

## 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: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

### Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	28-014
Project title	Gibbon biodiversity conservation through coffee-based agroforestry
Country/ies	Myanmar
Lead partner	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
Project partner(s)	Gibbon Coffee Association (GCA) Myanmar Forest Department (MFD) Genius Coffee
Darwin grant value	£368,461
Start/end dates of project	1 April 2021 – 30 June 2024
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2021 – Mar 2022) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Ngwe Lwin
Project website/blog/social media	None
Report author(s) and date	Aung Lin (FFI) and Ngwe Lwin (FFI). 6 May 2022

### 1. Project summary

The Arakan Mountain Range is a priority biodiversity corridor and contains Mann Wildlife Sanctuary (MWS), itself a key biodiversity site. The MWS is highlighted in Myanmar’s National Biodiversity Action Plan for its high levels of biodiversity and endemism and is an important watershed of the Ayeyarwady basin. In this respect, the MWS provides critical water to the country’s dry zone, Myanmar’s poorest region and most vulnerable to climate change.

The area has a rich biodiversity and one of the highest densities of Western Hoolock Gibbons in Myanmar. A total of 32 mammal species (including 11 globally threatened), 204 bird species (3 threatened), 372 species of plants (6 threatened) and 19 species of fish, have been recorded in the protected area.

The biologically diverse MWS, and its adjacent areas, is globally important but under threat from unsustainable agriculture. With a private-sector partner, FFI will enable farmers from 11 villages to develop gibbon-friendly agroforestry coffee, as an alternative to shifting agriculture, in exchange for gibbon protection measures. This will reduce dependency on forest clearance and shifting cultivation while strengthening livelihoods, and will support the management objectives of the recently gazetted 12,400ha of land that makes up the Mann Wildlife Sanctuary. This approach has great potential for replication within the Arakan mountains.

## 2. Project stakeholders/ partners

Through the implementation of a Darwin Initiative project, we are working collaboratively with a range of people and groups in the Magwe Region including beneficiary communities, the Magwe Regional government, international NGOs and local enterprises, as well as collaborating with international experts. During the reporting period, all have actively supported project development, planning, implementation, monitoring, achievement and lessons learned.

**Asho Chin Coffee Association (ACCA, formerly the Gibbon Coffee Association):** Gibbon Coffee Association changed the name to Asho Chin Coffee Association (ACCA). ACCA role in the project is to support coffee growers in the Ngape highland area in developing sustainable agriculture livelihoods: including coffee-based agroforestry development and other agroforestry products. ACCA also undertake biodiversity monitoring and patrolling, development of agroforestry in the buffer zone management plan, and village land-use plans in the surrounding landscape. These activities build upon ACCA's experience in establishing collective enterprises that improve community-based conservation and livelihoods, based on climate-smart agriculture.

In January 2022, FFI and ACCA entered into an agreement outlining ACCA's role in delivering specific project activities and outputs. This partnership has generally progressed well, with the main challenges in project implementation relating to delays and impacts that have arisen as a direct result of the political crisis in Myanmar.

**Genius Shan Highlands Coffee (a private company):** Genius coffee provide technical support for ACCA coffee growers, through field training and planning materials. They also undertake marketing of the project locally and internationally, acting as the main, non-exclusionary buyer.

**Chances for Nature (CFN):** CFN is collaborating with FFI on the design and delivery of biodiversity and primate conservation awareness and community-based primate conservation in Puaksa. Specifically, they provide training to build capacity in the project team and CSO partners in wildlife survey and monitoring techniques. They also provide co-financing to the project.

**Myanmar Forest Department (MFD)** is mandated to oversee forest and species protection and has been the main government partner for many years, under various memoranda. MFD will support certification of coffee and liaise with ACCA members on monitoring and spatial planning. They will ensure the project supports the implementation of project activities by providing travel permission, facilitating, and participating in consultation meetings and field surveys. Key partners for carrying out the designation process of Mann wildlife sanctuary.

## 3. Project progress

### 3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

**Output 1:** Technical standards for gibbon/wildlife-friendly coffee which meets the management goals of the proposed Mann Wildlife Sanctuary (to reduce deforestation, improve forest connectivity and secure resource use rights for buffer- zone communities).

1.1 Define and implement standards for gibbon-friendly coffee based on a suitable international scheme, i.e. the Wildlife Friendly Enterprise Network

This activity will take place in Y2, as per Project Implementation Timetable.

1.2 Fully implement the Participatory Guarantee System, with appropriate internal control system (with support from Myanmar Organic Growers and Producers Association (MOGPA) and Genius Coffee).

