

Darwin Initiative Main Annual Report

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	27-017
Project title	Community-led approaches to reforestation benefitting chimpanzees and livelihoods in Uganda
Country/ies	Uganda
Lead partner	Fauna & Flora International
Project partner(s)	Jane Goodall Institute; Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); National Forest Authority (NFA); Private Forest Owners' Associations (PFOAs) from Bulyango, Kidoma & Kasenene Parishes
Darwin grant value	GBP 357,873.39
Start/end dates of project	01/04/2020 - 31/03/2023
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2021 – Mar 2022) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2021 – March 2022, Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Cath Lawson
Project website/blog/social media	www.fauna-flora.org/countries/uganda
Report author(s) and date	Niwamanya Rogers M; Kukundakwe Mazimakwo; Silver Tumwa: Cath Lawson; Emma Scott; Kiran Mohanan – 30 April 2022

1. Project summary

Habitat degradation, forest fragmentation and human-wildlife conflict (HWC) are well-documented problems in the project area. Forest cover used by chimpanzees for movement, food and nesting is regularly encroached upon by community members for subsistence farming. At the same time, agricultural yields are too low to ensure food security for the local population, and agriculture's contribution to the economy is further hindered by a lack of value addition and market development. Local farmers are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as changing rainfall patterns impacting rain-fed staple crops; the threat of catastrophic crop loss looms large, lowering farmer tolerance towards chimpanzee crop raiding.

Since 2014, Fauna & Flora International (FFI) has been active in the project area and observed that conversion of forested land to agriculture destroys chimpanzee habitat, breaking connectivity between remaining viable forest blocks, and increasing HWC as chimps move across agricultural land. Maintaining and reforesting corridors between forest reserves is a Ugandan government priority and is essential for preserving local biodiversity, including the genetic diversity of chimpanzees and other species.

Private Forest Owners Association (PFOA) members, that FFI has been working with in the project area, requested technical assistance with managing HWC, as well as with increasing native tree cover along chimp movement paths, improving the productivity and sustainability of local farming systems, and diversifying income generation sources. This project addresses these

requests directly by providing PFOA members in the Budongo-Mukihani and Bugoma-Wambabya corridors with training and access to appropriate indigenous tree seedlings for reforestation of riverine corridors, agroforestry seedlings and training to help place them sustainably and strategically on-farm, support in the creation of local and individual land use plans, access to commercially valuable agroforestry crop inputs, enterprise development assistance, and the knowledge to help mitigate HWC.

The project is located in two linkage areas between four central forest reserves:

- **Linkage 1** between Budongo and Mukihani forest reserves in the north, located at: 1°37'33.68"N; 31°23'23.99"E and 1°39'23.99"N; 31°26'13.20"E to the north, and 1°35'35.20"N; 31°23'30.93"E and 1°35'3.75"N; 31°25'8.18"E to the south.
- **Linkage 2** between Wambabya and Bugoma forest reserves in the south, located at: 1°26'28.37"N; 31° 6'9.93"E and 1°24'30.09"N; 31° 8'20.78"E to the north, and 1°23'4.02"N; 31° 6'16.49"E and 1°24'20.30"N; 31° 4'54.01"E to the south.

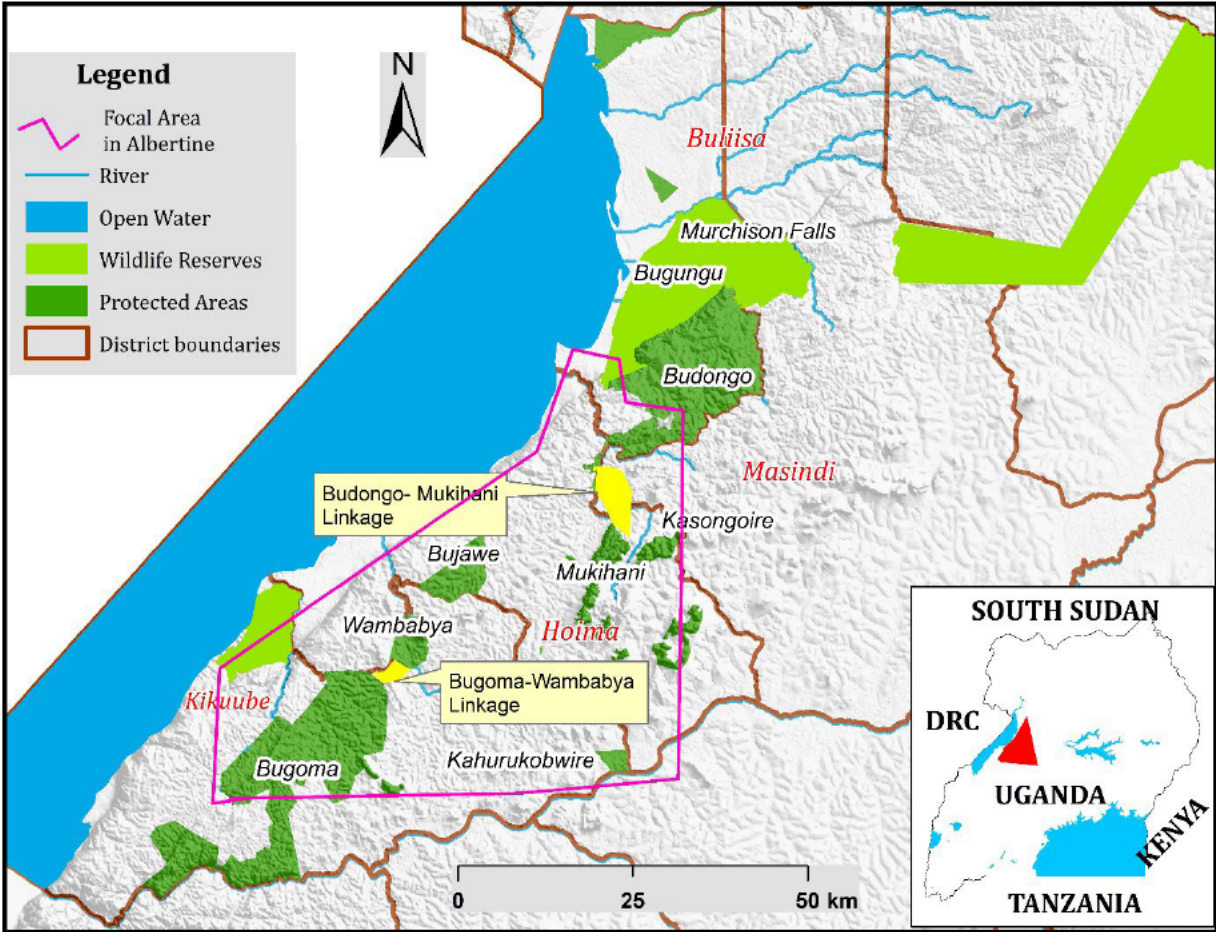


Figure 1: Map showing the location of project sites between the four Central Forest Reserves

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The partnership between FFI and Jane Goodall Institute (JGI); Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); National Forest Authority (NFA); and the Private Forest Owners’ Associations (PFOAs) from Bulyango, Bulimya-Kidoma and Kasenene Parishes has been positive over the past year. Formal and informal communications have been maintained throughout project implementation.

