

Darwin Initiative Main Annual 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)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2021

Darwin Project Information

Project reference	27-016
Project title	Responsible exchange of plant genetic resources for research and development
Country/ies	Ethiopia, Uganda
Lead organisation	Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)
Partner institution(s)	Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia) Makerere University (Uganda) University of Vienna (Austria) African Botanic Garden Network European Botanic Gardens Consortium
Darwin grant value	£326,530
Start/end dates of project	1 July 2020-31 March 2023
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2020 – Mar 2021) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	July 2020-March 2021
Project Leader name	Paul Smith
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.bgci.org/our-work/projects-and-case-studies/responsible-exchange-of-plant-genetic-resources-for-research-and-development/
Report author(s) and date	Paul Smith, Sebsebe Demissew, James Kalema & Michael Kiehn, 30 th April 2021

Note: Please remove the blue guidance notes from all sections before submission.

Evaluation of projects: All Annual Reports are reviewed by a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) consultant. They will use your original application and logical framework (or the most recent approved logframe) as a basis of their review. Therefore, it is important that you refer back to this document when writing this report. The review acts as an independent viewpoint of whether the project is making the progress it states based upon the report and associated evidence submitted. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that you submit the Means of Verification listed in your logframe to support your assertions of progress.

When making statements of progress or impact please ensure you refer as much as possible to sources of evidence including the indicators and means of verification outlined in your project logframe. For example, when reporting training events, some measure of effectiveness is

required as well as the numbers participating and duration. In order to comment on quality of work it is useful to share with the reviewer project documentation such as training manuals, meeting reports, training feedback etc.

Please note: Major changes in the logframe (e.g., Output and Outcome level changes) must be approved. You can do this through submission of a Change Request form which can be found here: <https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms-change-request-forms-and-terms-and-conditions/>. Submission of changes to the project design in the annual report does not constitute notification. Changes requiring formal approval include, but are not restricted to: a delay or change in project implementation causing a re-budget; staff changes (relating to CVs provided at application stage); changes in Outputs or Outcome; project termination. If not clear whether a change requires formal approval please check with LTS.

Report formats: This report should be sent in MS Word only (if you have concerns about layout you may submit a PDF but this is in addition to a Word version). If you have already answered a question in one section, do not repeat the information in another section, but refer back to the section number.

Each section contains questions to guide the completion of the report. **Not all guiding questions have to be answered – Project Leaders should exercise judgement as to those most relevant to the project.**

The assumption is that project partners will play an active role in writing the report.

Please remember that your report will be made public. If there are specific sections that you would like treated in confidence, please ensure these are clearly identified as we can remove sensitive material before posting on the website.

1. Project summary

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address. For example, what biodiversity challenges is the project designed to address? Why are they relevant, and for whom? What human development and wellbeing challenges (poverty alleviation) is the project also intended to address? How did you identify these problems?

You may find it helpful to refer to your original application form, and you may use text from your application form to provide information in this section.

Briefly describe the location (with a map if possible) of the project.

Foresters, agronomists and plant conservationists in developing countries are prevented from exchanging plant material because of poor quality collections, incomplete data, poor knowledge of access and benefit sharing, biosafety, CITES and other compliance requirements, and uncertainty about how material is handled and tracked. Under this project, we will develop unique tools that enable researchers and practitioners to access and share plant material and data with international collaborators responsibly and safely, leading to positive impacts on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

This project focuses on Europe and Africa, but has global relevance.

2. Project partnerships

Darwin Initiative projects are required to be collaborative.

Describe the partnership between the lead institution and partner(s) and how this has developed over the last year of the project. Please focus on:

- Whether partnerships were based on demand stemming from the host country/ies and the extent to which all partners are involved in project planning, monitoring and evaluation and decision making.
- Particular achievements, lessons, strengths or challenges with the partnership(s), and how have the latter been met.

Please also describe how relevant local institutions (including, where relevant, UK Embassies and British High Commissions), local communities and technical specialists who are not formally partners in the project have been involved as appropriate.

Please support comments with evidence.

The main project partners are Botanic Gardens Conservation International (UK), Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), Makerere University (Uganda) and the University of Vienna (Austria). In addition, the European Consortium of Botanic Gardens and the African Botanic Gardens Network have been engaged with the project through BGCI, which provides the secretariat for both of these networks. The partnerships and project were demand driven, with a previous Darwin Initiative project ([3319](#)) identifying impediments to the exchange of plant material with African botanical institutions, and European botanic gardens raising concerns about increased bureaucracy associated with EU regulations on biosecurity and the Nagoya Protocol. All partners were involved in the project planning, and all have been actively engaged since the project started in July.

Achievements

Makerere University have appointed a student (Peter Omaswa) to carry out the first MSc study on **the importance of the exchange of plant material to plant conservation and sustainable development**. Peter has developed a full research proposal (available on request) and presented the key questions during the [workshop](#) on March 9th 2021. Professors James Kalema and Patrick Mucunguzi, both of Makerere University, are supervising Peter's study.

Addis Ababa University have appointed a student (Ashenafi Ayenew) to carry out the second study on **the exchange of plant material between developed and developing countries, and impediments to such exchange**. The European Consortium has provided substantial data on plant material sent out and received over the last 10 years to support this research, and Ashenafi presented his preliminary results during the project consultation [workshop](#) on March 9th. Ashenafi also developed a [questionnaire](#), which requested information from botanical institutions on the importance of, trends and opinions on the international exchange of plant material, and which closed on March 15th 2021. Professor Sebsebe Demissew and Dr Paul Smith are supervising Ashenafi Ayenew's project.

The University of Vienna has worked with BGCI to develop and submit a paper entitled **The Nagoya Protocol and Access and Benefit Sharing regulations of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its impacts on botanic gardens' collections and research** to CAB Reviews. This paper was submitted on 29th January 2021 and a revised version has been accepted for publication.

All of the project partners joined the consultation [workshop](#) on March 9th, including 32 people from African institutions in 11 countries and 33 people from European institutions in 17 countries. In addition, the workshop was co-led by Keith Damiani (software developer, US).

Strengths

A particular strength of the project has been the level of engagement and interest in the project. The partners in Ethiopia, Uganda and Austria are very committed and interested in the project and working diligently to deliver on set targets and milestones. Initially, we were aiming for no more than 40 participants at the workshop but, such was the demand, we had to increase this number to >60.

