

Darwin Initiative Main: Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Project Reporting Information Note”:
(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/information-notes-learning-notes-briefing-papers-and-reviews/>).

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

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2023

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Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	28-010
Project title	Developing rural pathways to community resilience and ecosystem restoration
Country/ies	Ethiopia
Lead Partner	Tree Aid
Project partner(s)	SUNARMA
Darwin Initiative grant value	£383,527
Start/end dates of project	Nov 21 – Oct 24
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2022 – Mar 2023) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2022 – March 2023 Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Cheru Tessema Mammo
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.treeaid.org/projects/ethiopia/developing-rural-resilience-and-restoring-land/
Report author(s) and date	Tekle Jirane, Cheru Tessema Mammo, Nia Spilsbury,

1. Project summary

The dry forests of Ethiopia are diverse, dynamic and resilient ecosystems. Endowed with a rich biodiversity, they provide a multitude of natural resources and environmental benefits including the mitigation of climate change and desertification. High numbers of Acacia, Boswellia and Commiphora species are found. The Combretum-Terminalia ecosystems have been found to sink higher carbon stocks both in the biomass and soil, than some other dryland vegetation reported in Ethiopia and elsewhere in the tropics. Therefore, these woodlands may play an important role in carbon sequestration in the long-term whilst supporting livelihoods of pastoral communities. Combretum-Terminalia woodlands harbour diverse woody species which produce commercial gums and resins, such as Boswellia papyrifera. Boswellia forests in Ethiopia provide a major source of frankincense, alongside other important ecosystem services. However, these dryland forests are threatened by severe biodiversity loss and degradation. B.papyrifera accounts for 2/3 of global frankincense production, a resin which is collected through tapping the tree bark, and whose global demand has great potential to support livelihoods of rural communities living in poverty. However, over-exploitation and unsustainable land use, including agricultural expansion, overgrazing and bushfires, is leading to a collapse in the regeneration potential of B.papyrifera, as well as threatening the livelihoods of locals who depend on them. B.papyrifera

is particularly important in the landscape of Metema, an arid and semi-arid area in the north-western lowlands of Ethiopia and can make up to 30% of agro-pastoral household income. This income serves as a safety net during the dry months, reducing risks associated with agricultural failures, exacerbated by climate breakdown. Insufficient regeneration of *B.papyrifera* leads to intensified and unsustainable tapping on the remaining *Boswellia* trees, negatively affecting tree vitality. Studies reveal *Boswellia* will produce fewer and lower-quality seeds when intensively tapped and can reduce germination rates from 80% (from untapped stands) to 14%. Studies indicate a collapsing *B.papyrifera* population and predict a 50% reduction of frankincense yield in the next two decades. Tree Aid conducted a community needs assessment in Metema (February 2020) involving extensive discussions with both the local community and local government. The assessment highlighted the decline in agricultural productivity, and production of forest products in the area. There is great need for effective tools to monitor land-use and frankincense regeneration and to determine and improve quality standards of extracted products. Additionally, the frankincense value chain is largely underdeveloped, with grading done by buyers rather than tappers, who lack the resources to do this effectively. There is an urgent need for protecting and restoring *Boswellia* forests alongside the promotion of sustainable tapping, to prevent the collapse of the species, further habitat loss and land degradation.

This project seeks to reverse this trend, through improved governance and inclusive decision-making. The introduction of viable harvesting and regeneration techniques for frankincense and promotion of sustainable land management on farmland will reverse forest degradation and increase farmland productivity, reducing agricultural expansion. Livelihood opportunities will be promoted, incentivising sustainable exploitation, whilst increasing incomes. The overall objective of the project is to increase the incomes for 2,250 vulnerable households through improved management of 25,388ha of *Combretum-Terminalia* woodland ecosystem in six kebeles (Das Gundo, Lemlem Terera, Gubay Jejebit, Meshiha, Delello and Agamwuha) in North Gondar.

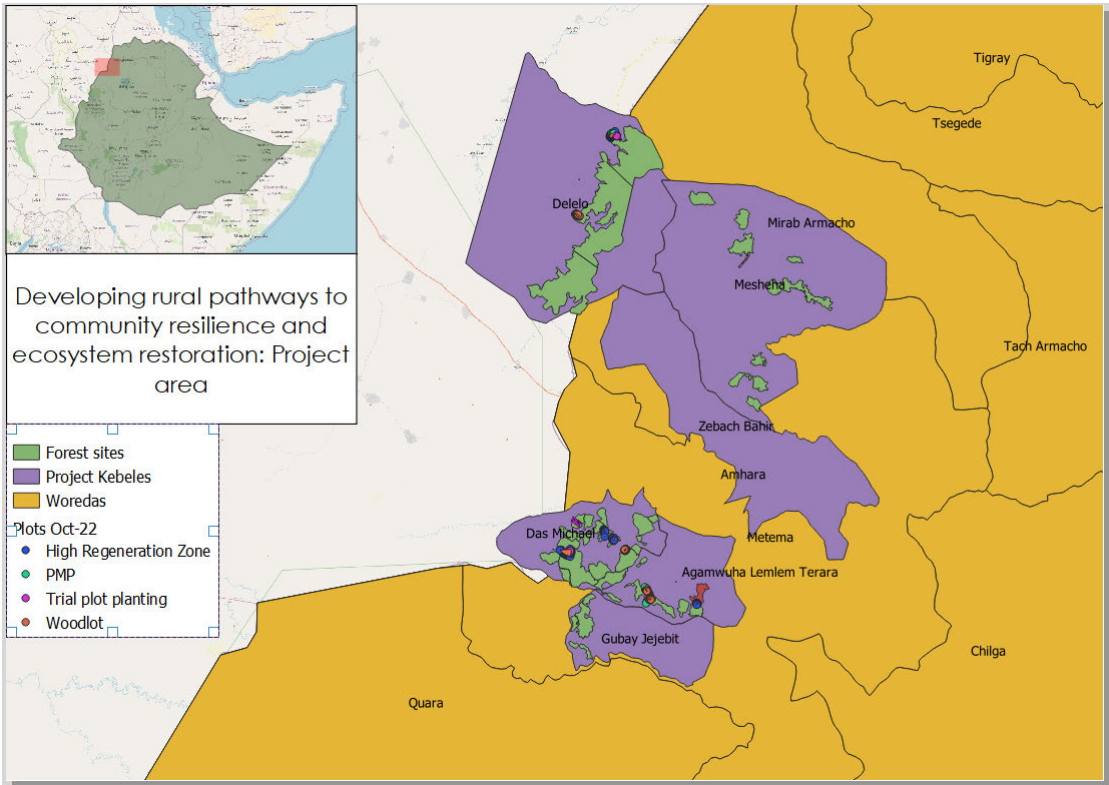


Fig. 1 Map of project kebeles and forest sites

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The lead implementing partner in this project the Sustainable Natural Resource Management Association (SUNARMA). SUNARMA is an environmental NGO (established 2000), with an experienced project management team and expertise in natural resource management (NRM) and enterprise development. SUNARMA have been implementing a project around the

frankincense value chain in the Metema area of Ethiopia area since 2017, has in-depth community development experience and strong links with local and national government.

Tree Aid and SUNARMA have worked in partnership since 2013 on a series of projects so this helps to foster a strong working relationship. Tree Aid Ethiopia, Tree Aid UK and SUNARMA work closely and collaboratively to plan, implement and monitor the planned activities. Communication between parties is regular via email and remote meetings. Tree Aid Ethiopia Project Manager engages frequently with SUNARMA and they have conducted joint trips to the project location in Metema for data collection and community engagement missions.

SUNARMA prepared the project documents according to government guidelines and got it signed by the regional government partners (the finance bureau, environmental and forest protection authority and cooperative promotion agency). After receiving this official approval and contract from the regional government the project is endorsed and copies of project documents have been distributed to Metema zonal and woreda partners to commence the project officially. In May 2022, the project team conducted project familiarisation sessions for 35 local stakeholders and community representatives.

Gondar University, with whom SUNARMA has a long-standing partnership, is providing technical support in the project, specifically around on-the-ground GIS training.

Swansea University and Forest Research based in the UK are also involved in delivering activities in this project, specifically remote sensing to monitor the condition of the *Boswellia* trees over the course of the project. Tree Aid UK has taken the lead in terms of contracting and engagement, however, joint meetings have been held between all partners to foster learning and plan for activities. The collaboration between Gondar University, Swansea University and Forest Research is an excellent opportunity for all partners to learn, exchange and work together to deliver a sub-set of activities.

The Ethiopian Forest Department (EFD) is introducing and promoting improved tapping methods to beneficiaries through practical hands-on training and assessment of the comparative benefit of using improved tapping tools on the trees.

The Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute (EBI) is in charge of establishing an in-situ conservation site which will be considered a national site that focuses on conserving the *Combretum–Terminalia* woodlands dominated by *Boswellia papyrifera* trees. In addition, EBI are responsible for conducting the baseline ecological survey and socio-economic survey.

Local communities, the Participatory Forest Management Cooperatives (PFMCs), primarily engaged in conserving, developing and sustainable utilisation of local forest resources are community based local institutions that will own and manage the proper administration of local resources. These groups are pivotal to our work and achieving the objectives.