During the reporting period, JGI has provided technical support during an exposure visit to Kasongoire, in Masindi District, for selected PFOA leaders and farmers to learn about human-wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation and livelihood management (**Annex 1**). JGI field staff also

participated in PFOA training on HWC mitigation (**Annex 2**). At the field level, FFI and JGI continue to share an office, which enables regular informal engagement.

UWA's assigned focal person continues to oversee UWA's input into the implementation of this project and all UWA communications are channelled through her. UWA participated in the Participatory Market System Development (PMSD) workshop, held in Hoima in October 2021, which was focused on creating a market action plan for ginger (**Annex 3c**). UWA representatives also supported the training of chimpanzee and threat monitors (**Annex 3a**).

Through its community initiatives programme, NFA has supported the project by providing 7,400 indigenous tree seedlings, which have been delivered to Buhumuro and Kidoma for distribution to PFOA members for on-farm agroforestry planting in April 2022.

Kidoma-Bulimya, Bulyango, and Kasenene PFOAs have engaged in the following activities: chimpanzee threat monitoring through designated community threat monitors in each parish; implementation of agroforestry options, including growing of crop products; and tree seedling raising at community nurseries. All engagement activities have been designed to encourage participation and help community members partake in decision-making processes.

Although not formal partners, drawing on the Memorandums of Understanding previously established, District Authorities in Kikuube, Masindi and Hoima have played an important role in supporting project implementation. For example, District Authorities have shared general conservation messaging through district NGOs forums and natural resources committee meetings, which has supported the sharing of project messaging with a wider stakeholder group (**Annex 4a**).

In this reporting period, there are also good examples of multiple project partners working together. For example, in May 2021, representatives from FFI, JGI, UWA, Kidoma PFOA and the Hoima Local Government joined forces to deliver a radio talk show (**Annex 3b**) and a community conflict resolution meeting (**Annex 4b**), both of which highlighted UWA's role in HWC mitigation, HWC mitigation strategies, and the FFI-led Darwin Initiative funded project.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Activity 1.1: Planned for Year 3

Activity 1.2: Ongoing. With Covid-19 restrictions easing, face-to-face gatherings (with appropriate precautionary measures) became possible in this reporting period. In May 2021, in partnership with JGI, training on HWC mitigation techniques was provided to 232 PFOA (171M, 61F) members from across the three focal parishes (**Annex 2**). The training covered HWC causes, effects, and mitigation strategies such as the guarding of crops and land-use planning.

Activity 1.3: Ongoing. From October 2020, community members have been undertaking systematic monitoring of threats to chimpanzees in the project area. Six (all males) community 'Threat Monitors', working with a further 40 (22M, 18F) community members, are responsible for data collection. Data is collected on a monthly basis along six set transects, two in each parish and positioned on river lines, and through phone call enquiries to the wider community group on threats encountered in the area near the transects. Initial analysis of threat data to date has been undertaken (**Annex 5**) but further analysis is needed to unpack the impact of effort on trends as there has been a significant increase in survey effort. Whilst the impact of effort on results needs to be better understood, it is clear that significant threats remain from the impacts of agriculture, logging and / or charcoal production. The results of this interim analysis will be reflected on and inform Year 3 planning.

Activity 1.4: Baseline survey completed in Year 1; repeat end-of-project survey planned for Year 3 Q4.

Activity 1.5: Ongoing. Since April 2021, 130 PFOA members (110M, 20F) living in and around the corridors of Bugoma-Wambabya and Mukihani-Budongo have been providing monthly data on chimpanzee / primate sightings within the corridors. Initial analysis of chimpanzee sighting data to date has been undertaken (**Annex 5**). This has been compared to previous data (from 2018-19), although methods and amount / spatial distribution of effort between data sets is variable. Analysis shows an inconsistent pattern, with use increasing, decreasing and remaining stable in different forest patches within the forest corridors. A more valid comparison will be possible between Year 2 (2021-22) and Year 3 (2022-23) of the project, when methodologies will be consistent and effort will be easier to compare. What is clear now, and reiterated by JGI's baseline survey (**Annex 6**), is that chimpanzees are repeatedly using the forest patches within these forest linkage areas.

Output 2: Critical riverine areas on private lands reforested with native species by PFOA members, trained and knowledgeable in reforestation techniques

Activity 2.1: Completed.

Activity 2.2: Completed. During project development, the area of riverine buffer for reforestation was measured to be 190 hectares (note: 109 hectares was referenced previously, but this was a typo), based on the Uganda Government's recommended buffer of 30 metres on each side of the river. In Year 1, satellite imagery was analysed to try and determine the exact acreage of boggy/marshy areas so as to map habitat characteristics and establish suitability for reforestation, but there was insufficient information. In this reporting period, physical mapping was therefore undertaken using GPS. This activity established that, of the 190 hectares, 25 hectares are boggy and therefore not suitable for reforestation (**Annex 8**). The project will target 90 hectares for restoration, and the remaining 75 hectares will be left for natural regeneration during the project life.

Activity 2.3: Ongoing. The focus in this period was on the implementation of the reforestation plan. In August 2021, 199 PFOA members (136M, 63F) were trained in reforestation techniques. (**Annex 9**). Over the period May-November 2021, 1,393 PFOA and non-PFOA members (905M, 488F) participated in community riverine reforestation efforts. By the end of December, 64,978 assorted indigenous tree seedlings had been planted along riverine areas (**Annexes 10a, 10b, 10c, 10d, 10e, 10f**).