Challenges

The workshop had originally been planned as a face to face meeting to be held in Addis Ababa. However, due to COVID-19 (a Change Request was granted), the workshop was held online on Zoom instead. In fact, this worked very well, and we were able to use the breakout room function in order to have more focused group discussions very effectively. UAA's IT department facilitated the meeting.

Other stakeholders

The main specialist who has been involved is Keith Damiani, a software developer who has been contracted to develop the plant material exchange platform, which will be one of the main outputs of this project. Keith gave an impressive demonstration of his design prototype for the platform

during the [workshop](#). In addition, Cambridge University Plant Sciences are assisting the project with analysis of >17,000 requests for plant material made through BGCI's PlantSearch platform over the past 10 years. The University has contributed student time and their expertise in analysing specific uses of material to support plant conservation and sustainable development. Finally, the University of Tasmania is working to develop a Climate Resilience Assessment Tool, which will be made available as part of the plant material exchange platform to help ensure that appropriate plant species are exchanged for sustainable development research taking into account current and future climate change scenarios. There is no point in carrying out expensive research and development on species that will not survive in recipient countries.

3. Project progress

This section (3.1- 3.5) is the main narrative report on project progress in the last year, and should be a flowing paragraphed presentation written in a formal style. Sub-sections reflect the progress against the project's logframe. We do not require a summary at the start, just clear reporting under 3.1 to 3.5. Please ensure that you clearly refer to evidence to support the narrative.

Annex 1 requires you to provide a condensed version of this narrative against the logframe. In this section and in Annex 1 please report against the latest approved version of the logframe. Please also include your full project logical framework in Annex 2. If there have been changes to the logframe please indicate where these are, and please note that, as described above, major changes to the logframe must be submitted for approval by separate email.

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Briefly, please report on progress in implementing the project's Activities for this year. **Please report the progress of Activities under the Outputs** to which they relate. Have the Activities been carried out in the manner and time planned? Please support comments with evidence to support progress towards Activities.

The project commenced on July 1st 2020 due to late notification of funding approval from Defra. Progress to date as follows:

Output 1.1. Two MSc studies carried out on the extent and nature of plant material exchange for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

- Activity 1.1. The main Output 1 activity this year has comprised data gathering and registration of two students, one at Makerere and another at Addis Ababa Universities. Peter Omaswa has been appointed by Makerere University in Uganda, and Ashenafi Ayenew has been registered with Addis Ababa University. Both have developed detailed research proposals, and have begun gathering data on *Topic 1: the importance of the exchange of plant material to plant conservation and sustainable development* (Makerere University) and *Topic 2: the [extent of] exchange of plant material between developed and developing countries, and impediments to such exchange* (Addis Ababa University). Data on plant material exchange has been provided by 25 European botanical institutions that regularly send out and receive plant material, and further information has been gleaned from a [questionnaire](#) to which we received responses from 64 organisations. Baseline data on exchange of plant material between European and African institutions shows that only 0.6% of material has gone to African botanical institutions, and only to three countries – Algeria, Egypt and South Africa. In addition, the University of Cambridge has started to analyse >17,000 requests for material through BGCI's PlantSearch database. These data will be used in the MSc studies above, and will form the basis of at least one peer-reviewed paper (Activity 1.2). One peer-reviewed paper entitled 'The Nagoya Protocol and Access and Benefit Sharing regulations of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its impacts on botanic gardens' collections and research' has already been submitted to CAB Reviews (supplementary document 1).

Output 2.1. Consultation workshop on constraints to plant material/data exchange and development of digital exchange platform

- Activity 2.1 was planned to be a face to face consultation meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. However, due to COVID-19, the workshop was held on a virtual platform. It was attended by 66 people, including 32 people from African institutions in 11 countries and 33 people from European institutions in 17 countries. In addition, the workshop was co- led by Keith Damiani (software developer, US). The consultation workshop was recorded, and can be viewed online [here](#). A list of participants is included in the supplementary materials (supplementary document 2).

Output 2.2. Specifications for a digital platform agreed and software company engaged to develop digital platform

- Activity 2.2 comprised ‘Specifications for a digital platform agreed and software company engaged by end of year 1’. This was achieved following a total of 14 consultation meetings on the specification of the digital platform held internally in BGCI (13 July; 3 August; 7 September), with botanical institution partners (2, 9 July; 9, 18, 24 September) and with potential developers (28 July; 13, 20, 28 August; 4, 22 September). In addition, a specification outline has been written and circulated. A software developer, Keith Damiani, was contracted in November 2020 to deliver the platform.

Output 3.1. Digital platform for germplasm/data exchange design completed by the end of year 1.

- Activity 3.1 comprised ‘Digital platform for germplasm/data exchange designed by end of year 1’, and this was achieved. The wireframes for the platform were presented at the consultation workshop, available online [here](#). They are also included in the supplementary materials (supplementary document 3).

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Report on how overall progress has been made towards the project Outputs and how likely the project is to achieve them by its close. Address each Output in turn, identifying the baseline condition, change recorded to date, and the source of evidence for this change. Please comment on how you are measuring the Output indicators. Please support comments with evidence and use indicators to support progress towards Outputs.

Output 1.1. Two MSc studies carried out on the extent and nature of plant material exchange for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

- Two MSc students have been appointed, and excellent progress has been made on gathering baseline data on the extent to which plant material and data is shared between countries, and for what purposes. The data from 25 European botanical institutions shows clear trends related to where material is sent to and received from. Initial analysis shows that exchange of plant material between European and African institutions occurs very rarely, accounting for less than 1% (0.6%) of the total recorded frequency of exchange. Material exchange between European institutions accounts for 82.9 % of the total recorded frequency of exchange while that between European and Non- European institutions (excluding Africa) accounts for 16.5%. Only three African countries are involved in material exchange - Algeria, Egypt and South Africa.
- In addition, 17,000 requests for plant material received through BGCI’s PlantSearch database over the past 10 years - including the purpose that material has been requested for - is currently being analysed by a team at Cambridge University. This will provide information on to what extent, and for what specific purposes, material is exchanged to support biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Output 2.1. Consultation workshop on constraints to plant material/data exchange and development of digital exchange platform

- The BGCI ‘Exchange of plant material and data’ [questionnaire](#) sent out by BGCI in February/March attracted responses from 64 organisations from around the world

(supplementary document 4). A third of respondents reported a decline in exchange of material over recent years; furthermore, 83% of respondents said the main problem was that plant material exchange had become too bureaucratic, and that this would have negative impacts on plant conservation and sustainable development research. In spite of this, 65% of correspondents felt that access to plant material should be regulated, and 47% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that 'adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing is a good opportunity for facilitated plant material exchange.' Constraints to exchange of plant material and data were also a focus of the consultation workshop on March 9th, which can be viewed online [here](#). The same constraints were raised as those identified by respondents to the questionnaire.