Local leaders have, and will continue to be, engaged. For example, when the RHoMIS baseline was conducted, they were part of the survey and facilitated the smooth implementation of the data collection by mobilising communities. During the project agreement process, they supported us by giving comments and arranging the agreement signing process.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Activity 1.1 Sensitisation on biodiversity conservation and environmental management for 2250 PFMC members

This activity was originally planned to take place in quarter 2, but due to other priorities and seasonal farming activities, it was postponed to quarter 3. Between October and December, the project facilitated a sensitization on biodiversity conservation and environmental management for 1,211 PFMC members (891 men and 320 women), which is 54% of the overall project target. This number is short of the project target, as unfortunately not all invited members joined the sessions. The sensitisation meetings were facilitated at village levels, and awareness raising was done for all the eight PFMCs being supported by the project. This grassroots awareness creation was aimed at providing the necessary skills for the PFMCs to have the capacities for the rehabilitation of the Combretum-Terminalia ecosystem, particularly for sustainable management of the Boswellia forest which is the major source of frankincense. The sensitisation meeting was undertaken by the project team who also produced training materials in the local Amharic language, which provided a brief explanation of each of the thematic areas. The awareness creation covered important topics such as the definition and concept of biodiversity, prevailing threats to biodiversity in the context of Metema area, biodiversity conservation techniques or mechanisms, and the significance of biodiversity conservation in terms of ecosystem, economic, and livelihood improvement. During the session, attendees raised that recurrent forest fire is one of the critical challenges they have been experiencing as threats to the biodiversity of the Metema forest. They also emphasised that the forest management plan of each PFMC should consider identifying key forest challenges, such as forest fires and their causes, and propose actions to be taken to address them. They stressed that there should be regular monitoring of the implementation of the proposed biodiversity conservation activities by the PFMCs. An additional 158 people (including 27 women) received sensitisation on biodiversity conservation and environmental management between January and March. The attendees for this session were from Das, Gundo, and Meshaha PFMCs. As a result, the total of PFMC members who have taken part in the training has increased to 1,369, which represents 61% of the planned target. The tables below summarise the attendees of the training sessions in each PFMC.

No	Name of PFMC	Participants		
		Male	Female	Total
1	Agamwuha	40	3	43
2	Das	81	62	143
3	Gundo	336	83	419
4	Lay Lemlem terara	70	1	71
5	Tach Lemlem terara	28	1	29
6	Delello	39	26	65
7	Zewude badima	54	6	60
8	Mashaha	243	138	381
	Total	891	320	1211

Fig. 2 Table showing attendees of first sensitisation session

No	Name of PFMCs	Participants		
		Male	Female	Total
1	Das	28	8	36
2	Gundo	69	4	73
3	Meshaha	34	15	49
	Total	131	27	158

Fig. 3 Table showing attendees of second sensitisation session

Activity 1.2 Undertake Forest boundary demarcation and area mapping

As previously reported, boundary demarcation and area mapping had already been produced for 6 of the 8 target PFMCs. The project is undertaking the demarcation and mapping for the

other 2 PFMs (Agamwuha and Delello). To begin the PFM activities, important preliminary works such as stakeholders' identification were conducted between April and June 2022, and stakeholders' discussions were initiated in Agamwuha kebele. Boundary demarcation and mapping for Agamwuha PFM took place between January and March 2023. This activity was delayed due to inaccessibility of the area earlier in the project. Boundary demarcation was collected using the ODK data collection tool and the data was sent to the server run by Tree Aid. The total area of the forest demarcated is 498 ha.

Activity 1.3 Training on cooperative management for PFMC leaders (10pp in 8 PFMC)

Training on cooperative management was organized for eight PFMCs leaders to increase their capacity to understand their roles, rights, and responsibilities regarding forest management. The training was conducted in two rounds (in the first and second quarters of year 2), and of the 80 leaders invited for this training 63 (including 5 women) of them were in attendance. The training was delivered by experts from the cooperative offices of Metema district and West Gondar zone. The training covered the general principles of cooperation and cooperative management, rights and obligations of members, duties of cooperative leaders, and management skills including financial management and auditing. Attendees also acquired technical skills in the areas of marketing and income generation activities. All the 63 trainees reported gaining new skills in the post-training survey. They also reflected that with the training they received, they will be capable to ensure the proper functioning of their cooperatives and able to keep records of their transactions and meetings.

Later in the year, an additional training session was held for the 17 PFMC leaders who were unable to attend the original session for personal reasons. 11 PFMC leaders attended the cooperative management training. So, far a total of 74 (male 65, female 9) of PFMC leaders have taken part in the training. The training was conducted by the same trainers from the cooperative offices of Metema as the first session.

Activity 1.4 Conduct participatory forest management plan

During this reporting period, two of the 6 PFMC management plans were reviewed. The activity has been rescheduled to Q1 of year 3. The management plan preparation for the two newly established PFMCs is ongoing. The participatory forest resources assessment (PFRA), which is a prerequisite for management plan preparation, has been completed. A preliminary discussion on the findings of the resource assessment also took place with the communities.

Activity 1.7 Training on enclosure area management

Facilitating training on enclosure area management took place between October and December 2022. The aim of the project is that at least one site in each PFMC management area will be enclosed. The activity was integrated with Activity 1.1, and as a result, the same number of participants (1,211 including 891 men and 320 women) attended the training. This is 811 more people than the target set in the recently revised budget plan. The training was focused on the ground realities that consider the existing conditions in Metema area. On the occasion, it was understood by the trainees that the soil seed bank of the area is very high and that it has a great potential in regenerating faster and such activity as area closure would have a positive impact on the restoration of degraded areas.

Activity 1.8 Facilitate development of bylaws (2expert days/PFMC)

This activity was planned for between January – March 2023, however due to overlapping of activities and because the local government sector offices were occupied with the government programs in this quarter, it was not possible to facilitate the preparation as well as approval of the bylaws. The activity has been reforecast for April 2023.

Activity 2.1 Forest inventory, in-situ site establishment, and socioeconomic study

A group of experts from the EBI conducted field level study and gathered data on biodiversity potential and resource inventory on representative forest blocks in the project area. Following that data encoding and analysis of each block finalized and report woody diversity of all the three forest blocks is reported. According to field level observation and results of data analysis, the Das Gundo Forest block identified to be potential in-situ conservation site and proper management plan is organized to protect the site. Local government agreed to manage the identified in-situ as per the recommendation detailed in the report.

Activity 2.2 Site identification for comparative analysis of traditional vs Indian tapping method (by Ethiopian Forest Development (EFD))

Identification of all expected five sites for conducting comparative study on the use of Indian Vs traditional tapping tool is completed. The research sites are in four project kebeles, Agam Wuha, Das Gundo, Delello, and Lemelem Terara. There are two sites in Lemlem Terara kebele. Sixty trees identified in each kebele and half, 30 is tapped using traditional while the other 30 using Indian tapping tool. Totally, 300 *Boswellia* trees are identified for the research purpose. Each tree is marked, numbered, diameter at breast measured and latitude and longitude recorded. In addition, two people assigned in each site to look after the identified trees and regularly collect yields from each tree with close assistance from local government experts. Currently yield is collected every 15 days before making the subsequent tapping. This will be done for one year and final report will be produced in next June or July 2023. EFD in collaboration with TA closely follow up the data collection and engaged in organizing the final report.

Activity 2.3 Training on Indian tapping method (20 PP*12 VTEs) 120 people in year-1 and 120 people in year-2

The initial project target was to train 240 people over two years in the improved tapping method. This total has now been increased to 260, with the intention of including additional local experts from local government and project office since the tool is new to the area very few people have prior exposure. The first-round training was facilitated from November 21-29, 2022 at Metema. Totally, 132 people that include tappers, local development agents attended the training. The second round of the training will be conducted November 2023 for the remaining 130 people. In addition, 140 copies of training manual and leaflets organized using local language on tapping of *B.papyifera* trees distributed for woreda experts, tappers, and development agents. Manuals can be used by tappers for reference during tapping in the field.

Activity 2.4 Distribution of improved tapping tool

Totally, 130 Indian tapping tools produced by local smith based on improved design distributed to selected local tappers. Tappers had field level practical hands-on exposure on use of the Indian tool as part the training event. The Ethiopian Forest Development (EFD) office, based on service contract signed with Tree Aid is fully involved in the design preparation and production of the Indian tapping tools.

Activity 2.5 Field and spectral data collection for inventory and condition assessment

To assess the condition of *Boswellia* tree, a data collection template was prepared, and field staff were trained on best practices for data gathering. Between May and July 2022, Forest Research reviewed a methodology for field data collection and the use of drones, the use of hyperspectral sensors and testing the two PolyPen sensors, comparing them with ADS field spectroradiometer. Online meetings were held with the team in Ethiopia and Swansea University to elaborate on the methodology for the use of satellite imagery. Between July and September 2022 central GPS points from 120 sites were collected in three categories: sparsely grown,

densely grown and under tapped, and densely grown and over tapped location. In December 2022, training was held in the UK Tree Aid office on the use of the two PolyPens.

Activity 2.6 Development of cartographic products using remote sensing to support the development of forest management plans (by Swansea University with Forest Research)

The following activities were delivered between April and September 2022. A methodology was determined to generate suitable data products. Swansea University and Forest Research communicated with the team on the ground regarding the requirements for ground data, in order to determine areas of *Boswellia* within RS imagery to apply analysis techniques for areas of different tree density and different extraction techniques and untapped areas.

Swansea University also developed a method for cloud-based processing of remote sensing datasets. The scripts are in place and ready to apply to validated, geolocated areas of *Boswellia*. The team also obtained additional remote sensing derived variables to help inform frankincense management: ERA5 climate variables, burn data, and optical data planet and sentinel data).

Activity 2.7 Training government and project staff on GIS and remote sensing (by Forest Research remotely)

Prior field level preparation, topic identification, participant selection began, and training was facilitated by Forest Research. Unfortunately, this activity was unable to be completed on schedule due to security concerns which impeded trainers' ability to travel to Ethiopia. In December 2022 Swansea University developed training materials for an introduction to GIS, Google Earth Pro and remote sensing for future online or in-person capacity-building for project end users.