Activity 2.4: Ongoing. In May 2021, guided by the restoration plan, seeds for seven indigenous tree species were purchased: *Mesopsis eminii* (15kgs); *Sesbania sesban* (15kgs); *Calliandra calothyrsus* (15kgs); *Khaya anthotheca* (15kgs); *Cordia melinii* (15kgs); *Terminalia superba* (15kgs); and *Grevillia rubosta* (5kgs). These were raised at community nurseries, and seedlings were distributed to the community members for planting from August to December 2021.

Activity 2.5: Ongoing. To date, four community nurseries have been established in the parishes of Bulyango, Kasenene and Kidoma. The fourth community nursery was established in November 2021 in Buhummuro, Kidoma due to an increase in demand. As of 31 March 2022, 70,203 tree seedlings have been potted and are growing at the nurseries (**Annex 11a**). Up until December 2021, a total of 147,022 tree seedlings have been planted (82,044 on-farm and 64,978 in riverine areas).

Activity 2.6 Ongoing. In May-December 2021, and following decisions made during the Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP) work, 1,047 PFOA members (696M, 351F) were supported with 82,044 tree seedlings to plant on their farms (**Annex 12a, 12b, 12c, 12d, 12e, 12f**).

Activity 2.7: Ongoing. In August 2021, seedling survival rate monitoring (6-months post-distribution) for on-farm tree planting was conducted in the three focal parishes. Of the 200 farms/farmers (123M, 77F) monitored, a survival rate of 76% was reported (**Annex 13**). In October, the monitoring of survival rates in riverine habitats was also conducted and survival rate was 71% (**Annex 14**)

Output 3: PFOA member capacity built in agroforestry systems and land use planning

Activity 3.1, 3.3, 3.5, 3.6 Completed in Year 1.

Activity 3.2: Completed in Year 1. An additional need for a community capacity needs assessment was identified. In May 2021, a community capacity needs assessment on agroforestry, land use planning, and HWC mitigation was conducted with 101 participants (68M, 33F) from the three focal parishes to inform project planning (**Annex 15**). This helped to plan and redesign on-farm agricultural interventions.

Activity 3.4: Completed. Having trained 20 ToTs previously (15M, 5F), in June 2021, 180 PFOA members (106M, 74F) in the three focal parishes were trained on the benefits and use of agroforestry systems at household level (**Annex 16a, 16b**).

Activity 3.7: Ongoing. Refer to 2.5, 2.6, 2.7; **Activity 3.8:** Ongoing. Refer to 2.5, 2.6; **Activity 3.9:** Ongoing. Refer to 2.7.

Activity 3.10: Completed. In July 2021, in line with the reforestation plan (**Annex 7**) and supported by 20 Trainers of Trainees (ToTs; 15M, 5F), visits were undertaken to follow up on the implementation of farm plans by 200 farmers (132M, 68F) trained previously by the ToTs. Of those trained, 90% of farmers (180 people) are implementing their farm plans (**Annex 17**). The progress of all trainees is monitored on a monthly basis.

Activity 3.11: Planned for Year 3 Q4.

Output 4: PFOA members involved in agroforestry-based market development report an improved wellbeing and increased income from diversified livelihood activities

Activity 4.1, 4.2: Completed in Year 1.

Activity 4.3: Completed. A rapid market survey was undertaken in Year 1, and it was determined that a more detailed analysis was not required.

Activity 4.4: Ongoing. In August 2021, to review the progress, FFI staff visited the farms of 15 PFOA members (10M, 5F) who had received training in ginger growing and management as well as seeds. Advice on record keeping, fertilizer application, weeding, and pest and disease management was provided (**Annex 18**). Community members in Kidoma, Bulyango and Kasenene have entered into a formal arrangement with one company (African Spices Ltd) to buy

their dried ginger at 6000-8000 UGX per kg, depending on the quality. By the end of March 2021, all farmers were drying ginger in preparation for the market.

Activity 4.5: Completed. In October 2021, with Covid-19 restrictions easing, a multi-stakeholder workshop was organised to create the strategic action plan. A total of 28 participants (20M, 8F) attended, including representatives from three companies: AMFRI, Bio-fresh Uganda Limited, and African Spices Uganda Limited (**Annex 3c**).

Activity 4.6: Ongoing. Due to the need to empower PFOAs to negotiate for themselves, In September 2021, 24 members (16M, 8F) of the PFOA conservation enterprise market committees attended a training on conservation enterprise buyer contract negotiation (**Annex 19a**). As evidence of the skills learnt, PFOA leaders were able to successfully negotiate and sign a contract with Africa Spices Uganda Limited (**Annex 19b**).

Activity 4.7: Ongoing. Engagement with key actors continued at main markets (Kampala/Hoima/Masindi) to understand value chains for ginger (**Annex 24a, 24b, 24c, 24d**). Nine agribusiness companies have been engaged and, so far, three (African Organics Uganda Limited [AMFRI]; Bio-fresh Uganda Limited; and African Spices Uganda Limited) have expressed a clear interest in establishing market linkages with the PFOAs. Additionally, two regional markets (Masindi/Hoima main markets) and two individual bulk buyers of ginger from the Kampala Owino main market have been engaged. Diversification of buyers and markets helps manage risk (**Annex 15**).

Activity 4.8: Ongoing. Since April 2021, consultations with actors in the ginger value chain have led to agreement on having another general multi-stakeholder meeting that was tentatively planned for October 2021. However, due to some scheduling changes for key value chain actors, this was rescheduled for the first quarter of Year 3.

Activity 4.9: Completed. In October 2021, a multi-stakeholder workshop attended by 28 participants (20M, 8F), including representatives from agribusiness companies, NGOs and District Leaders, was held to develop a participatory action plan (step 7 of the PMSD process) that defines how each actor will participate and/or benefit (**Annex 3c**).

Activity 4.10, 4.11: Ongoing. Refer to 4.4

Activity 4.12: Implementation of actions from the PMSD plan is ongoing. In February 2022, a training of farmers on ginger post-harvest handling was provided through joint facilitation by FFI and Africa Spices Uganda Ltd (19M: 5F) (**Annex 21**).

Activity 4.13: Completed. In September 2021, the three focal PFOAs formed marketing committees. Each committee comprises five members: two ginger farmers, two PFOA executive members, and one committee member. The 15 (12M, 3F) committee members were trained on their roles and responsibilities and the requirements of contract farming agreements for future negotiation with agribusiness (**Annexes 22a, 22b, 22c**).