In collaboration with ACCA and the Myanmar Organic Growers and Producers Association

(MPGPA) the project team organized 5-day Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) training in Pabe village, Ngape township between 8 and 12 March, attending a total of 88 coffee farmers (Men 67, Woman 21) from 11 villages. The objectives of Organic PGS training was to raise awareness in the role of organic farming in sustainable agro-ecosystems; to learn specific methods in their farming practices (such as the production of organic fertilizer and pesticides from agriculture waste, Bio-recycling), and to follow the requirements for achieving the organic standards needed for PGS certification; internationally recognized certificates of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement, IFOAM-Organics International ([IFOAM - Organics International | Home](#)) which is a membership-based organization.

- 1.3 Certify current coffee production under the MOGPA PGS organic standard and the EU organic standard as prerequisites for the WFEN Certified Wildlife Friendly™ global products program, and accessing markets in Europe.

Scheduled to start in Y2, as per Project Implementation Timetable.

- 1.4 Develop training-of-trainers (ToT) scheme (including refresher training) with Genius Coffee to ensure dissemination of appropriate production methods (5 days per year).

In late November 2021, the project supported three coffee farmers, members of ACCA to attend a seven-day training called “Seed to Cup”, organised by our key partner Genius Coffee in Ywangan.

Three-day coffee harvesting and post-harvest processing training (TOT) was organized together with Genius Coffee team at the Bombaw village in January 2022, reaching 31 coffee farmers (21 Men, 10 Women) from 8 villages. The purpose of the training was to closely support coffee farmers at their villages to follow the best practise of coffee harvesting and post-harvest processing.

- 1.5 Routine documentation for ongoing organic/wildlife-friendly coffee certification assessments (2 days per month, per village).

No activity during the reporting period.

**Output 2:** The GCA is registered as a legal entity with robust internal systems, financing plans and policies, and members have the skills and knowledge to fully implement technical standards to achieve improved and sustainable agricultural practices.

- 2.1 Formalise and legally register the Gibbon Coffee Association.

ACCA organized village meetings to update the member lists and to discuss for the preparation of the registration process in October and November 2021, attending a total of 130 coffee farmers. ACCA management committee prepared required documents for registration. Due to project started late in Y1, no enough time to proceed the registration at township general administration department. Registration process will be continued in Y2.

- 2.2 Define terms of reference and by-laws for operation of the GCA.

Scheduled to implement in Y2

- 2.3 Define benefit-sharing mechanisms and obligations for GCA members, linked to the gibbon/wildlife-friendly coffee standard.

Initial consultations with coffee farmers for the benefit-sharing mechanisms was undertaken during the villages meeting in January 2022. The consultation includes the development of well-designed and maintained coffee agroforestry schemes, committing project beneficiaries to protect their environment whilst receiving sustenance from it.

- 2.4 Provide appropriate training (e.g. financial management, gender sensitivity, gibbon/habitat monitoring methods).

Four-day wildlife Monitoring and Patrol training was conducted in September 2021 and 5-day gibbon population survey training was conducted in December 2021, with 10 participants from ACCA. Following the training, community-based patrols, and a western

hoolock gibbon monitoring survey was conducted by the participants in the Mann Wildlife Sanctuary (MWS) between October 2021 and March 2022. These activities serve to collect important data for the protection and management of the forest, and to support ongoing efforts to reduce illegal hunting and habitat destruction in the MWS.

- 2.5 Develop and implement a sustainable financing plan to cover operational expenses such as routine re-certification, monitoring and management costs.

Scheduled to start in Y2

**Output 3:** Zonation and management of Mann wildlife sanctuary, and village land-use plans in the surrounding landscape are based on biodiversity science and community consultation, to ensure effective protected areamanagement and habitat connectivity within the wider Mann River watershed.

- 3.1 Finalise and agree guidelines for FPIC in the planning process.

With the approval of local communities and all stakeholders, the project supported the designation process of a new protected area based on FPIC principles, ensuring that the communities surrounding the MWS accepted and supported its development. Therefore, the project continued to follow FPIC guidelines in the project planning and implementation.

- 3.2 Conduct detailed forest cover/land cover mapping, combining remote sensing and field surveys for the wider Mann watershed.

The project's GIS team used available data to prepare a detailed and up to date (2020) land-cover map, as well as a comparative map showing the level and rate of forest loss in and around the MWS between 2001 and 2019.

- 3.3 Prepare a baseline to monitor deforestation risk associated with promoting high value commodities and inform and monitor village land use planning to ensure habitat connectivity.