Activity 3.1 Training on locally appropriate climate smart agriculture practices and technologies for project staff and local government experts for 3 days at woreda level

A three-day training of trainers (ToT) was organised in June 2022 on locally appropriate climate-smart agriculture practices and technologies for 3 project staff and 7 local government experts who from the district offices of Agriculture, Environment, and Cooperative. The training was provided by an experienced and skilled expert in climate-smart approaches from Gondar University. The training covered climate change and its impacts, and the recent global and national experiences and best practices in the areas of climate-smart agriculture. The training also addressed important interventions to create climate change resilient communities in the context of the project areas. Specifically, the training was focused on climate-smart crop and livestock production, agroforestry, and the role of forest, water, and energy management in reducing the impacts of climate change and creating climate change resilient livelihoods.

Activity 3.2 Training on locally appropriate climate smart agriculture practices and technologies for smallholder farmers

Between April and June 2022, training materials were prepared and translated into the local Amharic language in preparation for cascade training to local communities. Training was originally scheduled for July 2022, however this was not possible as this was peak farming season for the communities living in the project intervention areas. Due to budget revisions, this training will now be delivered in year 3 of the project (April 2023 - March 2024)

Activity 3.3: Distribution of agroforestry trees for individual beneficiaries 1000 fruit seedling/year

Recipients for agroforestry trees were identified in 5 kebeles and 7 PFM sites (Das, Gundo, Delleo, Agamwuha, Zewde badima, Lay lemm terara and Tach lemm terara) and needs assessments were carried out. The procurement of grafted mango seedlings was conducted in Gondar town, and 1,050 seedlings were distributed to 179 local people in August 2022 (including

16 women). These target beneficiaries have the potential to supplement the planted seedlings in the form of irrigation as these beneficiaries have supplementary water sources to irrigate in the dry seasons. The table below shows the distribution of agroforestry trees by kebele.

PFMCs	Number of beneficiaries	Seedlings distributed
Dellelo	48	179
Das	40	312
Gundo	30	266
Agamwuha	12	60
Zewde Badima	25	130
Tach lemlem terara	19	79
Lay lemelem Terara	5	24
Total	179	1050

Fig. 4 Table showing distribution of agroforestry seedlings

Activity 3.4 Distribution of forage seeds, cutting, and seedlings for selected 540 households 50 per household

Unfortunately, this activity did not take place in year 2 as planned. The cuttings are found far from project sites and therefore need transporting to the area. The project vehicle was out of service during the critical time for this activity since it is seasonal and must take place during the rainy season (June – August). This activity will now take place in June and August 2023, led by SUNARMA. Forage seeds and cuttings used will be locally appropriate species which are suitable for the climactic conditions of the area.

Activity 4.1 Establishment of 18VTEs (12 frankincense, 6 beekeeping)

This activity was delayed to July 2022 due to the problem with the field vehicle and the prolonged period of its maintenance. Between July and September 2022, 6 beekeeping VTE groups were established in Lay lemlem and Tach lemlem, Agam wuha, Gundo, Das and Dellelo. In total there are 74 beekeeping VTE members (including 2 women). Future efforts are needed to engage more beekeeping members. Between October and December 2022, 12 frankincense VTE groups with 20 members each were established. We do not currently have data on the composition of the frankincense groups by gender. All VTE groups will receive MA&D training to build capacity (funded by another project in the area).

Activity 4.2 Training on drying, storing and grading of frankincense for 240 tappers

The training was originally forecast for April – June 2022, however it was delayed due to the late start of project implementation. The training was therefore reforecast to October 2022, ahead of the tapping season. Training on drying, storing, and grading of frankincense was delivered by EFD, and was integrated with the delivery of Activity 2.3. The training was facilitated at the cluster village level in Agamuwuha, Delello, and Gundo kebeles. A total of 160 people (including 3 women) from 7 PFMCs attended. Attendees were not able to join from Meshiha PFMC, due to road inaccessibility at the time. In addition to theoretical and practical training on tapping *Boswellia* trees, focusing on the Indian tapping method, the training also important covered relating to post-harvest handling and processing of frankincense products such as drying, storing, and grading. The trainees received knowledge on the implication of tapping techniques and tools used on the quality of frankincense, and the sustainable production of frankincense. Another round of this training will take place in year 3 to reach the target of 240 tappers in total.

Activity 4.3 Material support for drying and storage of Frankincense groups

Five PFMCs (Agamwuha, Das, Gundo, Lay lemlem terara, and Zewude Badima) were supported with materials for the drying and storage of frankincense. The support was limited only to these PMCs due to budgetary constraints, and from observing that other PMCs such as Delello have relatively the financial capacity to purchase these materials and get the needed services. The

procured and distributed materials include 300 tapping blades or appropriate tapping, 200 baskets small and large for the collection of frankincense from tapped trees, 187 drying mats, and 100 sacks made of sisal.

Activity 4.4 Provide beekeeping training to members of 6 beekeeping enterprise members

Between July and September 2022, beekeeping training was delivered to members of 6 beekeeping enterprise groups. 74 people (71 men and 3 women) took part in the training, most of whom were also PFMC members. The training was delivered by an expert from the woreda animal production office, who has a secondary degree in beekeeping.

Activity 4.5 Provide beehives and accessories to 6 beekeeping enterprise groups

Since the required technical training was delivered to beekeeping enterprises, what will remain is provision of improved beehives and related accessories. For ease of procurement process SUNARMA project office gave delegation to SUNARMA head office. Meanwhile, the project office has requested for the purchase of 120 hives in the revised budget. Given the constraints in budget and high cost of inflation the head office has reduced the number of hives to be purchased from 120 to 60, which have now been procured. Between October and December 2022, the project procured 60 modern beehives with necessary accessories and distributed them to the 6 beekeeping enterprises organized under the existing 6 PFMCs. The groups have already completed the necessary preparations, such as apiary site preparation, and beekeeping activities began in the next quarter with technical support from the project and beekeeping experts from the Metema district office of livestock development. It is anticipated that the groups' first honey harvest will take place around October or November 2023.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance and environmental stewardship of Combretum-Terminalia woodland in six kebeles through eight Participatory Forest Management Cooperatives (PFMCs)

1.1 Eight legally recognised Participatory Forest Management Cooperatives (PFMCs) active by end of year 1

8 PFMC groups are now active as evidenced by legal records and capacity development training received.

1.2 Women account for 30% of membership and leadership positions in PFM Cooperatives (year 2: 10%; year 3: 30%) Baseline: 0

Current membership information for the PFMC groups were collected using cooperative records along with an OCAT survey in March 2023 (see Annexes 4, 5 and 6):

Members of 8 PFM Cooperatives

Men: 2,209 (+455)

Women: 839 (+639)

(Source: beneficiary list)

Leadership of 8 PFM Cooperatives

Men: 70/80 (87.5%)

Women: 10/80 (12.5%)

(Source: OCAT survey)

1.3 Eight local land and forest tenure charters (by-laws) developed and adopted for the inclusive management of the woodland by the end of year 2

As reported under Activity 1.6, the development of bylaws has been rescheduled to year 3 and this output indicator will be reported against in the next annual report.

1.4 Eight forest management plans, reviewed/developed and adopted for the area under the responsibility of PFM Cooperatives by the end of year 2

2/6 PFM management plans have been reviewed in this reporting period. This activity has been rescheduled to Q1 23/24.

The management plan preparation for the new two PFMCs is a work in progress. Participatory forest resources assessment (PFRA) which is a prerequisite for management plan preparation is done. A preliminary discussion on the findings of the resource assessment has been done with the communities. Now we are at the stage of facilitating the preparation of the management plan which has to be drafted by the leaders of the PFMCs with the facilitation of the project and then be verified by the public.

Output 2: Building sustainable harvesting and regeneration techniques of frankincense (*Boswellia papyrifera*) in Combretum-Terminalia woodlands to promote responsible exploitation and reverse resource degradation

2.1 One in-situ biodiversity conservation enclosure site established and managed under the responsibility of Participatory Forest Management Cooperatives by the end of year 2

1 in-situ conservation site has been established as evidence by the EBI's report.

2.2 80% (192/240) of producers (VTE members) trained are using new tapping techniques by the end of year 2 (year 1: 96 (40%); year 2: 192 (80%))

The improved Indian tapping method is under research by EFFRI, which will be completed in June 2023. The data is not currently ready to be shared as the research has to be done for at least one frankincense production season (running from October 2022 to June 2023.) If the findings of the research are in favour of the new tapping technique, the VTE's working on frankincense production will start to use it during the next frankincense production season (i.e. October 2023 June 2024).

2.3 50% increase of 1st (1A) and 2nd (1B) grade frankincense products produced and sold by each (of the eight) PFM Cooperative as measured from project baseline by the end of the project. Indicative baseline: 17% for grade 1 and 8% for grade 2.(source Value Chain Analysis of Alemu Abtew (2016) Non-Timber Forest Products and their Rural Development Potentials: The case of Gum and Resins in the Drylands of Ethiopia and Sudan. PhD Thesis) (To be confirmed at project baseline)

Data was collected from 5 of the 8 PFM Cooperatives through an OCAT survey between January – March 2023 (see Annexes 4, 5 and 6):

Total Production: 1674 Quintals (+1051.92; +169%)
White: 1,368 Quintals (+822.7; +151%)
Black: 305 Quintals (+229.2; +300%)
Total Price: 38,539,456 Birr

The increase in high quality frankincense here relates closely to the increase in household incomes (Outcome indicator 0.1). The price for frankincense has markedly increased and according to market trends analysis, the global frankincense resin market is "*anticipated to rise at a considerable rate during the forecast period, between 2022 and 2030 (online, The express wire April 2023).*"

2.4 70% survival rate (naturally regenerated seedlings) as measured from project baseline by the end of the project (Disaggregated by species). Indicative baseline: 16% survival of regenerated seedlings.(source: Adamu et al, 2012, Floristic diversity, regeneration status, and vegetation structure of woodlands in Metema Area, Amhara National Regional State, Northwestern Ethiopia Journal of Forestry Research (2012) 23(3): 391– 39

To calculate survival rates, it is standard practice to return at least 12 months after the activity to monitor the health of the trees. Therefore, for this report it is too soon to track progress against

this milestone. The Point Centred Quadrant (PCQ) survey is scheduled to take place in quarter 3 2023/2024.