Activity 4.14: Completed. In September 2021, governance structures for the marketing committees had been agreed through a consultation meeting with community representatives (21M, 12F) (**Annex 22a**). An additional meeting (attended by 19M, 5F) was held to develop enterprise governance rules for benefit-sharing (**Annex 22b**).

Activity 4.15: Ongoing. In May 2021, all PFOA Executive Members, Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) leaders and new VSLA members were trained in bookkeeping to enhance group record management. A total of 151 PFOA members (96M, 55F) attended a session intended to improve their knowledge and capacity to maintain financial records (**Annex 23**).

Activity 4.16: Ongoing. Market linkage meetings have been conducted with potential buyers in Hoima, Masindi and Kampala Markets (**Annexes 24a, 24b, 24c, 24d**).

Output 5: Capacity and governance of three PFOAs are improved; PFOAs document experiences and participate in learning exchanges with other actors of NARCG across the Northern Albertine Rift.

Activity 5.1: Completed. In January 2022, annual participatory governance assessments were conducted for Kidoma-Bulimya, Bulyango, and Kasenene PFOAs, involving 55 PFOA representatives (41M:14F) (**Annex 25**). Annual governance assessments were conducted using the Code of Good Governance self-assessment tool, developed by the Developing Governance Group.

Activity 5.2: Completed. Capacity needs of the PFOAs were also identified through the annual participatory governance assessments. Record keeping has improved, but further mentorship is needed on expenses recording. A refresher training on record-keeping was also requested during the annual governance assessments.

Activity 5.3: Ongoing. Actions were agreed during the governance assessments (**Annex 25**). Kasenene and Kidoma PFOAs are already implementing the agreed actions and were able to conduct Annual General Meetings as agreed.

Activity 5.4: Ongoing. In November 2021, a peer-to-peer village farmer exchange was conducted between 11 model farmers (9M, 2F) from Bulyango and Kasenene PFOAs (**Annex 26**). This exchange proved very fruitful, and the farmers involved agreed that they needed to consult each other and compare results to learn from each other and minimise loss.

Activity 5.5: Inception survey completed in Year 1; repeat survey planned for Year 3;

Activity 5.6, 5.7: Planned for Year 3

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: PFOA members have the knowledge and skills to support their peaceful coexistence with chimpanzees in two forest corridors, increasing secure habitat contiguous to four protected areas.

At the outset of the project, no community members had been trained in HWC management. In Year 1, when Covid-19 limited the training that could be provided, outreach focused on involving 136 community members in chimpanzee threat identification and monitoring, and raising community awareness through the broadcast of radio talk shows (with a potential listenership of 80,000). In Year 2, with Covid-19 restrictions easing, training on HWC mitigation techniques was provided to 232 PFOA members from across the three focal parishes (171M, 61F). The 136 community members involved in chimpanzee threat identification and monitoring continue to be engaged. Baselines on perceptions towards chimpanzees were established in Year 1, with a repeat assessment planned in Year 3. Baseline data on chimpanzee populations within the Central Forest Reserves were also established in Year 1, and the report was finalised in Year 2 (**Annex 6**). The data currently available shows an unclear picture in terms of chimpanzee use of

the forest corridors, with use increasing, decreasing and remaining stable in different forest patches within the forest corridors, but this may be impacted by inconsistencies in the data sets being compared. A more valid assessment of trend will be possible in Year 3. What is clear now, and reiterated by JGI's baseline survey (**Annex 6**), is that chimpanzees are repeatedly using the forest patches within the forest linkage areas. Assessing trends in threat data is also challenging given the data currently available and the impact of variable effort. Whilst the impact of effort on results needs to be better understood, it is clear that significant threats remain from the impacts of agriculture, logging and / or charcoal production. It is likely that threats will not be reduced to the degree anticipated (75% reduction) but it is likely that all other aspects of this output will be achieved.

Output 2: Critical riverine areas on private lands reforested with native species. PFOA members trained and knowledgeable in reforestation techniques

At the outset of the project, no community members had been trained in reforestation techniques. In Year 1, 220 (150M, 70F) PFOA members were provided with training in indigenous tree growing. In August 2021, an additional 199 PFOA members (136M, 63F) were trained in reforestation techniques (**Annex 9**) and, over the period May-September, 1,393 PFOA members and non-PFOA members (905M, 488F) participated in community riverine reforestation efforts. Mapping of the riverine buffer land has now been done, given that 25 hectares are boggy, 165 hectares are available for reforestation. The project will target 90 hectares for restoration and 75 hectares for natural regeneration. As of the end of December 2021, a total of 147,022 tree seedlings have been planted (82,044 on-farm and 64,978 in riverine areas) (**Annexes 10a, 10b, 10c, 10d, 10e, 10f**), and survival rates are being closely monitored. The total area of riverine areas planted was 72 hectares, measured in plots and added together to determine the size restored. This will be enriched with different species in the coming planting season. It is likely this output will be achieved.

Output 3: PFOA member capacity built in agroforestry systems and land use planning

PFOA capacity in agroforestry systems and land use planning has been built. To date, 65% of PFOA members, 529 (356M, 173F), have been trained in one or more relevant agroforestry systems approaches. Of the community members trained in PLUP, 90% have adopted and are using these land-use planning approaches on their own lands (**Annex 17**). In harvest survey data from March 2022, 48% of people report an increase in fuelwood, timber and charcoal from their own land, while 35% report the amount has remained stable (**Annex 29**). Crop yields from combined agroforestry-staple crop systems will be measured against the Year 1 baseline in Year 3. It is likely this output will be achieved.

Output 4: PFOA members involved in agroforestry-based market development report an improved wellbeing and increased income from diversified livelihood activities

At the outset of the project, no community members had been trained in agroforestry-based market techniques. With Covid-19 restrictions easing, it has been possible to further progress Steps 1-7 of the PMSD roadmap and involve a wider stakeholder group, including 813 PFOA members (422M, 391F). Cultivation of ginger has been piloted with 15 (10M, 5F) farmers, and this has helped to establish market linkages. One company (African Spices Uganda Ltd) has entered into a buyer contract with the PFOAs to supply dried and clean ginger (**Annex 20a, 20b**). Two additional companies (Bio-fresh Limited and AMFRI) have been linked with the PFOAs, and it is hoped that additional buyer contracts can be established in the coming months. Plans are under way for the planting of a second season of ginger and 30 (12M, 18F) other farmers, in addition to the 15 (10M, 5F) pilot farmers, have registered to cultivate ginger. Despite Covid-19

impacts, meaning that the creation of market linkages has been slower than anticipated, it is still likely this output will be achieved.