Output 2.2. Specifications for a digital platform agreed and software company engaged to develop digital platform and Output 3.1. Digital platform for germplasm/data exchange design completed by the end of year 1.

- Excellent progress has been made through a series of consultation meetings, and a detailed brief prepared for Keith Damiani, the software developer appointed to design and implement the digital exchange platform. The platform design wireframes were presented at the March 9th workshop which can be viewed online [here](#), and were very well received by workshop attendees. The wireframe PDF document is included in the supplementary materials (document 3). The new platform will enable institutions to exchange material through a regulated central platform online for the first time. Plant material will be flagged if biosecurity or ABS compliance regulations apply, and suppliers and recipients of plant material and data will hold accounts that enable tracking of material, submission and receipt of feedback on quality of material, and access to supplementary tools, such as a climate resilience tool that assesses the suitability of material for cultivation under current and future climate scenarios.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Please report on progress made towards the project Outcome. Please make specific reference to the Outcome indicators including baseline condition and progress to date, and provide evidence against them. Consider the following:

- Are the indicators adequate for measuring the intended Outcome?
- Is the project likely to achieve the Outcome by end of funding? If not, what action will you take to ensure the situation can be improved?

The project outcome is '*Improved capacity for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in developing countries achieved through increased sharing of knowledge, facilities, data and plant material between institutions in the north and south*'. The project is on track to deliver the outcome, and current indicators appear to be adequate for measuring progress towards this outcome. As detailed above, significant progress has been made against Indicator 0.1 *Consultation workshop held and specifications for a digital platform enabling responsible exchange and tracking of plant data and germplasm developed by the end of year 1* and Indicator 0.2. *Digital platform for germplasm/data exchange and tracking designed, developed and launched by end of year 2 results in increase in exchange of data and material between African and European institutions of at least 20% against the project baseline by end of project*. The project is very much on track.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Monitoring of critical conditions (risks and assumptions) is crucial to project success. Report on whether Outcome and Output level assumptions still hold true. If there have been changes in assumptions, in what ways is the project meeting or managing these? Please support comments with evidence.

Assumption 1:

Key project assumptions were as follows:

- *Assumption 1: University closures/strikes are not in place in Uganda and/or Ethiopia*

To date, although the COVID pandemic has delayed some courses or moved them online, both universities have remained open, and it has been possible to register the two students carrying out the research studies. COVID appears to be worsening in both Ethiopia and Uganda currently (April 2021) but we anticipate that the two students will still be able to carry out their studies, which are entirely desk-based.

- *Assumption 2: The political situation in Ethiopia remains stable, and the country is safe to visit.* The political situation in Ethiopia has worsened over recent months with the war in Tigray. In addition, the COVID crisis has meant that Ethiopia and Uganda are red listed by the UK Government, meaning that neither country is currently safe to visit. In Year 1, we were able to adjust to online consultation and meetings, and this is likely to continue into year 2 and possibly year 3.
- *Assumption 3: National legislation or permitting procedures do not prevent the exchange of germplasm between some countries. In some cases, procedures may continue to be prohibitive and/or slow to adapt regardless of project outcomes.* It is too soon to say whether this is a risk to project delivery.
- *Assumption 4: Consensus can be reached about how to measure compliance amongst users.* This risk/assumption relates to Output 4 – the accreditation mechanism. This is a key output for year 2 of the project, and we will know more about this assumption following the consultation process planned for year 2.

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

The impact is not intended to be achieved solely by the project. This is a higher-level situation that the project will contribute towards achieving. All Darwin projects are expected to contribute to biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation.

- What impact was in your original application form?
- What contribution is your project making to the higher-level impact on biodiversity conservation?
- What contribution is your project making to a higher-level impact on human development and wellbeing (poverty alleviation)?

Please support all comments with evidence.

The project impact statement is *'Biodiversity conservation and the well-being and livelihoods of poor people in developing countries is improved through increased north-south collaborative research in plant conservation and sustainable development.'*

- This project is making a significant contribution to understanding the extent and nature of north-south collaborative research on plant genetic resources, and the constraints to such collaboration. Currently, exchange of plant material between institutions in Europe and Africa is minimal, and 92% of questionnaire respondents felt that there were major constraints to international exchange of plant material, with 90% of respondents saying this had negative impacts on collaborative scientific research, 83% indicating negative impacts on plant conservation, 48% saying it had negative impacts on higher education opportunities and 43% indicating it had negative impacts on sustainable development. Based on responses to the questionnaire and consultation workshop discussions, the main reasons for the lack of collaborative research are overly bureaucratic regulations and permitting procedures (83%); poor knowledge of ABS, biosecurity etc. compliance requirements (41%); lack of ABS legislation and permitting systems (33%); poor quality data (30%); lack of tracking mechanisms for shared material (22%) and lack of trust in compliance mechanisms in recipient organisations (20%). This project is designed to address all of these issues.

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

Briefly comment on which [SDGs](#) are relevant to your project and what contribution your project has made to these SDGs in the 2020-21 Financial Year.

- The work that Cambridge University are carrying out investigating the purposes of exchange of plant material between botanical institutions – based on 17,000 request for material over the past 10 years – will give us a lot more information about which SDGs are supported by collaborative research. However, it is likely that the project will have medium to long term impacts on the Sustainable Development Goals for which plants are essential. These include SDG1 (no poverty), SDG2 (zero hunger), SDG3 (good health and well-being), SDG4 (education), SDG6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG13 (climate action), and SDG15 (life on land). In particular, this project supports the implementation of SDG17 (partnerships for the goals) and specifically Target 17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.

5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The overarching objective of the Darwin Initiative is to work with countries to meet their obligations under the major biodiversity Conventions, Treaties or Agreements. Since 2011 this has included the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS); the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA); the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In your application you will have defined which convention, agreement or treaty your project would contribute to. Please comment on what contribution your project is making to support your host country(ies) to meet their objectives under one or more of these Conventions, Treaties or Agreements. Please refer to the Convention texts including the CBD objectives, Aichi Targets, Programmes of Work and other relevant materials.