Output 3: Improved farmland productivity through the adoption of climate smart agriculture (CSA) practices for 2,250 household

3.1 20% increase in crop yields (per Ha), as measured from project baseline, by the end of the project. Indicative baseline (sourced from similar Tree Aid supported projects: EB3/EB8) Maize: 1,400 Kg/Ha, Wheat: 800 Kg/Ha, Teff: 200 Kg/Ha, Barley: 170 Kg/Ha (To be confirmed at project baseline)

Data against this indicator was collected at the year 2 mid-point using a RHoMIS survey:

Cotton: 900kg/ha (0% increase)
Sorghum: 725kg/ha (45% increase)
Teff: 323.9kg/ha (-19% decrease)
Sesame: 250kg/ha (372% increase)
Maize: 142.9kg/ha (240% increase)
Soya Beans: 800kg/ha (1,900% increase)
Groundnut: 2500kg/ha (not mentioned during baseline)

3.2 70% (1,575) of farmers practicing at least 3 climate smart agricultural techniques on their farms by the end of the project

A mini RHoMIS survey for 215 beneficiaries was conducted in October 2022 to collect data on the progress of uptake of climate smart agricultural techniques by local farmers:

Climate smart agricultural practices used on farms (either biological or soil and water conservation): 31% (67/215)

Output 4: Income of 18 Village Tree Enterprises (VTEs) (360 members, 90 (25% women) based on sustainably sourced Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) (12 frankincense and 6 honey) established and increasing

4.1 18 VTEs established and develop appropriate Enterprise Development Plans (EDPs) by the end of year 2 (currently funded through UKAM)

All 18 VTE groups have now been established (Activity 4.1). The beekeeping groups have received 60 modern beehives and related equipment (Activity 4.5) and 74 members of the VTE groups have received training in modern beekeeping (Activity 4.4).

4.2 Average turnover for active VTEs established and increase to 150,000 Birr/enterprise/year (\$3,800) by the end of the project (year 2: 75,000 Birr; \$1,800) (To be confirmed at project baseline)

The groups have not made any sales to date. The market for frankincense will begin in June 2023, and honey will be sold in June and September 2023.

4.3 three contracts relating to frankincense signed with buyers by the end of the project (to be confirmed at project baseline)

2 contracts have been signed by the Union to buyers (representing the harvest of all member PFMs).

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Outcome: Increased incomes for 2,250 vulnerable households through improved management of 25,388ha of Combretum-Terminalia woodland ecosystem in six kebeles (Das Gundo, Gubai Jejebit, Meshiha, Delello, Lemlem Terara, Agamwuha) in North Gondar.

0.1 Household income increase by 25% by end of the project as measured from project baseline. Indicative baseline: 45,889.5 ETB (source: SUNARMA baseline household survey, Metema, May 2018). (To be confirmed at project baseline)

Baseline data was collected using RHoMIS during the first year of the project and was reported in the last annual report. A further RHoMIS survey undertaken in October 2022 gave the following update on household income:

Actual Total HH Income: \$5,565.48 (mean/hh)

Actual NTFP Income: \$1,266.59 (mean/hh)

Actual Crop Income: \$2,961.78 (mean/hh)

Actual Livestock Income: \$367.26 (mean/hh)

Actual Off-Farm Income: \$969.85 (mean/hh)

This represents an 11% increase in total household income compared with the project baseline, and a 1,169% increase in household income sourced from NTFPs. This links closely to the demand for frankincense mentioned against Output indicator 2.3.

0.2 5% increase in vegetation cover and production potential of 25,388ha of woodland area under forest management plans in the project area by the end of the project from project baseline (To be confirmed at project baseline)

18 Permanent Monitoring Plots were established in August 2022 and a further 9 were completed in October 2022. We will engage Forest Research to do an assessment for this indicator and it will continue to be monitored using remote sensing. Information from indicator 0.3 will also be used to track progress against this indicator.

0.3 Tree density in enclosure areas increases in each of the PFM sites established, by an average of 25% by end of the project as measured from project baseline (disaggregated by species) Indicative baseline: 377 trees/Ha (source: Adamu et al, 2012 Floristic diversity, regeneration status, and vegetation structure of woodlands in Metema Area, Amhara National Regional State, Northwestern Ethiopia, Journal of Forestry Research (2012) 23(3): 391– 39). (To be confirmed at project baseline)

Data for this indicator will be collected in July 2023. Although we are not currently able to report against this indicator, relevant data was collected from 24 permanent monitoring plots (PMPs) by SUNARMA between July and September 2022. This data showed that across these sites, there was an average tree density of 658 trees/Ha. This is best seen as a revised or refined baseline for this indicator as it represents the situation prior to intervention. The new data comes from specific sites that represent control or intervention sites for the project. These will provide more accurate baselines to monitor change and were not possible to collect prior to working with the PFMs on site selection activities.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

All outcome and output level assumptions still hold true, and Tree Aid continues to monitor closely the critical conditions for the project success. Assumptions where challenges have arisen are detailed below. The global economic situation which has resulted in extreme inflation in Ethiopia was not an assumption in the original project logframe, and is instead addressed in section 10.

Outcome level assumptions

Outcome assumption 6: Political situation remains stable enough for project activities to take place.

The ongoing issues with security and political instability in Ethiopia and its surrounding countries continue to impact project activities. Tree Aid's Programme Manager and the Country Director have regular security briefings to ensure any change in the situation is reported and

any necessary steps to safeguard staff are taken. A bi-weekly security briefing is prepared by the lead partner SUNARMA and shared with relevant partner and Tree Aid staff members.

In July 2022, there were issues on the Gallabat border with Ethiopia and Sudan. The border post was closed June 26 following clashes between Sudanese and Ethiopian border guards. There have been good negotiations between both sides, and the border has since opened. There remains heavy military presence in the areas bordering Ethiopia with Sudan in an apparent act to defend the country from any threat across the border. Some activities were delayed due to stakeholders not being available during this time.

On the national front, the roadmap for peace, signed in December 2022 helped to end conflict between the central government and Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). The fighting centred on Tigray but, for example, in October 2022 the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) launched an attack in Northern Amhara, Kobo, North Wollo. The TPLF were increasing their numbers by deploying un-trained people with the government refraining to engage to avoid unprecedented loss of life. Despite this, the project areas and communities largely remained stable and life was able to continue as normal. As of February 2023, the security situation was stable in the project areas.

However, although just after the reporting period, the civil conflict in Sudan has led to a surge in refugees entering Ethiopia from Sudan, with as many as 1000 a day arriving at the end of April. The pressure on services and the potential disruption that may be caused is being monitored by the project.

Also, in April 2023, there were violent clashes over the dissolution of the Amhara paramilitary force. The protests led to a state of insecurity in which some deaths occurred. The project staff were granted extended leave over the Easter break in order to allow the situation to settle down. For a period, 3 of the further kebeles were not accessible, but as of 12th May, this changeable situation is allowing activities to take place in all target kebeles.

Outcome assumption 7: No significant changes to international markets for frankincense and no major price fluctuations.

The demand and price for frankincense has increased over the reporting period. This upwards trend offers our work and the communities' considerable opportunities to earn a higher rate for their product. We will monitor the market price trends over the course of the project. We will continue to train and reach more tappers on improved tapping techniques and equipment and post-harvest management that will have great contributions in the quality of the product and income gained.

Output level assumptions

Output assumption 1.3: No reappearance of civil unrest

Comments: A State of Emergency was declared in Ethiopia November 2021 following the Tigray People's National Front gaining ground in the Northern and North Eastern regions (part of Amhara, Tigray, and part of Afar regions). However, Metema, the project area, was not affected. The team monitored the situation closely and have been working according to the original plans. As of February 2022, the State of Emergency was lifted and, as mentioned above, a peace treaty was signed in December 2022. Civil unrest resurfaced in Amhara in April 2023 and we continue to monitor the situation.

Output assumption 4.3: Households and communities allow women to engage in VTEs.

Comments: There have been difficulties with engaging women in beekeeping VTE activities due to cultural barriers and competing priorities. The project team will be discussion the

approach to gender throughout the project and adjusting the approach accordingly ahead of year 3 activities (see also section 8.)

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

Impact: Contribute to the improvement of forest ecosystems, biodiversity restoration and livelihood enhancement for vulnerable people in Ethiopia

This project aims to support this impact statement by establishing sustainable management structures for forest resources, which will reduce pressures on natural resources and promote biodiversity restoration. The sustainable exploitation of forest resources will support rural communities to increase their incomes and improve their resilience to the climate crisis, helping to reduce poverty in the region.

To contribute to improved forest ecosystems and biodiversity restoration in the Metema region, this project aims to achieve a 5% increase in vegetation cover and production potential of 25,388ha of woodland. This area will be managed by 8 PFMCs who will be supported to create management plans and put bylaws in place to ensure long-term sustainability. During this reporting period 1,369 PFMC members have taken part in sensitisation sessions on biodiversity conservation and sustainable environmental management to raise awareness of its importance at a community level. Forestry boundary demarcation and area mapping has now taken place in 7 of the 8 PFMC areas. 74 PFMC leaders have received training on cooperative management, and 1,211 members took part in training on enclosure management. The training received by the PFMC members will help to ensure that communities have the skills and knowledge necessary to manage local forest ecosystems sustainably for the future.