In September 2022, the project team together with village conservation groups conducted mapping of the agroforestry plantation areas at 11 villages. This activity represents the first step towards the preparation of land-use plans and to the design of agroforestry schemes.

- 3.4 Conduct behavioural and genetic studies of hoolock gibbons to determine feeding ecology and dispersal of gibbons through agroforestry/forest corridors by applying modern high-throughput DNA sequencing methods.

The study design for learning feeding ecology and dispersal of gibbon was being developed and data collection will be started in Y2.

- 3.5 Support village land-use planning, and agroforestry design (including tree species selection) based on the scientific results.

The project was able to complete village land use map of 11 villages together with village conservation groups in Y1. Based on the village use map, the discuss with village people will be planned to continue in Y2 for preparing village land use plan and agroforestry design.

- 3.6 Prepare a management and zonation plan for MWS, based on biodiversity science and public consultations, for government approval.

Wildlife monitoring team carried out field work in MWS for four times to collect the presence/absence data of mammals and bird to understand the distribution of mammals and bird in the MWS. In additional, threatened tree species distribution survey was conducted in the MWS. Based on mammals, bird and threatened tree species distribution information, the project will discuss with local community to prepare zonation of the MWS. The project also collected baseline resource-use and dependency data. This will help shape the design and strategizing of the protected area, moving forward, whilst ensuring that the access of local communities to key resources is not disrupted.

3.7 Provide scientific data to inform gibbon/wildlife-friendly certification of coffee and other agroforestry products.

In March 2022, the project team, with local para-botanists, carried out tree survey in coffee plantation areas at two villages: Pabe and Sinlan. Simple forest inventory plot-and-line transect methods were used to identify forest types, species density, and identify the presence of threatened (following IUCN categories), dominant and rare species, as well as of cultivated crop species. Tree survey will be continued in Y2 to cover most of the project area.

3.8 Monitor the population of key indicator species (gibbon and hornbill) in the wildlife sanctuary and surrounding landscape, and changes in conservation knowledge, attitude and behaviour (KAB) through project start/end surveys.

Three hornbill species: Great Hornbill, Oriental Pied Hornbill and Rufous-necked Hornbill occurred in the project area. As a baseline information of hornbills' population in the project area, hornbills population survey was conducted between November 2021 and February 2022 at four survey sites in the surrounding landscape of the MWS (figure1). View point method was to count the sighting of the hornbills at each site. Site 1 has five viewpoints and the other sites have four viewpoints. During the survey, total of 143 Great Hornbill, 53 Oriental Pied Hornbill and 13 Rufous-necked Hornbill was recorded. Detail numbers of species at each survey site was shown at below table 1.