Has the project had any interaction with any host country convention focal points, via host country or UK partners in the last 12 months? This is encouraged. Please give details of any interaction.

Please support any comments with evidence and indicators.

- This project supports the goals and targets of the CBD by supporting sustainable use (Strategic Goal B), improving the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity (Strategic Goal C), enhancing the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services (Strategic Goal D) and enhancing implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building (Strategic Goal E). The project particularly addresses Aichi Target 19 'By 2020, 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.'
- This project has a strong focus on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, by ensuring that germplasm and data exchange complies with ABS laws and regulations. We will also work closely with organisations implementing the ITPGRFA, sharing lessons and approaches between the two communities. Finally, the main output of this project – a digital platform enabling the responsible exchange of plant material and data – will flag species listed under CITES, helping to ensure CITES compliance.

- The CBD focal points for Uganda (National Environment Management Authority) and Ethiopia (Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute) participated in the consultation workshop on March 9th, and have been engaged with the project throughout.

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

Darwin Initiative projects are required to contribute to a reduction in poverty. For projects working in Upper Middle Income Countries, they should be able to demonstrate how benefits will be delivered to people in Low and/or Lower Middle Income Countries.

Describe how your project is contributing to a reduction in poverty. When writing this section, consider the following:

- Who are the expected beneficiaries – i.e. which communities are affected by the issue this project is seeking to tackle, and how will this project help them?
- Are there expected to be any direct poverty impacts from this project (e.g. improved personal security for community members/rangers, increased household/community income etc.)?
- If indirect only, what evidence is there that the project will contribute to poverty alleviation in the long-term (e.g. improved ecosystem services, increased awareness about the value of wildlife, improved community governance etc.)?
- Are there any notable achievements this year?

Please support all comments with evidence and use indicators from your logframe.

The Darwin Initiative has produced an [Information Note on Poverty](#) which may help you understand the multi-dimensional aspects of poverty that can be reported on.

This project is primarily focused on facilitating north-south collaborative research to support sustainable development and plant conservation. Therefore, impacts on poverty alleviation are likely to be indirect and long term. The research being carried out by Cambridge University, based on >17,000 requests for material to support collaborative research over the past 10 years will give us a strong indication of the extent to which plant collections support research that addresses poverty reduction. We also know from data showing the levels of actual international exchange of plant material and data that current exchange between European and African institutions is almost non-existent – despite strong historic links between the two continents (Indicators 1.1 and 2.1). A notable achievement this year has been the collaborative design of a digital platform for the responsible exchange of plant material and data that will facilitate access to material, help ensure regulatory compliance and provide assurance to organisations that their material will be tracked and only used for the purposes agreed.

7. Consideration of gender equality issues

The [International Development \(Gender Equality\) Act](#) came into force in May 2014, ensuring that gender equality is an explicit objective in UK Government funded projects. Describe how your project has taken gender equality into account. When writing this section, consider the following:

- Is there evidence that the project is working to address gender inequality?
- Are there expected to be any direct gender equality impacts from this project? If not direct, please comment on any indirect impacts.
- Are there any notable achievements this year?

Please support all comments with evidence and reference any relevant indicators from your logframe.

The project has encouraged equal gender participation, and has tracked participation through disaggregated gender data.

33% of consultation workshop participants were female and 46% of questionnaire respondents were female. See supplementary documents for more details.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

Discuss systems and processes employed internally to monitor and evaluate the project this year. Comment on the suitability of this approach, and whether you have identified any areas for improvement.

When writing this section, consider the following:

- How can you demonstrate that the Outputs and Activities of the project actually contribute to the project Outcome?
- What are the indicators of achievements (both qualitative and quantitative) and how are you measuring these?
- Have there been any changes made to the M&E plan over the reporting period?
- Do partners share the M&E work or is this the role of one organisation? How is information shared amongst partners/stakeholders?

Face to face Steering Committee meetings have not been possible, as originally planned, due to the COVID pandemic and related travel restrictions. Instead, the lead partners (BGCI, AAU, MU and UV) have met online through Zoom frequently (July 2, 9; September 9, 18, 24; October 6, 16, 20, 29; November 24, December 2; January 28; February 24, 25; March 5, 9). Information has also been shared through very frequent email contact. Project activities and outputs have frequently been reviewed, and so far these are all on track.

9. Lessons learnt

Use of lessons learned is important for continuous improvement and adaptive management. This includes lessons from all levels including administrative, management, technical, and M&E. When writing this section, consider the following:

- What worked well, and what didn't work well, this past year?
- If you had to do it again, what would you do differently?
- What recommendations would you make to others doing similar projects?
- How are you going to build this learning into the project and future plans?

After the delay in project commencement and receiving funding from Defra, the project has proceeded remarkably smoothly – especially considering the travel restrictions imposed by the COVID pandemic. We have all got very used to meeting on Zoom and, occasional connection problems aside, I would say that communication has been more efficient than if we had relied solely on face to face meetings. This is largely a desk-based project, which has helped to reduce the impacts of COVID. We submitted (and got approved) a Change Request related to running the consultation workshop on Zoom as opposed to face to face but that worked very well and it is fair to say that we had greater participation from a far wider range of organisations and countries than would have been possible if we had met face to face as planned.

If COVID restrictions continue into years 2 and 3, we will have to move future planned face to face meetings online, including the training elements in year 3. BGCI has subscribed to a digital online learning platform 'Moodle' so will be well placed to do this.

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

Have you responded to issues raised in the review of your last year's annual report? What were the views of project partners on the review? Briefly describe what actions have been taken as a result of recommendations from last year's review, unless you have already clearly done so through a separate note or the half year report. Please also use this section to respond to any feedback received when your project was funded, if appropriate.

Not applicable.

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Please use this section to provide any further comments on progress that have not been covered elsewhere in this report. Issues that might be covered in this section include:

- Has the design of the project been enhanced over the last year, e.g. refining methods, or exit strategy?
- Discuss any significant difficulties encountered during the year and steps taken to overcome these if not already discussed elsewhere.
- Does the project face any particular risks?

Not applicable.

12. Sustainability and legacy

Discuss the profile of the project within the country(ies) and what efforts have been made during the year to promote the work. What evidence is there for increasing interest and capacity resulting from the project? Please describe any action you have taken as part of the project's open access plan.