To support the continued increase in *Boswellia papyrifera* populations for the long-term, the project will promote sustainable frankincense harvesting. During the reporting period, field data collection of the *Combretum Terminalia* woodland was conducted to create a forest inventory. Research sites have also been established for a comparative analysis on frankincense tapping techniques and trees selected and measured ahead of the analysis. GPS points have also been collected for a forest inventory and condition assessment. The project will also train 260 tappers on an improved Indian tapping method, who will be provided with improved tapping tools and training manuals in the local Amharic language. The promotion of the improved Indian tapping method will enable *Boswellia* trees to regenerate in the area.

The project will also support the protection of local forests through the restoration of agricultural land. The capacity of 2,250 farmers will be built in climate smart agricultural practices that they can perform on their own land, reducing the need for further expansion into the forest. During the reporting period, a training of trainers session took place on climate smart agricultural practices, and training materials prepared in the local Amharic language in preparation for the farmer's training in year 3. The project has also distributed 1,050 fruit trees for agroforestry planting. Agroforestry planting will help to improve the soil health of agricultural land leading to better crop yield and the fruits of the trees can be consumed at a household level or sold to increase incomes.

To support enhanced livelihood opportunities and further biodiversity protection in the local area, 360 households (25% women) will be incentivised to sustainably manage forest resources through the establishment of 18 economically viable VTEs. During the reporting period, all 18 VTE groups were established (6 beekeeping, 12 frankincense). Members of the beekeeping groups have received equipment and training and have begun honey production. Local frankincense tappers have also received training in drying, storage, and grading of the product and have received equipment.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

Ethiopia has a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-20) for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at the national level. The project will contribute to the

targets of the strategy. The project will contribute especially to the targets 4, 5,10 and 14, by promoting sustainable harvesting of forest resources to support local livelihoods, reducing anthropogenic pressures on tree resources alongside strengthened forest governance (through PFMC) and natural regeneration. Additionally, the promotion of sustainable land management and climate smart agriculture, will increase land productivity, reducing agricultural expansion. The reduction of damaging practices and increased forest cover will contribute to increased ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration.

This project is being implemented with support from the EBI, the CBD focal institution in Ethiopia. The EBI signed a partnership agreement with Tree Aid. During the report period, EBI was in charge of the in-situ site identification and the forest inventory/ecological which took place between April and June 2022.

The project will promote the community based PFMC model which will empower the local community to manage their own forest resources and develop bylaws and management plans for each PFMC contributing to the Aichi B7 and article 8f. During this reporting period, 8 PFMC have been supported, and 2 management plans have already been reviewed. In addition, 74 PFMC leaders have received training on cooperative management, and 1,211 members took part in training on enclosure management. Building the capacity of PFMC members on sustainable frankincense harvesting will help prevent further degradation of forest in the targeted area (Aichi B5). 260 tappers have already been trained on an improved Indian tapping method. The project will increase local knowledge on forest value and importance included through the sensitisation of 1,369 PFMC member on biodiversity conservation and sustainable environmental management (article 8d). Actions through this project will protect *Boswellia* forests from further degradation, contributing to the safeguarding of vital ecosystem services including availability of non-timber forest products to support livelihoods taking into account specific needs and perspectives of women (Aichi D14). During, the report period, 3 project staff and 7 local government experts were trained on locally appropriate climate-smart agriculture practices and technologies. As trainers, they will then train community members next year. Additionally, the protection of *Boswellia* forests and reduction in further forest loss will promote carbon sequestration in the area, contributing to climate change mitigation and prevention of desertification (Aichi D15). The project is based on a bottom-up approach where the design is centred on the needs of the local population. Project activities will build capacity within these communities who will be empowered to take practical actions to manage and restore biodiversity (article 10c). The project will protect and restore 25,388ha of *Combretum-Terminalia* woodland, contributing to the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and so to the UNFCCC, which Ethiopia ratified on 9 March 2017.

5. Project support to poverty reduction

The project aims to increase household income by 25% for the 2,250 vulnerable households involved in the project in six kebeles (Das Gundo, Gubai Jejebit, Meshiha, Delello, Lemlem Terara, Agamwuha,) in North Gondar (Outcome indicator 1).

Our baseline data shows that the mean household income is \$5,027.48, so a 25% increase would represent about \$1,256. To achieve this increase, the project has established 6 beekeeping VTE and 12 on frankincense. The project aims to increase the average turnover for active VTEs established to 150,000 Birr/enterprise/year. Women, who are the most significantly impacted by poverty, will compose 25% of the direct recipients of the VTEs. As reported under progress against Outcome indicator 0.1, the increase in household income is currently 11%, double the expected target increase for this stage of the project.

Furthermore, the project is targeting both a more sustainable use of the frankincense forest and a higher grade of frankincense to be harvested. This should both increase incomes in the short-term and protect a key resource for the longer term. The project aims to increase the (1A) and 2nd (1B) white grade frankincense products produced and sold by 4% bringing it to 92%.

The climate smart agriculture practices adopted by a large number of farmers in the intervention area (an estimated 2,250 farmers) will contribute to increase their land productivity (crop yields) and the household income in the long-term. A training of trainers already took place with 3 project

staff and 7 local government experts on locally appropriate climate-smart agriculture practices and technologies. Next year, training for the 2,250 targeted farmers will take place. However, 1,050 seedlings for agroforestry planting have already been distributed to 179 local people.

In addition, the extra income will enable beneficiaries to use the extra cash to buy food which will help them to get through the lean season or to cover some medical case.

6. Gender equality and social inclusion

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	n/a
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women ² .	n/a

The project is actively targeting women and ensuring inclusion in project assessment, interventions and outcomes. Tackling strategic gender interests will be through the active support of women, enabling them to become a more effective voice and actor in Combretum-Terminalia woodland management. Women are being supported to participate in governance structures, increasing capacity and sense of ownership over natural resources, and will increase their voice and decision-making power. The project aims to increase the percentage of women members of PFMC to 30%. There are currently 839 female members of PFMCs as part of the project, an increase of 639 from the project baseline.

The income-generating activities of this project will also target women. 25% of all VTE group members will be women, who will receive training and have access to equipment for NTFP production. Currently, women account for only 2% of the beekeeping groups, and we do not yet have the data for the composition of the frankincense groups disaggregated by gender.

We use the RHoMIS a household socio-economic survey which includes a Voice, Choice and Control tool in order to assess and monitor changes to availability and access to NTFPs and agricultural products, the non-income and income stream provided by NTFPs and differentiated impact on household economies and gendered distribution of benefits.

Integrating women in this way should improve their confidence in raising income for their household and their ability to take up leadership positions and access the benefits of new income resources subject to household decision-making. The organisation of training and other activities will be adapted to women’s schedules to promote participation.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

A Rural Household Multi-Indicator Survey (RHoMIS) was conducted in February 2022 with a sample size of 383 households, and a repeat RHoMIS survey was conducted in March 2023 with 215 households. RHoMIS enables us to track a number of indicators including household income increases, increase in crop yields and use of climate smart agriculture techniques.

The Project Beneficiary List continues to be updated, tracking individual participation in project activities.

¹ A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

² Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

Data was collected from seven forest management cooperatives focusing on tree management practices, forest coverage, frankincense production, and members' participation. Data was collected from the Cooperative Union regarding capacity assessment in terms of marketing (quality, reaching out to the export market, bargaining, etc.) and leadership.

We are also planning to track tree density and survival rates of trees in non-project areas. Change over time in project areas will be compared to change over time in non-project areas. It is hoped that, in the next 12 months, with the development work with the UK partners (Forest Research and Swansea University), more remote-sensing mapping will be possible, which will strengthen the project's monitoring.

Other sources of monitoring include Ecological Survey done by EBI, the forest resource mapping of intervention sites and permanent monitoring plots.

Tree Aid leads on the project M&E. A Tree Aid M&E officer has been recruited and is stationed full time in the local partner, regional office, in Metema. Tree Aid share M&E files and folders through Microsoft Sharepoint, and we store M&E survey templates and collected data on the ONA website.

Tree Aid are in the process of commissioning an M&E Information Management System (IMS), to automate the collection and tracking of Key Performance Indicators. This will have interactive dashboards accessible by all in-country teams.

8. Lessons learnt

One of the challenges the project faced this year was the smooth implementation of activities relating to UK partners. Training activities that had been planned to take place in-country with the partners (Swansea University and Forest Research) were unable to go ahead as planned due to security issues.

The team have encountered some difficulties with engaging women in the beekeeping VTE activities. There are cultural barriers to women participating in these activities, and since honey harvesting usually takes place in the evening this has proven difficult for women to manage alongside care giving activities. The team are keen to include more female members but we are not sure whether this will be feasible based since training for members and purchasing equipment has already taken place. The project team will be discussing the approach to gender more generally and discuss ways to improve women's inclusion ahead of the final year of the project.

A positive key learning from the reporting period has been the success of working across multiple levels, from community to local government. Following an attempt by a private investor to claim access to a PFM site, there was dialogue between the PFMs and authorities, with important issues discussed. The claim has been rejected, and the victory has led to other PFMs outside of the project being encouraged to defend their land and natural resources by calling on local government to not grant their forest to investors. By engaging with local authorities during the project, it has helped as the key issues at a community level are being raised and getting attention at the national level.

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

In response to the comments received in the feedback, we have attached the OCAT data for year 1 and year 2 of the project in the Annex section. Additional evidence is also included in the Annex in the form of training logs and reports against specific activities from implementing partners.

The project's response to the high inflation rate is addressed in section 10 (Risk Management).