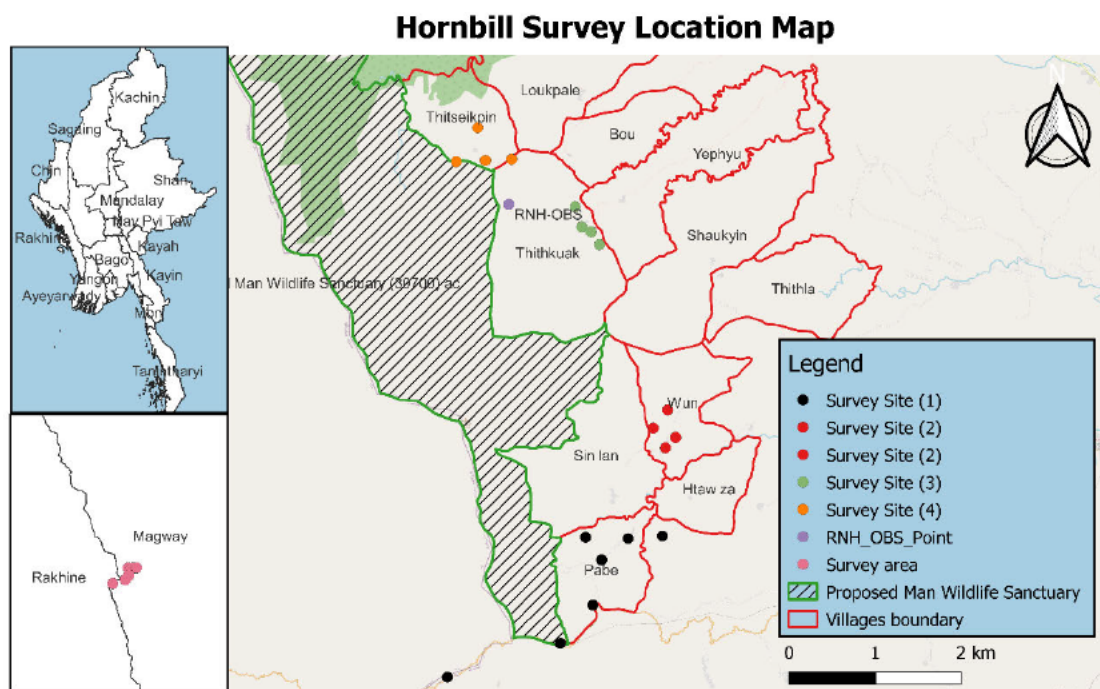


Figure 1. Map showing the locations of Hornbill population survey

Table 1. Number of hornbill recorded at each site

Site No.	Survey Site Name	Great Hornbill	Oriental Pie Hornbill	Rufous-necked Hornbill
1.	Pabae village	39	8	4
2.	Wum	32	14	
3.	Thit Khauk	30	11	1
4.	Thit Seik Pin	42	20	8
	Total	143	53	13

The project team conducted a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice (KAP) survey in November 2021, focusing on knowledge of threatened species, in all 18 villages surrounding the MWS

and NetYakan area. This allows the project to gauge the level at which different members and groups of key communities perceive the threatened species that live within the MWS, giving future engagement campaigns important baseline information.

- 3.9 Monitor forest cover through remote sensing at the beginning and end of the project to verify reduced deforestation of primary forest and improved agroforestry cover and forest/agroforest connectivity.

Project assessed forest cover of the MWS and surrounding area using Landsat images as a baseline information of forest change monitoring during the project period. Project will conduct forest cover assessment again at the end of Y3 to understand the forest change.

**Output 4:** Local growers and harvesters have improved technical skills, resources and capacity to access premium markets and improved value chains, to secure a reliable income source, contributing to more sustainable and resilient livelihoods.

- 4.1 Provide improved coffee and agroforest seedlings, considering the ecology of wildlife indicator species.

During the reporting period, the project supported small grants to ACCA and Sinlan Agroforestry Group (in Ngape Township, Minbu District, Magwe Region), for the development of coffee production and coffee nursey establishment (60,000 seedlings). The purpose of each grant was to develop permanent sustainable agriculture practices and to improve coffee quality.

- 4.2 Develop post-harvest processing capacity for an additional seven villages, widening impacts and making the supply chain commercially viable.

The project provided coffee processing equipment (Table 2) to ACCA and trained handling equipment and operation of post-harvest processing, to improve coffee quality and raise the value of beans produced before harvesting season of 2021-22. In addition, Genius closely worked with the members of ACCA for the operation of post-harvesting process for 30 days. Total of 20 tons of coffee parchment were produced by ACCA in this harvested season.

Table 2: Coffee processing equipment provided in Year 1 of the project

No.	Description	Quantity
1.	Mini Disc Pulper	7
2.	Vertical Mucilage Remover (Washer)	1
3.	Moisture Meter	4
4.	Digital Scale	3
5.	PH Meter	2
6	Coffee Drying house (20ftx40ftx10ft)	8
7	Proforce 9hp gasoline engine	2
8	Won Guar for coffee washing machine	1
9	IBC water tank for coffee processing	2

- 4.3 Provide training to improve the quality of coffee cherry and bean selection and processing, meeting speciality coffee market requirements.

Training of Trainer (ToT) for coffee harvesting and post-harvest processing was done for 34 coffee farmers (activity 1.4).

In addition to ToT, the project team organized 3-days coffee harvesting and post-harvest processing training including collecting coffee cherry, using a coffee pulping machine, wet method of coffee processing, at Bonbaw village in January 2022 for 55 coffee farmers (39men, 16women) from eight villages.

- 4.4 Increase visibility of “Gibbon Coffee” through improved marketing by Genius.

Scheduled to start in Y2, as per Project Implementation Timetable.

- 4.5 Showcase the product at an international trade fair (one minimum) to gauge market/buyer interest (e.g. Biofach Fare).

No activity during the reporting period.

### 3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

**Output 1:** Technical standards for gibbon/wildlife-friendly coffee which meet the management goals of the proposed Mann Wildlife Sanctuary (to reduce deforestation, improve forest connectivity and secure resource use rights for buffer-zone communities).

*Indicator 1.2 Participatory Guarantee System established in 50% of coffee-producing area by March 2022*

In Year 1, Organic Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) training was organized in March 2022, and PGS groups were formed at 11 villages. So far 153 coffee farmers are members of PGS. Organic PGS training Phase 2 will be organized in the last week of April 2022 and PGS groups formation will be continued in Y2.