Is your planned exit strategy still valid given the project is now running, or have you, or are you, planning to make changes to what was originally proposed? Likewise, how do you plan to ensure a sustained legacy (e.g. social, economic, ecological, technical etc.) of your project Outcome?

Year 1 of the project has focused on getting the project started and carrying out the ground work for the main project products (research papers, digital platform and accreditation scheme). Year 2 will see the first products launched (research papers and digital platform), and these will be open access.

Our planned exit strategy is still valid. The main project outputs are:

1. a digital platform for efficient and responsible exchange of plant material and data, and;
2. a mutually agreed, peer-reviewed global mechanism for recognising botanical research institutions that apply best practice ABS and biosafety procedures.

Both of these outputs are stable and sustainable end points. Both will require continued maintenance and upgrading but they build on existing tools and processes, already widely adopted by the botanical community, and both will continue to be maintained by BGCI and its partner institutions as has been the case hitherto. The training component is initially project dependent but BGCI will continue to maintain and improve its web-based training as it already does for its other training modules, and this should help to ensure a steady increase in the number of people trained in data management and exchange of material beyond the project and well into the future.

13. Darwin identity

- What effort has the project made to publicise the Darwin Initiative, e.g. where did the project use the Darwin Initiative logo and promote Darwin funding opportunities or projects?
- How has the UK Government's contribution to your project's work been recognised?
- Was the Darwin Initiative funding recognised as a distinct project with a clear identity or did it form part of a larger programme?
- To what extent is there an understanding of the Darwin Initiative within in the host country and who is likely to be familiar with it?
- If you have a Twitter/Instagram/Flickr/Blog/YouTube etc. account is this effective and have you linked back to the Darwin Initiative and its social media channels?

The Darwin Initiative is acknowledged as the funder of this project at the top of the project page on BGCI's website, which can be seen [here](#). The project is recognised as distinct, and has generated a lot of interest in the host countries and internationally. BGCI has promoted the project

through its website, social media accounts and newsletter, Cultivate, which reaches >13,000 people working in the botanical research community.

14. Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery

For many of our projects, we know that COVID-19 will have impacted project delivery and so it might be relevant to discuss the pandemic throughout your report. Here, we would like you to summarise the impact of COVID-19 on your project as well as providing an overview of how you have responded.

- To what extent has COVID-19 impacted your project?
- How have you responded? For example, by adjusting your workplan or approach to help maintain delivery.
- Are longer-term delays expected?
- How are you assuring the health and safety of project staff and beneficiaries?
- Could any of your project outcomes or impacts assist with the response to COVID-19 or reduce the risk of future pandemics?
- Do you expect or hope to continue with any of the new ways of working adopted over the past year, once the pandemic passes? For example, greater use of virtual meetings to reduce the need to travel?

See above. Because this is largely a desk-based project, COVID has not significantly impacted on the delivery of year 1 activities. The main adjustment has been to shift planned face to face meetings online, which has worked well – in the case of the consultation workshop, better than if we had met face to face. BGCI and all of the partners have taken the necessary precautions (social distancing, wearing of masks etc.) to keep students and staff safe.

It is possible that some of the research that the project outputs support will have relevance to managing pandemics and/or reducing the likelihood of zoonotic diseases in the future. We will know more once we have the results of the University of Cambridge research.

In years 2 and 3 of the project, we will reduce international travel and face to face meetings as required. We do not expect this to have a detrimental impact on project delivery.

15. Safeguarding

Please tick this box if any safeguarding or human rights violations have occurred during this financial year.

If you have ticked the box, please ensure these are reported to ODA.safeguarding@defra.gov.uk as indicated in the T&Cs.

Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. All projects are expected to provide a safe and trusted environment which safeguards anyone who the organisation has contact with, including beneficiaries, project staff, volunteers, and downstream partners. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place. **Please outline and/or provide any updates on your lead organisation's policies or procedures, outlining how you have ensured all project action (including activities led by downstream partners) has applied these principles in practice. Please provide any information on how safeguarding concerns relevant to your project have been managed during the reporting year, and how future risks will be mitigated.**

This question applies to all projects, but will be particularly relevant for projects working directly with communities or with informant networks. As outlined in the terms and conditions for your project, the lead organisation must:

- have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of your commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse
- keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with
- have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made
- share your safeguarding policy with downstream partners
- have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised
- have in place a Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards

Additional guidance can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

BGCI's employee handbook' was updated in 2020 and contains principles, requirements and guidance on staff and contractor conduct within and outside of the office. This includes our policies on anti-bribery and corruption, and anti-harassment and bullying, which are also shared with project partners to ensure that they adhere to the same standards as BGCI. Sub-contractors sign up to these principles and requirements. A whistle-blowing policy is included in the handbook, which includes a procedure for raising concerns, including options for referral if it is felt necessary to contact relevant government bodies (e.g. HM Revenue and Customs, The Environment Agency, The Charity Commission etc.). BGCI's policies are available [here](#).

BGCI also has a Code of Conduct for staff which sets out expectations of behaviours inside and outside the work place and makes it clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breaches – i.e. disciplinary action up to and including dismissal as well as legal action by BGCI if it deems it necessary to do so.

All project activities have been compliant with ABS guidelines and regulations. In fact, one of the central aims of the project is to improve procedures and practice of ABS relevant PIC and MAT agreements and the methodologies being developed are in partnership with the ABS National Focal Points and permitting authorities EBI and NEMA in Ethiopia and Uganda, respectively.

There have been no safeguarding incidents or concerns in this first year of the project.

16. Project expenditure

Please expand and complete Table 1. If all receipts have not yet been received, please provide indicative figures and clearly mark them as Draft. The Actual claim form will be taken as the final accounting for funds.

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2020/21 Grant (£)	2020/21 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				

Highlight any agreed changes to the budget and fully explain any variation in expenditure where this is +/- 10% of the budget. Have these changes been discussed with and approved by Darwin?