10. Risk Management

Risk: Inflation of ETB

Ethiopia has experienced incredibly high rates of inflation during this reporting period. The inflation reached over 35%. The IMF has reported Ethiopia as a 'hyper inflationary' country. This has made an impact on the smooth running of project implementation. Specific examples include recruitment, where the original budget allocation in Ethiopian birr was not sufficient to match candidates' expectations in the new financial climate and as a result some recruitment was delayed. The cost of materials has also increased, which has impacted on activities such as establishing nursery sites.

In order to adjust and adapt the project to the inflation rate, a full project budget revision took place and has been approved. This was a key opportunity to consider any activities which could be reduced in scope or be removed without causing or minimising detrimental impact to the project goals or impact on communities. The revised project budget has provided clarity for the teams and has enabled them to carry out activities based on realistic and current costs and will continue to be monitored closely against the situation in Ethiopia.

Risk: Social unrest

As of February 2022 the national State of Emergency declared in November 2021 had been lifted. In July 2022 there were issues on the Gallabat border with Ethiopia and Sudan border was closed on 26th June following clashes between Sudanese and Ethiopian border guards. The border reopened following negotiations. At project level, there was some uncertainty around working in one of our selected PFM sites, Zewde Babima, due to ethnic tension between Qimant and Amharic groups. However, after much consultation with the government all parties are satisfied that it can remain in our operations. In September, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) launched an attack in Northern Amhara, Kobo, North Wollo. The TPLF were increasing their numbers by deploying un-trained people with the government refraining to engage to avoid unprecedented loss of life. There remains heavy military presence in the areas bordering Ethiopia with Sudan in an apparent act to defend the country from any threat across the border. Some activities were delayed due to stakeholders not being available during this time. In November, a peace deal was reached between the Government and the TPLF which is currently holding.

Security issues are raised regularly. The Tree Aid Ethiopia team and SUNARMA are in contact regularly and a security document is updated by SUNARMA every fortnight. The risk registers (programme and organisational) are updated accordingly. Risks are managed by the in-country and Head Office management teams.

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

12. Sustainability and legacy

This project has been designed with long-term sustainability in mind, and the exit strategy for the programme is still valid. Activities were chosen based on an in-depth understanding of community needs and based on a bottom-up approach.

The project will support communities to feel ownership for the long-term protection of local woodland ecosystems through the PFMC approach. The 8 groups have received capacity building in the form of awareness training on biodiversity and the importance of environmental management systems. 63 of the PFMC leaders have also received training in cooperative management.

The project is building the capacity of local communities and stakeholders to ensure the continued implementation of improved practices. To encourage local farmers to adopt climate smart agricultural practices and technologies, the project is using a TOT approach. During the

reporting period, 3 project staff and 7 local government representatives were trained on this topic, and engagement from local government stakeholders is essential to ensure buy-in for these techniques at a community level in the long-term. Training for local farmers will take place in the coming year. Training and the distribution of the improved, modified tapping tool will support the continued restoration and regeneration of Boswellia trees in the area. Community members have also received capacity building training related to livelihood opportunities.

Support for communities to increase their incomes using forest resources is also critical for the long-term protection of the 25,388ha of Combretum-Terminalia woodland. Livelihood opportunities based on NTFPs provide an incentive for the sustainable management, good governance, and sustainable exploitation of forest resources in the long-term.

13. Darwin Initiative identity

The project has its own page on the Tree Aid website, which refers to the Darwin Initiative as a funder and includes the logo: <https://www.treeaid.org/projects/ethiopia/developing-rural-resilience-and-restoring-land/>. Within Tree Aid’s wider programme of work, the project is recognised as a distinct project but which is working closely with a complementary project working with communities in the Metema region on frankincense enterprise development. The Darwin Initiative is included in Tree Aid’s annual report. Tree Aid is also using social media to increase public awareness of the need for the project in the Metema region by sharing stories from project participants.

14. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	Yes
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months	Yes
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes, Fikru Tessema: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	Yes The annual internal Safeguarding training awarded by the Head of Risk & Compliance
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 100% [3] Planned: 100% [4]
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses. 137/214 (64%) of RHoMIS respondents (program participants) confirmed they were aware of safeguarding reporting mechanisms within the project.	
Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify. The incident reporting/suggestions boxes set up on project sites are now fully functioning, lessons are being learned and the process will be updated if adjustments are required. The aim will be to make the process accessible as well as keeping the internal escalation steps efficient. Six suggestion boxes have been installed in 6 PFMs and there are 2 more to install. A guidance document has been prepared to help the team to manage the use of the boxes and the feedback that is received.	

15. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2022/23 Grant (£)	2022/23 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)				
Others (see below)				
Partner advance				
TOTAL	143,72	143,72		

Table 2: Project mobilising of matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

	Matched funding secured to date	Total matched funding expected by end of project
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project.		
Total additional finance mobilised by new activities building on evidence, best practices and project (£)		

16. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

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

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption, country and credit	Online accounts to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
				Yes / No
				Yes / No

				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2022-2023

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>Contribute to the improvement of forest ecosystems, biodiversity restoration and livelihood enhancement for vulnerable people in Ethiopia</p>			
<p>Outcome</p> <p>Increased incomes for 2,250 vulnerable households through improved management of 25,388ha of CombretumTerminalia woodland ecosystem in six kebeles (Das Gundo, Gubai Jejebit, Meshiha, Delello, Lemlem Terara, Agamwuha) in North Gondar.</p>	<p>0.1 Household income increase by 25% by end of the project as measured from project baseline</p> <p>0.2 5% increase in vegetation cover and production potential of 25,388ha of woodland area under forest management plans in the project area by the end of the project from project baseline</p> <p>0.3 Tree density in enclosure areas increases in each of the PFM sites established, by an average of 25% by end of the project as measured from project baseline (disaggregated by species)</p>	<p>0.1 Actual Total HH Income: \$5,565.48 (mean/hh) i.e. +\$538 (+11%)</p> <p>Actual NTFP Income: \$1,266.59 (mean/hh) i.e. +\$1,169 (+1205%)</p> <p>0.2 & 0.3:</p> <p>1 in-situ conservation site has been established as evidence by the EBI's report.</p> <p>PFM groups strengthened, plans in review. Training provided on enclosure area management.</p>	
<p>Output 1. Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance and environmental stewardship of CombretumTerminalia woodland in six kebeles through eight Participatory Forest Management Cooperatives (PFMCs)</p>	<p>1.1 Eight legally recognised Participatory Forest Management Cooperatives (PFMCs) active by end of year 1</p> <p>1.2 Women account for 30% of membership and leadership positions in PFM Cooperatives (year 2: 21%; year 3: 30%)</p> <p>1.3 Eight local land and forest tenure charters (by-laws) developed and adopted for the inclusive</p>	<p>1.1 8 PFMC groups are now active as evidenced by legal records and capacity development training received.</p> <p>1.2 Women currently account for 27% of PFMC members and 12.5% of leadership roles (evidenced by OCAT survey (see Annexes 4, 5 and 6))</p> <p>1.3 Bylaw development planned for 23/24</p> <p>1.4 2/6 PFM management plans have been reviewed in this reporting period. This activity has been rescheduled to Q1 23/24. 2 new plans are in development and should be completed early 23/24.</p>	

	management of the woodland by the end of year 2 1.4 8 Forest Management Plans reviewed/developed and adopted, for the area under the responsible of the PFM Cooperatives by the end of Yr 2	
1.1 Sensitisation on biodiversity conversation and environmental management for 2,250 farmers		1,369 people have received sensitisation. No activity planned for next year.
1.2 Undertake forest boundary demarcation and area mapping		Boundary demarcation and area mapping has taken place for 7 of 8 kebeles. No activity planned for next year.
1.3 Training on cooperative management for PFMC leaders		74 PFMC leaders have taken part in training. No activity planned for next year.
1.4 Conduct participatory forest management plan		2/6 PFM management plans reviewed. Rescheduled to Q1 23/24.
1.5 Participatory identification of enclosure areas for hotspots of Boswellia degradation for regeneration (1 per PFMC)		6 sites have been mapped. 2 sites to be confirmed and mapped
1.6 Farmers forest day celebrations, and model farmer award events		Activity not completed. Scheduled Q1 23/24
1.7 Training on enclosure area management		1,211 people trained. No activity planned for next year.
1.8 Facilitate development of bylaws		Activity not completed. Activity scheduled April 2023.
1.9 Develop methodology that can map, support and measure the gendered impacts of the interventions at community and household level		Activity not completed Scheudled Q3 23/24
1.10 Awareness on legal environment for PFMC members		Activity not completed.
Output 2. Building sustainable harvesting and regeneration techniques of frankincense (<i>Boswellia papyrifera</i>) in Combretum-Terminalia woodlands to promote responsible exploitation and reverse resource degradation	2.1 One in-situ biodiversity conservation enclosure site established and managed under the responsibility of Participatory Forest Management Cooperatives by the end of year 2 2.2 80% (192/240) of producers (VTE members; 12 groups) trained are using new tapping techniques by the end of year 2 (year 1: 96 (40%); year 2: 192 (80%))	2.1 1 in-situ conservation site has been established as evidence by the EBI's report. 2.3 Data was collected form 5 of the 8 PFM Cooperatives through an OCAT survey between January – March 2023 (see Annexes 4, 5 and 6) and showed a 151% increase in White grade products from the baseline and a 169% increase in total production.