*Indicator 1.2 Training of Trainers course developed to ensure appropriate production methods by Dec 2021.*

34 coffee farmers (24 men; 10 women) have completed coffee harvesting and post-harvest processing training (TOT) in November 2021 and January 2022.

*Indicator 1.3 100% of GCA members are certified as organic.*

Relevant activities scheduled for Y2 and beyond.

*Indicator 1.4 Standards for gibbon/wildlife-friendly coffee defined by March 2022.*

Series of meetings were organized with FFI team and Genius coffee to discuss the procedure for the development of technical standard for gibbon/wildlife-friendly coffee and FFI team had a meeting with Wildlife Friendly Network <https://wildlifefriendly.org> to develop standards for gibbon/wildlife-friendly coffee. The standards will be finalised during Y2 before the coffee harvesting season.

**Output 2:** The GCA is registered as a legal entity with robust internal systems, financing plans and policies, and members have the skills and knowledge to fully implement technical standards to achieve improved and sustainable agricultural practices.

*Indicator 2.1 Gibbon Coffee Association legally registered, with by-laws and benefit-sharing defined by March 2022.*

During Year 1, the member list of ACCA was updated and the required documents for the registration was prepared by the ACCA management committee. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the political crisis in Myanmar, the registration was not able to do in Y1. The process of registration will be planned to do in Y2.

*Indicator 2.2 At least 50% of GCA members (c.500 out of 1000people) have received core competencies training by project end, of which at least half are woman.*

In Year 1, the project trained 89 coffee farmers (63 men; 26 women) in harvesting and post-harvest processing method, to improve the quality of coffee beans. Due to travel restriction by Covid-19, the villages located in the northern part of the project area was able to join the training. Therefore, only 89 coffee farmers received the trainings. Same training will be repeated in Y2 and Y3.

*Indicator 2.3 Sustainable financing plan implemented for the GCA by March 2023.*

Relevant activities scheduled for Y2 and beyond.

**Output 3:** Zonation and management of Mann Wildlife Sanctuary, and village land-use plans in the surrounding landscape, are based on biodiversity science and community consultation, to ensure effective protected area management and habitat connectivity within the wider Mann river watershed.

*Indicator 3.1 Detailed forest cover/land cover mapping completed by end Y1*

Landcover map of the project area including forest change of in and around the MWS between 2001 and 2019 were prepared by using satellite images and ground truth data collected by the project team and village conservation groups.

*Indicator 3.2 Mann wildlife sanctuary draft management plan prepared in consultation with local stakeholders, by end Y1.*

Based line data of natural resource use, in and around MWS, was collected between June 2022 and March 2022 in order to promote future management planning. Since the project was started late, consultation meeting with local stakeholders was not able to conduct in Y1. The draft management plan is planned to prepare together with stakeholder in Y2.

*Indicator 3.3 Spatial planning in the new park buffer zone completed by end Y2.*

In Y1, mapping of the agroforestry plantation areas at 11 villages was completed.

*Indicator 3.4 Behavioural and genetic studies of hoolock gibbons completed by end Y2.*

The study design for learning feeding ecology and dispersal of gibbon was being developed and data collection will be started in Y2.

*Indicator 3.5 By March 2022, detailed village land use plans based on defined gibbon habitat restoration and management criteria are signed off by stakeholders from at least seven villages.*

Eleven village land use maps which includes key gibbon habitats and coffee agroforestry area was completed together with the village conservation groups during the reporting period. Following this activity, the project team will organize meeting with village people to discuss village land use plan for extending coffee agroforestry area while restoring gibbon habitat in Y2. Due to the project started late in Y1, this indicator was not completed in Y1 as implementation plan.

*Indicator 3.6 Mann Wildlife Sanctuary gazetted and management planning completed.*

The Mann Wildlife Sanctuary (total 30,700 acres) was gazetted in December 2020 by the Union Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (order number 173/2021).

The management plan of the newly established MWS was in under preparation.

**Output 4:** Local growers and harvesters have improved technical skills, resources and capacity to access premium markets and improved value chains, to secure a reliable income source, contributing to more sustainable and resilient livelihoods.

*Indicator 4.1 Improved coffee and agroforestry seedlings planted by at least 1,000 growers representing 1,000 households from 11 villages, by project end.*

N/A

*Indicator 4.2 80% of growers reporting improved knowledge of post-harvest processing techniques*

According to the training evaluation of the harvesting and post-harvest processing training organized in January 2022, all the training participants (n=86) were shown the improvement of the post-harvested processing techniques from 31% to 100%. Based on the repaid assessment, about 90% of coffee farmers already practices selected harvesting method (only coffee cherry are collected) which got premium prices of coffee charry. Before the project in that area, most of the coffee farmers used strip harvesting method (collected both green and red coffee).