Output 5: Capacity and governance of three PFOAs are improved; PFOAs document experiences and participate in learning exchanges with other actors of NARCG across the Northern Albertine Rift.

Baseline governance and capacity assessments for Kidoma-Bulimya, Bulyango, and Kasenene PFOAs were conducted in Year 1. Repeat assessments were conducted after 12 months and findings, which indicated an improvement in record keeping and flow of information to PFOA members, were presented at the PFOAs' Annual General Meetings (**Annex 25**). One farmer peer-to-peer exchange visit took place for 11 model farmers (9M, 2F) from Bulyango and Kasenene PFOAs (**Annex 26**). Annual progress summaries have been shared with NARCG members, NFA, UWA and focal point within the Ministry of Agriculture (**Annex 27**).

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The project outcome is: Critical riverine forest restored via indigenous-species reforestation, facilitating chimp movement throughout 2,710 ha of forest corridor; local communities benefit from diversified incomes and reduced HWC via agroforestry and enterprise development. Indicators set for measuring project outcome are adequate and the project is likely to achieve its outcome by the end of the project. In Year 1, baselines were established against Outcome indicators 0.2, 0.3, 0.4. Early in Year 2, a baseline for Outcome indicator 0.6 was also established (**Annex 28**). Baseline results on wellbeing (Outcome indicator 0.6) were as follows: 8% M and 9% F report wellbeing as very good; 47% M and 48% F report wellbeing as good; 38% M and 35% F report wellbeing as neutral; 7% M and 8% F report wellbeing as bad; and 1% M and 1% F report wellbeing as very bad. In Year 2, Outcome indicator 0.1 has also been clarified through activities to determine the area available for reforestation (**Annex 8**). Progress against Outcome indicators 0.2, 0.3, 0.4 and 0.6 will be assessed in Year 3. Progress against Outcome indicator 0.1: The total riverine area planted in Year 2 was 72 hectares (64,978 tree seedlings), measured in plots and added together to determine the size restored. Progress against Outcome Indicator 0.5: membership across the 3 PFOAs has increased from 620 to 813 (422M, 389F), and women now make up 48% of the membership (previously 40%) (**Annex 25**).

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: Total critical riverine buffer area in target corridors equals 109 ha:

This assumption contains a typo and should state 190 ha, not 109 ha. With that correction noted, this assumption has not changed. Areas within the 190 ha that are boggy (which are not favourable for tree planting) have been measured so as to determine the areas that would be left for natural regeneration. It has been determined that 90 ha are available for restoration, and 75 ha will be left for natural regeneration.

Assumption 2: Communities maintain willingness to devote part of their private land to reforestation with indigenous tree species: This holds true. Communities are still committed to devoting some part of their land for tree planting as evidenced by proactive tree planting requests from community members.

Assumption 3: Communities maintain willingness to engage in sustainable agroforestry practices: This holds true. All 220 community members (ToTs plus the community members they trained) who were trained in agroforestry practices remain engaged in project activities.

Assumption 4: Government remains supportive of the efforts to reforest the corridors: This assumption holds true as there has been communication indicating a change in approach.

Assumption 5: Chimpanzees stick to current patterns of moving through the landscape between Budongo-Mukihani and Bugoma-Wambabya forests corridors: This holds true. Monitoring data on chimpanzee sightings indicate that chimpanzees still move across the forest corridors at varying concentrations in different areas (**Annex 5**).

Assumption 6: Typical survival rate of seedlings remains at around 70% in this region: This assumption holds true. Seedling survival rate for on-farm planting was 76%, and seedling survival rate for riverine planting was 71%.

Assumption 7: The proposed infrastructure from the new oil pipeline development does not impact reforestation efforts or targeted land areas: This assumption holds true. To date, infrastructure development has not impacted reforestation efforts. Ongoing infrastructure in the project region does not currently impact any plots identified for either tree planting or agroforestry farms. Impact outside of the project area, and associated potential mitigation plans, are being clarified.

Assumption 8: Two established nurseries in the landscape are available for use, and construction of a third is possible with NFA support: This assumption holds true. Four nurseries have now been established/expanded and are available for use. NFA has been able to provide the necessary support required.

Assumption 9: Successful interventions will be replicated within the project area: Too early to test, but there is no evidence to suggest that this assumption does not hold.

Assumption 10: Seeds of target tree species are available, and seeds are of good quality: This assumption largely holds true. Seeds that were unavailable at the National Tree Seed Centre have been sourced through local gatherers from the Central Forest Reserves (CFRs) with the help of NFA staff. However, there have been some issues in terms of the quantities and the viability of the seeds available. This has required the sourcing of seeds from seed gatherers from other CFRs, which again NFA has facilitated. NFA has also played a greater role in checking the viability of seeds before they are accepted.

Assumption 11: Weather will be favourable for staple crop growing and tree planting: This assumption does not hold true for this reporting period. The weather has been not favourable for tree and crop growing, and rain has not arrived as expected. Seedling survival rates have been affected by prolonged drought, uncontrolled free-range livestock, and fire outbreaks. However, some survival rates have been encouraging (and, as reported elsewhere, seedling survival rate for project on-farm planting is 76% and 71% for riverine areas), and some good yields for specific crops have been registered.

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

This project directly contributes to ensuring that well-managed and restored forests in the Albertine Rift conserve biodiversity, improve and sustain the conservation status of chimpanzee populations, enhance resilience, and contribute to local communities' sustainable livelihoods and well-being. We are working to restore 2,710 ha of critical riverine forest, via indigenous-species reforestation, and facilitate chimpanzee movement through this area. We are also seeking to enhance local community benefits through the diversification of income via agroforestry, enterprise development, and reduction of HWC.

Contributions at impact level will be achieved over a longer time frame, but important progress has been made during Year 2.