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2020-2021

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>Biodiversity conservation and the well-being and livelihoods of poor people in developing countries is improved through increased north-south collaborative research in plant conservation and sustainable development</p>		<p>Data gathered and students registered to support research into the extent to which exchange of plant material between botanical research institutions in the North and South supports plant conservation and sustainable development research</p>	
<p>Outcome</p> <p>Improved capacity for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in developing countries achieved through increased sharing of knowledge, facilities, data and plant material between institutions in the north and south</p>	<p>0.1 Consultation workshop held and specifications for a digital platform enabling responsible exchange and tracking of plant data and germplasm developed by the end of year 1.</p> <p>0.2. Digital platform for germplasm/data exchange and tracking designed, developed and launched by end of year 2 results in increase in exchange of data and material between African and European institutions of at least 20% against the project baseline by end of project.</p> <p>0.3. Accreditation methodology for recognising ABS, biosafety and CITES best practice agreed by the end of year 2, and scheme developed to assess and accredit organisations adhering to ABS, biosafety and CITES best practice launched and adopted by at least 20 organisations by the end of the project.</p> <p>0.4 Training in data management and use of the tool provided to at least 80 individuals (equal male and female) from at least 50 organisations through webinars and face to face meetings</p>	<p>0.1. Completed. workshop was held on a virtual platform. It was attended by 66 people, including 32 people from African institutions in 11 countries and 33 people from European institutions in 17 countries. In addition, the workshop was co-led by Keith Damiani (software developer, US). The consultation workshop was recorded, and can be viewed online here. A list of participants is included in the supplementary materials (supplementary document 2).</p> <p>0.2. Digital platform designed (see supplementary document 3).</p>	<p>0.2. Digital platform for germplasm/data exchange and tracking developed and launched by end of year 2</p> <p>0.3. Accreditation methodology for recognising ABS, biosafety and CITES best practice agreed by the end of year 2</p>

	resulting in at least 40 organisations using the tool for exchange of plant material by the end of the project.		
Output 1. Levels of plant material/data exchange between European and African PGR organisations characterized and quantified.	<p>1.1. Baseline data and analysis on extent and nature of plant material exchange between European and African organisations completed by the end of year 1</p> <p>1.2. At least one peer-reviewed paper published on the value of biodiversity for sustainable development, and impediments to its use by end of year 2</p> <p>1.3. Endline assessment of extent and nature of plant material exchange between European and African organisations completed in year 3.</p>	<p>1.1. Achieved. Baseline data and analysis on extent and nature of plant material exchange between European and African organisations completed by the end of year 1. Initial analysis reported in online consultation workshop which can be viewed here. Also see Section 3.2, above.</p> <p>1.2. One peer-reviewed paper entitled 'The Nagoya Protocol and Access and Benefit Sharing regulations of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its impacts on botanic gardens' collections and research' has already been submitted to CAB Reviews (supplementary document 1).</p>	
Activity 1.1. Two MSc studies carried out on the extent and nature of plant material exchange for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development (years 1 and 2)		Activity 1.1 Two students have been registered to carry out the research, research outlines have been written, and data gathering and analysis is under way.	Activity 1.1 The two studies will be completed in year 2
Activity 1.2 At least one peer reviewed paper published on the value of biodiversity for sustainable development, and impediments to its use by end of year 2		Activity 1.2 One peer-reviewed paper entitled 'The Nagoya Protocol and Access and Benefit Sharing regulations of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its impacts on botanic gardens' collections and research' has already been submitted to CAB Reviews (supplementary document 1).	Activity 1.2 Further papers are expected in year 2, building on the MSc research and the University of Cambridge research
Activity 1.3. Endline survey on extent and nature of plant material exchange repeated by end of year 3		Not applicable until year 3	
Output 2. Constraints to germplasm/data exchange identified and mutually	2.1. Consultation workshop held in Ethiopia and attended by at least 5 European and 5 African PGR	2.1. Completed. Consultation workshop was held on a virtual platform. It was attended by 66 people, including 32 people from African institutions in 11 countries and 33 people from European institutions in 17 countries. In addition, the workshop	

<p>agreed mechanisms for efficient and responsible exchange of plant data and material agreed by African and European PGR institutions</p>	<p>institutions and policy makers from at least 5 countries by end of year 1.</p> <p>2.2. Specifications for a digital platform enabling responsible exchange and tracking of plant data and germplasm developed by the end of year 1.</p>	<p>was co-led by Keith Damiani (software developer, US). The consultation workshop was recorded, and can be viewed online here. A list of participants is included in the supplementary materials (supplementary document 2).</p> <p>2.2. Completed. The wireframes for the platform were presented at the consultation workshop, available online here. They are also included in the supplementary materials (supplementary document 3).</p>	
<p>Activity 2.1.</p> <p>Consultation workshop on constraints to plant material/data exchange and development of digital exchange platform held in Ethiopia by end of year 1</p>		<p>Activity 2.1.</p> <p>Completed. See above</p>	
<p>Activity 2.2.</p> <p>Specifications for a digital platform agreed and software company engaged by end of year 1</p>		<p>Activity 2.2.</p> <p>Completed. See above.</p>	
<p>Output 3.</p> <p>Digital platform for efficient and responsible exchange and tracking of plant data and material designed, developed, launched and used by the global research community</p>	<p>3.1. Digital platform for germplasm/data exchange design completed by the end of year 1.</p> <p>3.2. Country by country data on ABS, biosafety and CITES compliance available by the 2nd quarter of year 2.</p> <p>3.3 Digital platform tested and launched by the end of year 2.</p> <p>3.4. Platform use results in an increase in annual exchange of plant material between African and European institutions of at least 20% against the project baseline by end of project</p>	<p>3.1. Completed. The wireframes for the platform were presented at the consultation workshop, available online here. They are also included in the supplementary materials (supplementary document 3).</p>	
<p>Activity 3.1</p> <p>Digital platform for germplasm/data exchange designed by end of year 1</p>		<p>Activity 3.1.</p> <p>Completed. See above</p>	
<p>Activity 3.2.</p> <p>Country by country data on ABS, biosafety and CITES compliance regulations gathered and incorporated into the digital platform by the end of the 2nd quarter year 2</p>		<p>Activity 3.2.</p> <p>Year 2 activity</p>	<p>Activity 3.2.</p> <p>Country by country data on ABS, biosafety and CITES compliance regulations gathered and incorporated into the digital platform by the end of the 2nd quarter year 2</p>

