19	Knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	
20	The mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.	

Annex 5 Publications

Provide full details of all publications and material that can be publicly accessed, e.g. title, name of publisher, contact details. Mark (*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report

Type *	Detail	Nationality of lead author	Nationality of institution of lead author	Gender of lead author	Publishers	Available from
(e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	(title, author, year)				(name, city)	(e.g. web link, contact address etc)

Annex 6 Darwin Contacts

To assist us with future evaluation work and feedback on your report, please provide details for the main project contacts below. If you are providing personal details on behalf of someone else, please ensure that they have agreed to sharing their information with us.

Please add new sections to the table if you are able to provide contact information for more people than there are sections below.

Please see our Privacy Notice on how contact details will be used and stored:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/the-darwin-initiative#privacy-notice>.

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Partner 2 etc.	
Name	
Organisation	
Role within Darwin Project	
Address	
Fax/Skype	
Email	

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.	n
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 10)?	y
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	y
Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	n
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	y
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	y
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	