Higher-level impact on biodiversity conservation: Relevant Outcome indicators 0.1, 0.3. Reforestation efforts under this project will ensure that the habitat connectivity of two corridors between four protected areas is sustained. To date, 72 hectares of riverine forest have been planted/restored. In the long-term, this will support chimpanzees' movement across the landscape, which will help to maintain genetic diversity and support a viable chimpanzee

population for the future. Chimpanzee sighting data indicates that the forest corridors remain important habitat for chimpanzees (**Annex 5**).

Higher-level impact on human development and wellbeing (poverty alleviation): Relevant Outcome indicators 0.4, 0.6. Through engagement with agroforestry-based enterprise development, PFOA member household income from agricultural and agroforestry products will increase by 15% against the Year 1 baseline. Household income has been diversified through the sale of cash crops (e.g. ginger), and it will be increased through reduced loss due to crop-raiding, as well as improved post-harvest storage practices (allowing farmers to retain more of their yield and sell it on the market at a higher price at the optimal time). Additionally, 70% of PFOA members, both male and female, will report an improved sense of wellbeing (material, physical and subjective).

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

This project supports Uganda in the fulfilment of its obligations under the CBD by supporting both the conservation of biodiversity in the Albertine Rift (as part of its Strategic Plan for the Northern Albertine Rift of Uganda 2011-2020; updated plan in draft) and the sustainable use of natural resources by local people.

By reducing forest pressure and fostering sustainable practices, the project aims to lessen the impact of communities and other actors on forest habitats, and develop robust and diversified livelihoods that do not encroach upon forest conservation zones. Therefore, the project will directly support CBD Strategic Goal B (Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use), targets 5 and 7, and C (Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity). The project also aims to ensure that wider society, beginning with the most vulnerable communities, can benefit from healthy ecosystems and ecosystem services (Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services) by working to reduce the direct pressure on biodiversity caused by land clearance for agriculture (Target 14).

The project will work to ensure that community members are aware of the value of biodiversity and are equipped with the knowledge and practices that will enable them to co-exist alongside chimpanzee populations (Aichi Target 1.) It will also implement sustainable land-use strategies through improved agricultural practices (Aichi Target 7). Additionally, the project aims to improve the conservation status of the endangered eastern chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*), which is a key CITES-listed species.

5. Project support to poverty reduction

The direct beneficiaries of this project are landowning members (and their household members) of Bulyango, Kidoma-Bulimya and Kasenene Private Forest Owners' Associations, who are situated in and around Wambabya-Bugoma and Mukihani-Budongo wildlife corridors. There are likely to be indirect benefits for the wider community also. The project is expected to have a direct impact on community members' household incomes, with a 15% increase in agricultural income at the household level for participating PFOA members, and wellbeing, with 70% of PFOA members, both male and female, reporting an improved sense of wellbeing (material, physical and subjective). Personal security and food security will also be enhanced through reduced HWC (indirectly measured through indicator 0.2). Baseline information has been captured and will be compared with end of project survey results. Beyond direct benefits, community governance will also be strengthened through increased PFOA membership, from 620 to 1,000, and improved capacity and governance of three PFOAs. Progress on improving PFOA governance has

continued in Year 2: PFOA membership has increased to 813, and all three PFOAs are showing improved capacity and governance.

6. Consideration of gender equality issues

During the reporting period, the in-country project team was provided with dedicated and contextualised gender training from FFI's Senior Technical Specialist on Gender. The two-day training, which was delivered remotely and informed by some background context mapping, covered the importance of gender integration, gender integration in conservation activities specifically, and gender analysis.

Building on the skills developed through this training, the project team are in the process of developing and documenting a gender analysis (focused around: legal and customary rights and practices; roles and responsibilities; resource access and control; social norms, beliefs and practices; representation, participation and power; environmental stressors and vulnerability) and action plan (**Annex 30**). To develop the action plan, through a process of discussion, reflection and consultation, we are asking: (1) how does (or might) the project affect the daily lives of women and men, including their access to and use of natural resources? (2) What are the main risks and costs the project presents to women and to men? (3) What are the main opportunities and benefits the project presents to women and to men? (4) What are the main barriers affecting the ability of women (and other marginalised groups) to influence, participate in and benefit from the project? (5) Does or might the project perpetuate or increase inequalities between women and men, including gender-based violence? This is a work in progress, which will be finalised early in Year 3 and inform ongoing activities, as well as project partner activities beyond this project.

In parallel, notable progress has been made in Year 2 to improve gender awareness and reduce inequalities (**Annex 31**). Data collection tools, such as meeting attendance registers and agricultural input distribution lists, have been revised to ensure that all are easily allowing the collation of gender-segregated data. With this information, the project team are better able to monitor the participation of men and women and adapt future activities as necessary. Likewise, meetings have been scheduled to better enable the participation of women, given the caring responsibilities they are more likely to have. There has also been a targeted effort to increase the participation of women in PFOAs, and women now make up 48% of the membership (previously 40%; Outcome indicator 0.5). Likewise, within the PFOAs, there has been affirmative action to increase the participation of women in PFOA activities. For example, women have been intentionally targeted and selected for agricultural input support: 171 PFOA members received seed inputs (maize, beans, and ground nuts) (80M, 91F) (**Annex 22**). Gender considerations have also been factored in crop choice; for example, sugar cane is a heavily male-controlled crop and so not favoured by women, whereas maize and beans are preferred by women as they deliver household-wide benefits.

There is also increased representation of women in the PFOA leadership structures: of 10 executive leaders for Kasenene PFOA, 3 are women; of the 11 executive members for Kidoma PFOA, 6 are women; of 12 executive leaders for Bulyango PFOA, 5 are women (**Annex 25**). A structure of women representatives has also been created with the PFOAs, who cascade first-hand project activity information to fellow women. In the majority, when asked during female-only meetings, female members of the PFOAs report that the representation of women is sufficient and their opinions are respected (**Annex 25**). However, this view is not unanimous and some more senior roles within the PFOAs are still viewed as being 'only for men'. Through the implementation of our gender action plan, we will continue to address inequalities whilst being cognisant of the wider cultural context and the risk of provoking conflict.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

There are no significant changes to the M&E plan over the reporting period and, following some delays in Year 1, all baselines have now been established. Indicators of achievement at Outcome level are: (0.1) measurement of total land reforested via photographic evidence, farmer testimony and GIS mapping; (0.2) knowledge and attitude assessments of PFOA membership towards chimpanzee presence; (0.3) chimpanzee population counts and monthly monitoring reports; (0.4) household surveys; (0.5) records of PFOA membership; and (0.6) Participatory Impact Assessment of wellbeing. M&E is led by FFI, with JGI providing technical expertise in chimpanzee monitoring. M&E results are shared with project partners through regular project updates where necessary adaptive management is discussed, and with a wider stakeholder group through conservation partner meetings organised by the Environment and Natural Resources Department in local government.