	<p>2.3 50% increase of 1st (1A) and 2nd (1B) grade frankincense products produced and sold by each (of the eight) PFM Cooperative as measured from project baseline by the end of the project Indicative baseline: 17% for grade 1 and 8% for grade 2. (source Value Chain Analysis of Alemu Abtew (2016) Non-Timber Forest Products and their Rural Development Potentials: The case of Gum and Resins in the Drylands of Ethiopia and Sudan. PhD Thesis)</p> <p>2.4 70% survival rate (naturally regenerated seedlings) as measured from project baseline by the end of the project (Disaggregated by species)</p> <p>Indicative baseline: 16% survival of regenerated seedlings. (source: Adamu et al, 2012, Floristic diversity, regeneration status, and vegetation structure of woodlands in Metema Area, Amhara National Regional State, Northwestern Ethiopia, Journal of Forestry Research (2012) 23(3): 391–39). TBC at baseline.</p>		
2.1 Forest inventory, in-situ site establishment, and socioeconomic study	Activity completed by EBI.	No activity planned for next year.	
2.2. Site identification for comparative analysis of traditional vs Indian tapping method	5 sites identified and 60 trees identified in each kebele (300 total) for the analysis.	No activity planned for next year.	
2.3 Training on Indian tapping method	132 people received training in year 2.	Second round of the training scheduled for November 2023.	
2.4 Distribution of improved tapping tool	130 tools have been produced.	Tools to be distributed to tappers once training has been completed.	
2.5 Field and spectral data collection for inventory and condition assessment	Activity not completed.	Scheduled Q2 23/24 during the bloom of boswellia trees.	

2.6 Development of cartographic products using remote sensing to support the development of forest management plans		Methodologies developed ready for mapping PFM sites	This activity will continue throughout 23/24
2.7 Training government and project staff on GIS and remote sensing		Activity not completed due to travel restrictions.	Remote training planned for year 3.
2.8 Determination of Frankincense quality variables		Activity not completed.	Scheduled Q4 23/24
Output 3. Improved farmland productivity through the adoption of climate smart agriculture (CSA) practices for 2,250 household	<p>3.1 20% increase in crop yields (per Ha), as measured from project baseline, by the end of the project</p> <p>3.2 70% (1,575) of farmers practicing at least 3 climate smart agricultural techniques on their farms by the end of the project</p>	<p>3.1 A RHoMIS survey at the year 2 midpoint gave the following data on crop production:</p> <p>Cotton: 900kg/ha (0% increase) Sorghum: 725kg/ha (45% increase) Teff: 323.9kg/ha (-19% decrease) Sesame: 250kg/ha (372% increase) Maize: 142.9kg/ha (240% increase) Soya Beans: 800kg/ha (1,900% increase) Groundnut: 2500kg/ha (not mentioned during baseline)</p> <p>3.2 A mini RHoMIS survey for 215 beneficiaries showed that 31% of those surveyed were using either biological or soil and water conservation techniques on their farms</p>	
3.1 Training on locally appropriate climate smart agriculture practices and technologies for project staff and local government experts		Training took place in June 2022 for 10 people.	No activity planned for next year.
3.2 Training on locally appropriate climate smart agriculture practices and technologies for smallholder farmers		Activity not completed.	Training for smallholder farmers will take place in Q3 23/24.
3.3 Distribution of agroforestry trees for individual beneficiaries 1,000 fruit seedling/year		1,050 fruit seedlings distributed in year 2.	A further 1,000 seedlings to be distributed in year 3.
3.4 Distribution of forage seeds, cutting, and seedlings for selected 540 households 50 per household		Activity not completed.	Activity reforecast to take place June – August 2023.
Output 4. Household income of 360 men and women households improved through establishment of Village Tree Enterprises (VTE)	<p>4.1 18 VTEs established and develop appropriate Enterprise Development Plans (EDPs) by the end of year 2 (currently funded through UKAM)</p> <p>4.2 Average turnover for active VTEs established and increase to 150,000 Birr/enterprise/year (\$3,800) by the end of the project (year 2: 75,000 Birr;</p>	<p>4.1 All 18 VTE groups have now been established</p> <p>4.3 2 contracts have been signed by the Union to buyers (representing the harvest of all member PFMs).</p>	

	\$1,800) (To be confirmed at project baseline) 4.3 Three contracts relating to frankincense signed with buyers by the end of the project (To be confirmed at project baseline)		
4.1 Establishment of 18 VTEs (12 frankincense, 6 beekeeping)		All groups established by December 2022.	No activity planned for next year.
4.2 Training on drying, storing and grading of frankincense for 240 tappers		160 people received training in October 2022.	Further training scheduled Q3 23/24.
4.3 Material support for drying and storage of frankincense groups		5 PFMCs received equipment in year 2.	Further training scheduled Q3 23/24.
4.4 Provide beekeeping training to members of 6 beekeeping enterprise members		74 people have received beekeeping training.	No activity planned for next year.
4.5 Provide beehives and accessories to 6 beekeeping enterprise groups		60 hives purchased for 6 beekeeping groups.	No activity planned for next year.
4.6 Market access and linkage facilitation for PFMCs engaged in frankincense production		Activity not completed.	Activity to commence across Q3 and Q4 23/24

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

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Contribute to the improvement of forest ecosystems, biodiversity restoration and livelihood enhancement for vulnerable people in Ethiopia			
<p>Outcome: Increased incomes for 2,250 vulnerable households through improved management of 25,388ha of CombretumTerminalia woodland ecosystem in six kebeles (Das Gundo, Gubai Jejebit, Meshiha, Delello, Lemlem Terara, Agamwuha) in North Gondar.</p>	<p>0.1 Household income increase by 25% by end of the project as measured from project baseline Indicative baseline: 45,889.5 ETB (source: SUNARMA baseline household survey, Metema, May 2018). (To be confirmed at project baseline)</p> <p>0.2 5% increase in vegetation cover and production potential of 25,388ha of woodland area under forest management plans in the project area by the end of the project from project baseline (To be confirmed at project baseline)</p> <p>0.3 Tree density in enclosure areas increases in each of the PFM sites established, by an average of 25% by end of the project as measured from project baseline (disaggregated by species) Indicative baseline: 377 trees/Ha (source: Adamu et al, 2012, Floristic diversity, regeneration status, and vegetation structure of woodlands in Metema Area, Amhara National Regional State, Northwestern Ethiopia, Journal of Forestry Research (2012) 23(3): 391– 39). (To be confirmed at project baseline)</p>	<p>0.1 RHoMIS (Rural Household Multiple Indicator Survey);</p> <p>0.2 Forest resource mapping of project intervention sites (GPS); Forest ecological/ inventory; Permanent Monitoring Plots (PMPs)</p> <p>0.3 Forest resource mapping of project intervention sites (GPS); Forest ecological/ inventory; Permanent Monitoring Plots (PMPs)</p>	<p>Climate conditions do not disrupt activities Mitigations: Farmers will be trained in climate-smart approaches, and the NRM promoted through this project will increase resilience to climate extremes.</p> <p>COVID-19 pandemic does not disrupt implementation. Mitigations: Project staff will closely follow national guidance and implement activities in a manner deemed safe for staff and beneficiaries. Budget reallocations may be needed to modify plan for delivery of activities e.g. pay for equipment to deliver training remotely (mobile phones/tablets), and purchase PPE, soap and sanitiser gel. New approaches for delivering activities in smaller groups and remotely have been tried by Tree Aid during the first set of restrictions in 2020. These can be used should further restrictions come into place</p> <p>Communities and key stakeholders in the intervention area are willing to participate in the project. Mitigations: Tree Aid conducted a needs assessment in the area (Feb 2020) which showed a strong demand for the project and support from local communities. Our local partner SUNARMA has been working in the area since 2018, during which time have during which time we have</p>

			<p>developed strong links to key stakeholders including local authorities and government departments.</p> <p>Ethnic tensions are heightened, impacting cohesiveness of groups.</p> <p>Mitigations: The project will encourage open and integrative groups. The PFMs will receive conflict resolution training (through FCDO funded project).</p> <p>Legislation of natural resource management remains favourable to Participatory Forest Management Cooperatives (PFMCs)</p> <p>Mitigations: The project approach is to strengthen the system already in place by targeting PFMCs as legitimate users of the forest. Tree Aid has been working with government departments and will engage with them throughout the project to try and maintain this current situation.</p> <p>Political situation remains stable enough for project activities to take place.</p> <p>Mitigations: Tree Aid, with the partner, will continue to monitor reports from the field and other agencies to ensure that project staff are safe. If security requires it, activities will be delivered remotely and an alternative workplan devised (as has been done throughout 2020).</p> <p>No significant changes to international markets for frankincense and no major price fluctuations.</p> <p>Mitigations: Where possible contracts will be signed with buyers in order to</p>
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			<p>reduce the impact of fluctuations in prices. Grading structures will be introduced to empower sellers to have a better understanding of the quality of their product.</p> <p>No outbreak of major diseases in the trees.</p> <p>Mitigations: Improved tapping methods are being encouraged, which will help reduce risk of disease. Tree Aid is partnering with other research institutions that can support in disease management.</p>
<p>Output 1</p> <p>Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance and environmental stewardship of Combretum-Terminalia woodland in six kebeles through eight Participatory Forest Management Cooperatives (PFMCs)</p>	<p>1.1 Eight legally recognised Participatory Forest Management Cooperatives (PFMCs) active by end of year 1</p> <p>1.2 Women account for 30% of membership and leadership positions in PFM Cooperatives (year 2: 10%; year 3: 30%) Baseline: 0</p> <p>1.3 Eight local land and forest tenure charters (by-laws) developed and adopted for the inclusive management of the woodland by the end of year 2</p> <p>1.4 Eight forest management plans, reviewed/developed and adopted for the area under the responsibility of PFM Cooperatives by the end of year 2</p>	<p>1.1 Project records; Legal records, capacity development trainings received</p> <p>1.2 Participatory Forest Management (PFM) Cooperatives: Organisational capacity assessments (ODK form)</p> <p>1.3. Project records; Administrative records;</p> <p>1.4 Project records; Record of cartographic products using remote sensing (GPS) to support the development of forest management plans as well as records of field and spectral data collection for inventory and condition assessment of Boswellia populations</p>	<p>Tree Aid and partners are able to effectively engage Participatory Forest Management Cooperatives (PFMCs) in forest governance.</p> <p>Mitigations: The project team will sensitise PFMCs to the long-term benefits of effective forest governance can bring for their own socio-economic situations.</p> <p>Households and communities allow women to engage in PFMCs, and to take on leadership positions.</p> <p>Mitigations: Gender equality sensitisation will be mainstreamed into project activities. Tree Aid will apply its experience working in Ethiopia and with women. We will engage the men in the community to discuss the benefit they and their household will have if they let their wife participate in the project. We will use male role models.</p> <p>No reappearance of civil unrest. Mitigations: Project kebeles have been selected due to the relatively low</p>