Activity 3.3. Digital platform tested and launched by the end of year 2		Activity 3.3. Year 2 activity	Activity 3.3. Digital platform tested and launched by the end of year 2
Activity 3.4. Digital platform promoted to European and African botanical institutions, and worldwide			
Output 4. A mutually agreed, peer-reviewed global mechanism for recognising botanical research institutions that apply best practice ABS and biosafety procedures is developed and launched	4.1. Accreditation methodology for recognising ABS, biosafety and CITES best practice agreed by the end of year 2 4.2. Accreditation scheme to assess and accredit organisations adhering to ABS, biosafety and CITES best practice adopted by at least 20 organisations by the end of the project.	4.1. Year 2 output 4.2. Year 3 output	
Activity 4.1. Side-meetings held at European Consortium meeting to test digital platform and to discuss accreditation methodology for recognising ABS and biosafety best practice by end of 2nd quarter year 2		Activity 4.1. Year 2 activity	Activity 4.1. Side-meetings held at European Consortium meeting to test digital platform and to discuss accreditation methodology for recognising ABS and biosafety best practice by end of 2nd quarter year 2
Activity 4.2. Accreditation scheme consultation carried out, and scheme agreed by end of year 2		Activity 4.2. Year 2 activity	Activity 4.2. Accreditation scheme consultation carried out, and scheme agreed by end of year 2
Activity 4.3. Online accreditation scheme developed by end of 2nd quarter year 3		Activity 4.3. Year 3 activity	
Activity 4.4. Online accreditation scheme tested and launched by end of the project		Activity 4.4 Year 3 activity	
Output 5 Researchers trained in data management and the use of the digital platform.	5.1. Online training content developed, and webinar training module launched by the second quarter of year 3, and used by at least 50 researchers with	5.1. Year 3 output	

	<p>equal gender representation by the end of the project.</p> <p>5.2. Face-to-face training in Ethiopia provided to at least 30 African researchers (equal male/ female representation) by the end of the 3rd quarter in year 3</p> <p>5.3. Staff from at least 40 institutions using the tool for exchange of material by the end of the project.</p>	<p>5.2. Year 3 output</p> <p>5.3. Year 3 output</p>	
<p>Activity 5.1. Online training content on data management and use of the digital platform developed and webinar training module launched online by the 2nd quarter of year 3</p>	<p>Activity 5.1. Year 3 activity</p>		
<p>Activity 5.2. Training workshop on data management and use of the digital platform held in Ethiopia by the end of the 3rd quarter year 3</p>	<p>Activity 5.2. Year 3 activity</p>		

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (revised version)

Project Summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Biodiversity conservation and the well-being and livelihoods of poor people in developing countries is improved through increased north-south collaborative research in plant conservation and sustainable development			
Outcome: Improved capacity for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in developing countries achieved through increased sharing of knowledge, facilities, data and plant material between institutions in the north and south	<p>0.1 Consultation workshop held and specifications for a digital platform enabling responsible exchange and tracking of plant data and germplasm developed by the end of year 1.</p> <p>0.2. Digital platform for germplasm/data exchange and tracking designed, developed and launched by end of year 2 results in increase in exchange of data and material between African and European institutions of at least 20% against the project baseline by end of project.</p> <p>0.3. Accreditation methodology for recognising ABS, biosafety and CITES best practice agreed by the end of year 2, and scheme developed to assess and accredit organisations adhering to ABS, biosafety and CITES best practice launched and adopted by at least 20 organisations by the end of the project.</p> <p>0.4 Training in data management and use of the tool provided to at least 80 individuals (equal male and female) from at least 50 organisations through webinars and face to face meetings resulting in at least 40 organisations using the tool for</p>	<p>0.1 Meeting minutes and attendance records; specification document; inputs and agreement from project partners noted in correspondence/meeting minutes</p> <p>0.2. Software developer job specs/contracts; collated ABS/Biosafety data; test site online; written feedback from researchers; digital platform launched online; platform user numbers; plant material exchange records.</p> <p>0.3. Accreditation methodology published in report; inputs and agreement from ECBG and ABGN partners noted in correspondence/ meeting minutes; accreditation scheme online; accreditation application records</p> <p>0.4. Webinar available online; webinar use and completion records and certificates issued; training workshop attendance records; certificates issued; records on exchange of plant material.</p>	<p>University closures/strikes are not in place in Uganda and/or Ethiopia</p> <p>The political situation in Ethiopia remains stable, and the country is safe to visit</p> <p>National legislation or permitting procedures do not prevent the exchange of germplasm between some countries whatever the circumstances.</p> <p>Consensus can be reached about how to measure compliance among users</p>

	exchange of plant material by the end of the project.		
Outputs: 1. Levels of plant material/data exchange between European and African PGR organisations characterized and quantified.	1.1. Baseline data and analysis on extent and nature of plant material exchange between European and African organisations completed by the end of year 1 1.2. At least one peer-reviewed paper published on the value of biodiversity for sustainable development, and impediments to its use by end of year 2 1.3. Endline assessment of extent and nature of plant material exchange between European and African organisations completed in year 3.	1.1. Survey report and MSc thesis 1.2. Peer-reviewed scientific paper. 1.3. Survey report; final project report	University closures/strikes in Uganda and/or Ethiopia are not in place (if this happens, there is the possibility of working with different universities or hiring an independent researcher)
2. Constraints to germplasm/data exchange identified and mutually agreed mechanisms for efficient and responsible exchange of plant data and material agreed by African and European PGR institutions	2.1. Consultation workshop held in Ethiopia and attended by at least 5 European and 5 African PGR institutions and policy makers from at least 5 countries by end of year 1. 2.2. Specifications for a digital platform enabling responsible exchange and tracking of plant data and germplasm developed by the end of year 1.	2.1. Meeting minutes and attendance records. 2.2. Specification document; inputs and agreement from project partners noted in correspondence/meeting minutes.	The political situation in Ethiopia remains stable, and the country is safe to visit (If necessary, the venue can be shifted to Uganda or another neighbouring country)
3. Digital platform for efficient and responsible exchange and tracking of plant data and material designed, developed, launched and used by the global research community	3.1. Digital platform for germplasm/data exchange design completed by the end of year 1. 3.2. Country by country data on ABS, biosafety and CITES compliance available by the 2 nd quarter of year 2. 3.3 Digital platform tested and launched by the end of year 2.	3.1. Software developer job specs/contracts; ABS/Biosafety data; test site online; written feedback from researchers. 3.2. Database of ABS, biosafety and CITES compliance requirements assembled 3.3. Digital platform available online 3.4. Plant material exchange records	National legislation or permitting procedures do not prevent the exchange of germplasm between some countries. In some cases, procedures may continue to be prohibitive and/or slow to adapt regardless of project outcomes. However, this will be a minority of countries.