Of particular note in this reporting period, the baseline assessment for wellbeing was completed early in Year 1 (**Annex 28**). A total of 301 (196M, 105F) people were surveyed and asked questions related to: education, literacy, mobile phone access, vehicle ownership, food security, enjoyment security, household wellbeing, change in wellbeing, and respect with the PFOAs. The baseline results have helped to inform activities in Year 2, as well as upcoming complementary projects (funded by the Darwin Initiative and USFWS).

Some refinements have also been made to how the baseline for Outcome Indicator 0.4 (household income from a subset of key agricultural products) is calculated. Previously, this was reported as GBP 996, however this is now calculated to be GBP 675.18 (UGX 3,375,881). Initially, this figure was calculated based on income from maize, beans and 'all other staple crops' however the 'other' category make like-for-like comparison difficult and so the subset of key agricultural products was changed to include maize, beans, rice and groundnuts specifically. There has also been a shift from measuring 'total average income' to 'weighted average income', essentially weighting the income by the number of people who grew the crop. We are confident that this methodology is a more robust way to measure the baseline and allow for future comparison.

In this period, there have also been efforts to refine community-based chimpanzee sighting and threat monitoring, with a focus on ensuring these activities are integrated into PFOA activities. Community monitors collect data on chimpanzee sightings on a monthly basis by calling households that live near to the riverine corridors to gather feedback on chimpanzees and other primate sightings. Threat monitors collect data by regularly walking established transect lines and recording threat sightings. In both instances, data is collected using smartphone-based ArcGIS Survey123. As planned, and with the intention of enhancing sustainability, the PFOAs have started using some of the interest earned from loans given out through their VSLAs to finance conservation activities. Likewise, those supporting conservation activities receive preferential loan rates from the VSLAs.

8. Lessons learnt

Lessons learnt from this project are being documented, discussed between partners, and used to inform future planning.

What has worked well:

- Establishing community nurseries has proven highly effective and efficient. Proximity to the communities that receive the seeds has allowed for more timely planting. It has also reduced the cost of transportation and reduced the risk of seedling damage during transportation. This approach will be adopted in future reforestation activities by project partners and would be a recommendation for similar projects.

- Engaging the community and encouraging them to work in teams during tree planting activities fostered a positive attitude and sense of ownership. This was reinforced by the community-based ToTs who closely monitored planted trees.
- In Ugandan law (Wetlands, Riverbank and Lake Shores Management Regulations No.3/2000), there is a requirement for 30 meters from a river centre to be protected and not cultivated. However, this law is not well socialised or enforced. Attempts to demarcate this area have the potential to create conflict and raise issues of land ownership if not managed well. To mitigate this potential for conflict, there has been a significant investment of effort in the sensitisation of communities on the importance and sustainable use of riverine forests, as well as ensuring communities feel a sense of ownership for reforestation efforts.

What would you do differently:

- In assessing the area for tree planting along the riverine reforestation area, it is important to identify and exclude the boggy areas as they are not favourable for tree seedling survival. This assessment has now been done for the project areas, and boggy areas have been excluded from reforestation efforts.
- It is important to involve private agribusiness companies in the initial design stage of conservation enterprises to ensure the produced products meet their requirements. During the PMSD multi-stakeholder workshop, for example, it was discovered that the companies that had been engaged would only buy products of a specific quality. This created the need for value addition.

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

The review of the Year 1 report was positively received by project partners. Comments and recommendations provided were fair and helpful. The following actions have been taken in response to the recommendations received:

Reviewer comment: Important to prioritise (delayed) activities and report clearly where Y1 activities have been enhanced further when (COVID-19) conditions allow.

- Baselines for Outcome indicator 0.6 have now been established.
- With Covid-19 restrictions easing, face-to-face gatherings (with appropriate precautionary measures) became possible in this reporting period. In May 2021, training on HWC mitigation techniques was provided to 232 PFOA members from across the three focal parishes.
- With Covid-19 restrictions easing, it has also been possible to complete Steps 1-7 of the PMSD roadmap and involve a wider stakeholder group, including 813 PFOA members (422M, 391F).

Reviewer comment: Important to monitor the extent to which COVID-19 has changed dynamics within the community in ways which may create additional pressure on natural resource management and require modifications or additions to project activities.

- Whilst wider economic analysis shows that Covid-19 caused a sharp contraction of Uganda's economy and that household incomes fell, in the project area pressure on natural resources has not been reported to change significantly as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic (which is not to say pressure has not increased, rather that it has not been linked to Covid-19 specifically). In part, this is because Covid-19 impacts were felt less in rural areas. It is also because additional funding was secured through the Darwin Initiative Covid-19 Rapid Response Fund. This additional funding enabled an injection of additional

seed funding into established VSLAs thereby enhancing financial resilience by creating additional opportunities for community members to take loans.

Reviewer comment: The project appears to face challenges in meeting greater input from female members of the community. Important to focus on the training and mentoring roles and suggest that project publicity can highlight individual women succeeding in these roles. Do consider whether there are other actions which contribute to progress in this area.

- See response to question 7. Positively, the percentage of female membership in the PFOAs has increased from 40% to 48%.

10. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

N/A

11. Sustainability and legacy

FFI remains committed to strengthening and developing the capacity of community-based organisations for the long-term conservation of the Albertine Rift biodiversity hotspot. In Year 2 of the project, two complementary grants have been secured that will allow for the continuation and further strengthening of activities. This includes a grant from USFWS that focuses on addressing human-chimpanzee conflict, and a grant from the Darwin Initiative Innovation Fund that focuses on strengthening VSLA operations. Both complementary grants will commence activities in Year 3 of this project.

Beyond the implementation of specific projects, FFI has entered into partnership with local government. With the support of project partners, this creates a significant opportunity to sustain project activities and priorities through integration into wider conservation and development planning.

In Year 2, there has been an increase in the capacity of the three focal PFOAs, by improving governance (e.g. benefit-sharing rules established; AGMs held), expanding membership, and creating sustainable economic incentives for members (e.g. links to agribusiness companies). Well capitated, inclusive and sustainable PFOAs are the backbone to the sustainability of this project. A modest revolving fund operating with and through the PFOAs, has also been established. Part of the interest payments of these funds is now beginning to support the long-term conservation efforts of the PFOAs, as well as their general functioning.