			amount of civil unrest. Conflict management work is being done through the programme of work proposed. Prospective participants confirmed that they are open to working together with people from different ethnic groups.
<p>Output 2</p> <p>Building sustainable harvesting and regeneration techniques of frankincense (<i>Boswellia papyrifera</i>) in Combretum-Terminalia woodlands to promote responsible exploitation and reverse resource degradation</p>	<p>2.1 One in-situ biodiversity conservation enclosure site established and managed under the responsibility of Participatory Forest Management Cooperatives by the end of year 2</p> <p>2.2 80% (192/240) of producers (VTE members) trained are using new tapping techniques by the end of year 2 (year 1: 96 (40%); year 2: 192 (80%))</p> <p>2.3 50% increase of 1st (1A) and 2nd (1B) grade frankincense products produced and sold by each (of the eight) PFM Cooperative as measured from project baseline by the end of the project</p> <p>Indicative baseline: 17% for grade 1 and 8% for grade 2.(source Value Chain Analysis of Alemu Abteu (2016) Non-Timber Forest Products and their Rural Development Potentials: The case of Gum and Resins in the Drylands of Ethiopia and Sudan. PhD Thesis) (To be confirmed at project baseline)</p> <p>2.4 70% survival rate (naturally regenerated seedlings) as measured from project baseline by the end of the project (Disaggregated by species) Indicative baseline: 16% survival of regenerated seedlings.(source: Adamu et al, 2012, Floristic diversity, regeneration status, and vegetation</p>	<p>2.1 Land Use Survey (ODK form); Site to be GPS mapped</p> <p>2.2 Training & Post-Training assessments; Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)</p> <p>2.3 Participatory Forest Management Cooperatives: Organisational capacity assessments (ODK form)</p> <p>2.4 Annual survival count on planted seedling and naturally regenerated new seedlings; Permanent Monitoring Plots (PMPs)</p>	<p>Tappers willing to adopt new tapping techniques.</p> <p>Mitigations: Tree Aids needs assessment in the area (Feb 2020), showed strong demand for the project by communities. Additional informal discussions between Tree Aid staff and tappers (Jan 2021) showed enthusiasm for the new techniques and willingness to adopt.</p> <p>No major bushfires, droughts or floods which will negatively affect tree survival Mitigations: The NRM promoted through this project will increase resilience to of the land to manage climate extremes. Bushfire control measures will be established (through FCDO funded project).</p> <p>No change in the legislation that allows only Participatory Forest Management (PFM) Cooperative members to collect frankincense in the forest. Mitigations:The project approach is to strengthen the system already in place by targeting PFMCs as legitimate users of the forest. Tree Aid has been working with government departments and will engage with them throughout the project to try and maintain this current situation</p>

	structure of woodlands in Metema Area, Amhara National Regional State, Northwestern Ethiopia, Journal of Forestry To be confirmed at project baseline) (2012) 23(3): 391– 39).		
Output 3 Improved farmland productivity through the adoption of climate smart agriculture (CSA) practices for 2,250 households	3.1 20% increase in crop yields (per Ha) , as measured from project baseline, by the end of the project Indicative baseline (sourced from similar Tree Aid supported projects: EB3/EB8) Maize: 1,400 Kg/Ha Wheat: 800 Kg/Ha Teff: 200 Kg/Ha Barley: 170 Kg/Ha (To be confirmed at project baseline) 3.2 70% (1,575) of farmers practicing at least 3 climate smart agricultural techniques on their farms by the end of the project	3.1 RHoMIS (Rural Household Multiple Indicator Survey); Focus Group Discussions (FGD); Training & Post Training Assessments; 3.2 RHoMIS (Rural Household Multiple Indicator Survey); Focus Group Discussions (FGD); Training & Post Training Assessments;	Training is effective in building the natural resource management capacity and knowledge of biodiversity of participating communities Mitigations: Tree Aid has significant experience delivering NRM capacity building for local communities tailored to the local context. In addition, the project staff will follow up with the trainees after the training to ensure their good adoption of the techniques. Climatic conditions are not too unfavourable Mitigations: Farmers will be trained in climate-smart approaches, and the NRM promoted through this project will increase resilience to climate extremes.
Output 4 Income of 18 Village Tree Enterprises (VTEs) (360 members, 90 (25% women) based on sustainably sourced Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) (12 frankincense and 6 honey) established and increasing	4.1 18 VTEs established and develop appropriate Enterprise Development Plans (EDPs) by the end of year 2 (currently funded through UKAM) 4.2 Average turnover for active VTEs established and increase to 150,000 Birr/enterprise/year(\$3,800) by the end of the project (year 2: 75,000 Birr; \$1,800) (To be confirmed at project baseline) 4.3 Three contract relating to frankincense signed with buyers by the end of the project (To be confirmed at project baseline)	4.1 Records; Enterprise group Organisational Capacity Assessments (ODK) form 4.2 Project Records; Enterprise Development Plan Assessments (ODK forms) 4.3 Sales records; Number of trade agreements made with buyers	Climatic conditions favour products selected by VTEs Mitigations: The MA&D process requires regular appraisal of VTEs and their enterprise development plans in order to ensure that the products are viable, but the approaches used are applicable to any product. Financial institutions are willing to engage with VTEs Mitigations: Activities targeting financial institutions to engage them in supporting enterprises have been planned. Investment in more professional equipment to improve quality and the development of EDPs should give confidence to potential

			<p>investors.</p> <p>Households and communities allow women to engage in VTEs. Mitigations: The project will conduct broader training on the importance of gender-sensitive policies and access rights.</p> <p>Buyers are willing to engage with local community groups Mitigations: Activities aimed at facilitating linkages with buyers have been planned. Investment in more professional equipment to improve quality will enable groups to attract buyers at market workshops.</p>
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Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

- 1.1 Sensitisation on biodiversity conservation and environmental management for 2,250 farmers
- 1.2 Undertake forest boundary demarcation and area mapping
- 1.3 Training on cooperative management for PFMC leaders
- 1.4 Conduct participatory forest management plan
- 1.5 Participatory identification of enclosure areas for hotspots of Boswellia degradation for regeneration (1 per PFMC)
- 1.6 Farmers forest day celebrations, and model farmer award events
- 1.7 Training on enclosure area management
- 1.8 Facilitate development of bylaws
- 1.9 Develop methodology that can map, support and measure the gendered impacts of the interventions at community and household level
- 1.10 Awareness on legal environment for PFMC members
- 2.1 Forest inventory, in-situ site establishment, and socioeconomic study
- 2.2. Site identification for comparative analysis of traditional vs Indian tapping method
- 2.3 Training on Indian tapping method
- 2.4 Distribution of improved tapping tool
- 2.5 Field and spectral data collection for inventory and condition assessment
- 2.6 Development of cartographic products using remote sensing to support the development of forest management plans
- 2.7 Training government and project staff on GIS and remote sensing

2.8 Determination of Frankincense quality variables

3.1 Training on locally appropriate climate smart agriculture practices and technologies for project staff and local government experts

3.2 Training on locally appropriate climate smart agriculture practices and technologies for smallholder farmers

3.3 Distribution of agroforestry trees for individual beneficiaries 1,000 fruit seedling/year

3.4 Distribution of forage seeds, cutting, and seedlings for selected 540 households 50 per household

4.1 Establishment of 18 VTEs (12 frankincense, 6 beekeeping)

4.2 Training on drying, storing and grading of frankincense for 240 tappers

4.3 Material support for drying and storage of frankincense groups

4.4 Provide beekeeping training to members of 6 beekeeping enterprise members

4.5 Provide beehives and accessories to 6 beekeeping enterprise groups

4.6 Market access and linkage facilitation for PFMcs engaged in frankincense production

M&E 1 Undertake project familiarisation workshop

M&E 2 Establish Permanent Monitoring Plots (2 in each PFM)

M&E 3 Data collection from monitoring plots

M&E 4 Conduct Baseline survey (RHoMIS)

M&E 5 Beneficiary identification and follow up (once at the beginning and reviewed every year)

M&E 6 Group capacity assessment(once at the beginning and every year thereafter)

M&E 7 Monthly beneficiary families and groups visit by project staff

M&E 8 Information, education and communication materials/IEC productions

M&E 9 Field monitoring and follow up of research sites by EFD staff

M&E 10 Field monitoring and follow up of in-situ conservation site by EBI staff

M&E 11 Field monitoring, follow-up & support visits by HO

M&E 12 Tree Aid Ethiopia, joint project monitoring visits by Tree Aid

M&E 13 Undertake mid-term evaluation by government

M&E 14 Learning publications

M&E 15 Project terminal evaluations by external consultant

M&E 16 Project end survey (RHoMIS)

M&E 17 Audit

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
E.g. DI-A01	E.g. People who attended training on CBD Reporting Standards	E.g. Number of officials from national Department of Environment who attended training on CBD Reporting Standards	People	Men	20			20	60
E.g. DI-C17	E.g. Articles published by members of the project team	E.g. Number of unique papers published in peer reviewed journals	Number	None	1			1	4

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)

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?	
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
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.	
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.	
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 16)?	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	