*Indicator 4.3 Coffee cherry quality and bean selection and processing improved, so 80%of coffee beans meet Genius's high-quality standard by March 2023*

Coffee farmers already practised of using selected harvesting method in 2021-2022 harvesting season. With the support of the project and partner Genius, ACCA established operation of post-harvesting process which produced 20 tons of coffee parchment. 14 tons was sold to Genius and 2 of 14 tons was exported to Japan market by Genius. 6 tons was sold to other buyers which purchased same prices as Genius.



*Indicator 4.4 Increase in market visibility of “Gibbon Coffee” by March 2024.*

Indicator 4.4 to be designed in Y2 and Y3.

### **3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome**

Gibbon-friendly coffee agroforestry, and designation and collaborative management of MWS are protecting c.30,000ha of primary forest, benefiting endangered gibbon populations and livelihoods for 1,000 ethnic Chinpeople.

1. Gibbon density (1.6 groups/ sq km) stable by project end and Hornbill population stable by project end from baseline established in Y1.  
Hornbill population survey was conducted as a baseline information to compare with the population in the project end.
2. By March 2024, gibbon- habitat (ie, closed-canopy forest) extent increases in the core areas by 5% annually  
Forest cover assessment was done in Y1 as a baseline information to compare with the forest cover area at the end of the project.
3. Combined local income from coffee doubles by March 2024 for at least 1000 members of the GCA.  
Using the selected coffee harvest method which trained by the project, the coffee farmers already received the premium price of their coffee in the market in Y1. The price for coffee Cherry (fruit) which is collected by using selected coffee harvest method is about 180 GBP for one ton and coffee mixed green and red which is collected by using strip method is about 90 GBP for one ton. During Y1, ACCA was able to purchase from about 100 local farmers, members of ACCA about 106 tons of coffee cherry. Those farmers already have double incomes from the coffee.
4. At least 10,000 ha of bufferzone planted with coffee by March 2023.  
With the small grant provided by the project, ACCA and Sinlan village coffee farmer group established coffee nursery for 60,000 coffee seedling which will be ready to planted in June 2023.
5. There is a reduction in new incursions into primary forest for swidden farming between project baseline and end.  
Land cover map was prepared as baseline information to compare with the land cover information at Y3 to understand the reduction in new incursions into primary forest.

### **3.4 Monitoring of assumptions**

Overall, the outcome and output level assumptions still hold true;

#### **Outcome Level Assumptions**

- Coffee growers remain interested in the further development of gibbon-friendly coffee together with Genius Coffee, to increase household incomes.
- Market demand for gibbon-friendly coffee is maintained at regional and national levels, as indicated by market research
- All stakeholders support the gazettelement of a collaboratively managed Mann Wildlife Sanctuary.
- There are no external impacts that dramatically negatively impact gibbon populations (disease, habitat destruction etc).
- Myanmar continues to be largely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Military rule nonetheless allows NGOs to continue to operate (this should be mitigated by the fact that most of our project staff are based in-country. We therefore consider

this a fair assumption, since the FFI Myanmar programme was founded and operated under similar circumstances for several years).

#### Output Level Assumptions

- There are no major changes to external standards that require significant revision of project technical standards during the project period.
- Growers do not become dis-incentivised to implement organic and gibbon-friendly standards by other opportunities and remain engaged with this project.
- Coffee farmers are willing to work together to develop gibbon-friendly coffee for the national market
- National and local government agencies, as well as local communities, support the participatory gazettement and management planning of Mann Wildlife Sanctuary and village land use planning in the surrounding landscape.

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

- The National Forest Department issued the final gazettement of Mann Wildlife Sanctuary.
- According to patrol records, the level of human activity and the number of snares recorded during the patrol has reduced by more than 50% in late 2021.
- Seventeen members of indigenous communities now trained in biodiversity monitoring/patrolling (threat monitoring) in the protected areas and surrounding landscape.
- Discussion notes and meeting minutes, generated through stakeholder consultation meetings regarding the development of a management plan, provide baseline information for research and conservation in the protected areas.
- Project engaged with the national coffee company, Genius Coffee, to provide training to 89 farmers in harvesting and post-harvest processing methodologies, to improve the quality of coffee beans.
- Both financial and technical support, provided jointly by the project, Genius Coffee, and ACCA, organized coffee producers to ensure that the quality of coffee is uniform across the region, an essential step in ensuring a financially viable and marketable product (in 2022, ACCA sold 20 tons of high-quality coffee parchment).