	3.4. Platform use results in an increase in annual exchange of plant material between African and European institutions of at least 20% against the project baseline by end of project		
4. A mutually agreed, peer-reviewed global mechanism for recognising botanical research institutions that apply best practice ABS and biosafety procedures is developed and launched	4.1. Accreditation methodology for recognising ABS, biosafety and CITES best practice agreed by the end of year 2 4.2. Accreditation scheme to assess and accredit organisations adhering to ABS, biosafety and CITES best practice adopted by at least 20 organisations by the end of the project.	4.1. Accreditation methodology published in report; inputs and agreement from ECBG and ABGN partners noted in correspondence/ meeting minutes 4.2. Accreditation scheme online; application records; accreditations awarded	Consensus can be reached about how to measure compliance amongst users (Many institutions already use BGCI's accreditation schemes and substantial consultation has already taken place)
5. Researchers trained in data management and the use of the digital platform.	5.1. Online training content developed, and webinar training module launched by the second quarter of year 3, and used by at least 50 researchers with equal gender representation by the end of the project. 5.2. Face-to-face training in Ethiopia provided to at least 30 African researchers (equal male/ female representation) by the end of the 3rd quarter in year 3 5.3. Staff from at least 40 institutions using the tool for exchange of material by the end of the project.	5.1. Webinar available online; webinar use and completion records and certificates issued. 5.2. Attendance records; certificates issued. 5.3. Material exchange records	The political situation in Ethiopia remains stable, and the country is safe to visit (If necessary, the venue can be shifted to Uganda or another neighbouring country)
Activities Output 1 Activity 1.1. Two MSc studies carried out on the extent and nature of plant material exchange for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development (years 1 and 2) Activity 1.2. At least one peer reviewed paper published on the value of biodiversity for sustainable development, and impediments to its use by end of year 2			

Activity 1.3. Endline survey on extent and nature of plant material exchange repeated by end of year 3

Output 2

Activity 2.1. Consultation workshop on constraints to plant material/data exchange and development of digital exchange platform held in Ethiopia by end of year 1

Activity 2.2. Specifications for a digital platform agreed and software company engaged by end of year 1

Activity 2.2. Software company engaged to develop digital platform by end of 3rd quarter, year 1

Output 3

Activity 3.1. Digital platform for germplasm/data exchange designed by end of year 1

Activity 3.2. Country by country data on ABS, biosafety and CITES compliance regulations gathered and incorporated into the digital platform by the end of the 2nd quarter year 2

Activity 3.3. Digital platform tested and launched by the end of year 2

Activity 3.4. Digital platform promoted to European and African botanical institutions, and worldwide.

Output 4

Activity 4.1. Side-meetings held at European Consortium meeting to test digital platform and to discuss accreditation methodology for recognising ABS and biosafety best practice by end of 2nd quarter year 2

Activity 4.2. Accreditation scheme consultation carried out, and scheme agreed by end of year 2

Activity 4.3. Online accreditation scheme developed by end of 2nd quarter year 3

Activity 4.4. Online accreditation scheme tested and launched by end of the project

Output 5

Activity 5.1. Online training content on data management and use of the digital platform developed and webinar training module launched online by the 2nd quarter of year 3

Activity 5.2. Training workshop on data management and use of the digital platform held in Ethiopia by the end of the 3rd quarter year 3

Annex 3: Standard Measures

Please expand and complete Table 1: new projects should complete the Y1 column and also indicate the number planned during the project lifetime. Continuing project should cut and paste the information from previous years and add in data for the most recent reporting period. Quantify project standard measures over the last year using the coding and format from the Darwin Initiative Standard Measures (see website for details: <https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms-change-request-forms-and-terms-and-conditions/>) and give a brief description. Please list and report on relevant Code Numbers only. The level of detail required is specified in the Standard Measures Guidance notes under 'definitions and reporting requirements' column. Please devise and add any measures that are not captured in the current list. Please note that these measures may not be a substitute for output level objectively verifiable indicators in the project logframe.

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
Established codes								
2	Number of people to attain Masters qualification (MSc, MPhil etc.)	2 males	1 Ugandan 1 Ethiopian	2	2		2	2
6A	Number of people to receive other forms of education/training	Equal male/female	African and European At least 30 Africans	0	0	80	0	80
7	Number of (i.e., different types - not volume - of material produced) training materials to be produced for use by host country		African and European At least 30 Africans			2	0	2
11A	Number of papers to be published in peer reviewed journals			0	1	2	0	3
11B	Number of papers to be submitted to peer reviewed journals			1	2	0	1	3
12B	Number of computer based databases to be enhanced and handed over to the host country			0	1	0	0	1
14A	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops to be organised to			1	1	1	1	3

	present/disseminate findings							
14B	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated	66% male, 33% female	32 Africans, 33 Europeans	1	1	1	1	3
23	Value of resources raised from other sources (i.e., in addition to Darwin funding) for project work			█	█	█	█	█

In Table 2, provide full details of all publications and material produced over the last year that can be publicly accessed, e.g. title, name of publisher, contact details, cost. Mark (*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report.

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)
No papers published yet. One paper submitted and accepted						

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

This may include outputs of the project, but need not necessarily include all project documentation. For example, the abstract of a conference would be adequate, as would be a summary of a thesis rather than the full document. If we feel that reviewing the full document would be useful, we will contact you again to ask for it to be submitted.

It is important, however, that you include enough evidence of project achievement to allow reassurance that the project is continuing to work towards its objectives. Evidence can be provided in many formats (photos, copies of presentations/press releases/press cuttings, publications, minutes of meetings, questionnaires, reports etc.) and you should ensure you include some of these materials to support the annual report text.

If you are attaching separate documents, please list them here with an Annex reference number so that we can clearly identify the correct documents.

Supplementary document 1: Submitted paper 'The Nagoya Protocol and Access and Benefit Sharing regulations of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its impacts on botanic gardens' collections and research'

Supplementary document 2: Participants at Darwin Consultation Workshop, March 9th 2021

Supplementary document 3: Wireframe design for plant material exchange platform

Supplementary document 4: Plant material exchange questionnaire summary results

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	Yes
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/a
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.	Yes
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/a
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	