The use of ToT approaches is another important aspect of sustainability that will be continued in Year 3 of the project. As demonstrated when Covid-19 restrictions limited FFI's direct access to communities, the ToTs are a means by which communities can be self-sufficient in terms of agroforestry and reforestation skills enhancement and monitoring. Progress slowed when working through the ToTs, but it was able to continue despite the challenging external context.

The PMSD approach for enterprise development ensures that FFI plays the role of facilitator, encouraging PFOA members and market actors to see benefits and capitalise on the market opportunities themselves, for their own economic benefits. This facilitator role is important in avoiding any dependency on FFI for the supply chain operations and ensures the long-term sustainability of the conservation enterprise.

Progress towards updating FFI's dedicated Uganda webpage to host project resources and outputs and provide open access has been delayed. These activities will be progressed in Year 3.

12. Darwin identity

The Darwin Initiative funded work is recognised as a distinct project by all project partners. The Darwin Initiative has been acknowledged as a donor of this project, and its logo has been included in all community meetings/workshops and related reports. Quarterly project reports have been shared with project partners and other key stakeholders, including local government, and all have included the Darwin Initiative logo. Relevant project pages on [FFI's website](#) have also been updated to acknowledge the support of the Darwin Initiative. In September 2021, the project also contributed an article for the [Darwin Initiative newsletter](#). During the project visit by UK-based staff in March 2022, a variety of strong images were collected. It is anticipated that during Year 3, these can be used for engaging social media content, in which the Darwin Initiative will be acknowledged.

13. Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery

Covid-19 restrictions continued to delay the implementation of project activities during the first quarter of Year 2 (April-July). During that time, while in-country staff were unable to visit communities, the project relied heavily on the 20 ToTs within the community to support the implementation and monitoring of activities. This was an effective means to ensure some activities could continue, although progress during this time was not as rapid as hoped.

Covid-19 restrictions began to ease in Uganda in July 2021 and, at the national level, have continued to ease since then (but international travel restrictions tightened in response to the Omicron variant). Project activities are now able to run as planned, with the necessary Covid-19 precautions in place. This includes limiting crowds, social distancing, hand sanitising, and mask wearing as appropriate.

Covid-19 international travel restrictions also delayed the visiting of UK-based project staff but, with restrictions easing, a visit by the Project Leader and FFI's Programme Manager, Agriculture was possible in March 2022. Ideally, this visit would have happened sooner in Year 2, but it was still highly valuable.

Going forward, the project will retain a greater use of virtual meetings so as to reduce the need to travel, both internationally and within country between Kampala and the project site. Increased working through the ToTs is also something that will be retained as this will contribute to enhanced project sustainability.

14. 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.

FFI's Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policy & Procedure was developed in December 2014 and last updated in March 2018. The policy applies to Members of Council and its sub-committees, FFI employees, temporary staff provided through agencies, volunteers and interns, contractors, consultants, service providers and any third parties who carry out work on behalf of FFI, in partnership with FFI or in conjunction with FFI. The policy demonstrates the organisation's commitment to safeguarding children and adults at risk and to complying with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; confirms the arrangements and procedures in place to safeguard children and adults at risk, including FFI's code of conduct; and provides clear guidance on how to raise, and how FFI responds to, concerns and allegations regarding the maltreatment of children and adults at risk. The policy expressly states that FFI does not tolerate sexual exploitation and abuse of any kind.

FFI’s Anti-bullying and Anti-harassment Policy was developed in March 2018. The policy applies to Members of Council and its sub committees, FFI employees, temporary staff provided through agencies, volunteers and interns, contractors, consultants and any other third parties who carry out work on FFI’s behalf. The stated purpose of the policy is to ensure a safe, welcoming and inclusive working environment, which is free from intimidation, threats, discrimination, bullying or harassment; to communicate clearly FFI’s zero-tolerance of any form of bullying or harassment; to define the terms ‘bullying’ and ‘harassment’ and provide examples, so that there is a clear understanding of the types of conduct that are prohibited; to communicate the importance of reporting incidents of bullying and harassment; and to communicate the procedures in place to manage incidents of bullying and harassment. The policy expressly states that bullying or harassment of any kind against a person or group of people, whether persistent or an isolated incident, will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

FFI’s Whistleblowing Policy was developed in June 2013 and last updated in December 2019. The policy applies to FFI employees. The stated purpose of the policy is to encourage employees to report suspected wrongdoing in the organisation as soon as possible, in the knowledge that their concerns will be taken seriously and investigated as appropriate, and that their confidentiality will be respected. It provides guidance on how to raise those concerns and aims to reassure employees that they can raise genuine concerns in good faith without fear of reprisals, even if they turn out to be mistaken.

FFI’s partner due diligence procedures include checking whether any safeguarding concerns have arisen with the partner concerned and the Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policy & Procedure forms part of contracts and agreements with third party contractors and sub-grantees. We are also currently researching LMS platforms (Learning Management Systems) which would enable online training in policies & procedures. We monitor updates in Government and Charity Commission guidance and review our policies and procedures accordingly.

In terms of social safeguards, FFI has publicly available position papers on our approach to Livelihoods and Governance, Free, Prior and Informed Consent, Gender in Conservation, Displacement and Restrictions on Access to Resources and Conservation, and Rangers and Human Rights (links below). Our specialist Conservation, Livelihoods and Governance team supports regional FFI staff and partners to take a holistic, people-centred approach to biodiversity conservation, and ensure project activities are strongly aligned with these principles.

https://cms.fauna-flora.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/FFI_2019_Position-on-free-prior-and-informed-consent.pdf

15. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2021/22 Grant (£)	2021/22 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)	██████	██████	██████	
Consultancy costs	██████	██████	██████	Funds are for a consultancy by JGI that will take place in Yr3 not Yr2
Overhead Costs	██████	██████	██████	
Travel and subsistence	██████	██████	██████	Increase in fuel

				costs in Uganda resulted in higher travel costs
Operating Costs	██████	██████	████	
Capital items (see below)				
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)				
Others (see below)	██████	██████	████	
TOTAL	██████	██████	████	

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

N/A

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

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	Y
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	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.	
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.	