## **4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements**

Convention on Biological Diversity: The project will contribute to Myanmar's CBD commitments, as defined in the Myanmar National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2020), by:

- i) supporting the conservation of key species to improve the status of biodiversity (Strategic Goal C), including western hoolock gibbon (EN)
- ii) promoting appropriate agriculture in biodiverse landscapes, thereby reducing direct pressures and promoting sustainable use (Strategic Goal B), through the introduction of agroforestry coffee that retains canopy cover, protecting vital habitat for gibbons
- iii) enhancing the benefits from biodiversity and ecosystem services (Strategic Goal D) by enabling 1000 ethnic Chin men and women to engage in biodiversity-friendly agroforestry coffee production in the landscape.

The project will also contribute to Aichi target 11, by supporting the increase in Myanmar's protected areacoverage by 12,400 ha.

The project supports the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): The project will contribute to Myanmar's UNFCC Nationally Determined Contributions, as defined in the draft national REDD+ Strategy (2018), by:

- increasing Myanmar's protected area coverage, as noted above
- supporting community-based rehabilitation of climate-resilient ecosystems, and rural livelihoods in degraded watershed areas of the Central Dry Zone (the Mann forests protect the catchment for the Mann River Dam, which provides irrigation water to the dry zone).

## **5. Project support to poverty reduction**

The project is supporting poverty reduction by providing equipment and training for improved harvesting and post-harvest processing of coffee as well as financial support to ACCA and its members.

The project provided coffee processing equipment, such as mini disc pulper, vertical mucilage remover, moisture meter, PH meeting, and a coffee drying house to ACCA, for coffee processing with wet method in the harvesting season (Dec 2021-March 2022). A total of 106 tons of coffee cherry were processed by ACCA during this year's harvesting season, and 20 tons of coffee parchment were produced.

A total of 89 participants (63 male and 26 female) received training on harvesting and post-harvest processing of coffee in January 2022 to produce quality coffee parchment, using wet method. Traditionally, local famers processed coffee using a dry method, which produces low quality and low value coffee beans; the wet method, supported by the project, results in higher quality beans which fetch a premium price in the markets.

The project provided financial support to ACCA and Sinlan village coffee group to set up coffee nursery targeting to produce 60,000 coffee seedings in the reporting period.

## **6. Consideration of gender equality issues**

Both women and men are key stakeholders in all aspects of the project. We ensured both men and women were provided with equal opportunity to participate in meetings and training. A total of 26 women (29%) joined the harvesting/post-harvest processing activities in January 2022 (total participants were 89), whilst 21 (31%) were involved in internal control systems and participatory guarantee system (PGS) for organic and wildlife-friendly farming training.

A total of 14 village level meetings between local coffee farmers and ACA (280 participants), to discuss sustainable coffee production, were organized during the reporting period. A total of 56 women (20%) joined the meetings.

The project facilitated women to become members of the ACCA, with 336 doing so during the first year of the project; 49% of the current membership of ACCA (685 members).

## **7. Monitoring and evaluation**

The project was monitored and evaluated based on the project work plan and the agreed measurable indicators (Annex 1 and 2). There have been no changes to the M&E plan during the reporting period. Monthly meeting with ACCA was conducted to update the project progress and to discuss workplan together with ACCA members.

The internal team supporting the M&E are:

- Finance Manager, Wint War Tun, centrally evaluates financial issues and works closely with the Senior Accountant, Nan Ei Phyu Sin;

- Market Chain Development Advisor, Kiran Mohanan supports the project team to develop the coffee market chain.
- Project Director, Ngwe Lwin has regular meetings with the project manager and project team for work-planning and project implementation, and to ensure the project activities contribute to the project outputs.

## **8. Lessons learnt**

We learned that timing is important: although the project started in Oct 2021, the project team worked hard with the ACCA members to be ready with the coffee processing equipment for the harvest in early Dec 2021.

The interest and participation of local coffee farmers is vital in ensuring a uniform quality of coffee parchment in the area, allowing for a relatively high amount of coffee cherry to be purchased and coffee parchment sold.

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

N/A. Year 1 report.

## **10. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere**

N/A

## **11. Sustainability and legacy**

The project focuses on capacity building for local partners and by supporting local communities with the implementation of sustainable coffee production. During Y1, the number of ACA members increased up to over 600 from 250 at the beginning of the project.

## **12. Darwin identity**

The project team ensured that the role and support of the Darwin Initiative was emphasised at all meetings and training events. During the reporting period, the project erected a total of 15 gibbon conservation awareness signboards, all with the Darwin logo added.

## **13. Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery**

Due to Covid-19 measures, the number of people able to gather and/or take part in village level meetings, at the beginning of the project, was severely restricted. However, the situation improved in late 2021 and the project was able to organize meetings and trainings with higher numbers of participants. Internal control systems and participatory guarantee system (PGS) for organic and wildlife-friendly farming training was planned to organize in 2021 but was postponed to March 2022.

## **14. Safeguarding**

FFI's "Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policy & Procedure" was developed in December 2014 and last updated in March 2018. The policy applies to Members of Council and its sub-committees, FFI employees, temporary staff provided through agencies, volunteers and interns, contractors, consultants, service providers and any third parties who carry out work on behalf of FFI, in partnership with FFI or in conjunction with FFI.

The policy demonstrates the organisation's commitment to safeguarding children and adults at risk and to complying with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; confirms the arrangements and procedures in place to safeguard children and adults at risk, including FFI's code of conduct; and provides clear guidance on how to raise, and how FFI responds to, concerns and allegations regarding the maltreatment of children and adults at risk. The policy expressly states that FFI does not tolerate sexual exploitation and abuse of any kind.

FFI's "Anti-bullying and Anti-harassment Policy" was developed in March 2018. The policy applies to Members of Council and its sub-committees, FFI employees, temporary staff provided through agencies, volunteers and interns, contractors, consultants and any other third parties who carry out work on FFI's behalf.

The stated purpose of the policy is to ensure a safe, welcoming and inclusive working environment, which is free from intimidation, threats, discrimination, bullying or harassment; to communicate clearly FFI's zero-tolerance of any form of bullying or harassment; to define the terms 'bullying' and 'harassment' and provide examples, so that there is a clear understanding of the types of conduct that are prohibited; to communicate the importance of reporting incidents of bullying and harassment; and to communicate the procedures in place to manage incidents of bullying and harassment. The policy expressly states that bullying or harassment of any kind against a person or group of people, whether persistent or an isolated incident, will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

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

FFI's partner due diligence procedures include checking whether any safeguarding concerns have arisen with the partner concerned and the Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policy & Procedure forms part of contracts and agreements with third party contractors and subgrantees. We are also currently researching LMS platforms (Learning Management Systems) which would enable online training in policies & procedures.

We monitor updates in Government and Charity Commission guidance and review our policies and procedures accordingly. No safeguarding issues have been reported during the reporting year. In terms of social safeguards, FFI has publicly available position papers on our approach to Free, Prior and Informed Consent Position, Gender in Conservation, Displacement and Restrictions on Access to Resources and Conservation, Livelihoods and Governance (links below). Our specialist Conservation, Leadership and Governance team support regional FFI staff and partners to take a holistic, people-centred approach to biodiversity conservation, and to ensure all project activity is strongly aligned with these principles.

[https://cms.fauna-flora.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/FFI\\_2019\\_Position-on-free-prior-and-informed-consent.pdf](https://cms.fauna-flora.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/FFI_2019_Position-on-free-prior-and-informed-consent.pdf)

<https://www.fauna-flora.org/approaches/livelihoods-governance/gender>

[https://cms.fauna-flora.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/FFI\\_2013\\_FFIs-position-and-approach-to-conservation-livelihoods-and-governance.pdf](https://cms.fauna-flora.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/FFI_2013_FFIs-position-and-approach-to-conservation-livelihoods-and-governance.pdf)

[https://api.fauna-flora.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/FFI\\_2016\\_Displacement-and-restrictions-on-access-to-resources.pdf](https://api.fauna-flora.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/FFI_2016_Displacement-and-restrictions-on-access-to-resources.pdf)

## 15. Project expenditure

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

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2021/22 Grant (£)	2021/22 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)	██████████	██████████	██████	
Consultancy costs	██████████	██████████	██████	Activities for Consultants were severely curtailed due to travel restrictions imposed as a response to

				Covid 19 and continuing civil unrest in the project area.
Overhead Costs	██████	██████	██	
Travel and subsistence	██████	██████	██	
Operating Costs	██████	██████	██	
Capital items (see below)	██████	██████	██	
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)				
Others (see below)	██████	██████	██	As with the Consultancy costs, activities were impacted adversely by travel restrictions due to Covid 19 and civil unrest.
<b>TOTAL</b>				

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

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

## 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 <b>correct template</b> (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and <b>deleted the blue guidance text</b> before submission?	Yes
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk">Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	Yes
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> If so, please discuss with <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk">Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	No
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Yes
<b>Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report?</b> 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.	No
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	