

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 2022

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	28-017
Project title	Establishing a biocultural heritage territory to protect Kenya's Kaya forests
Country/ies	Kenya
Lead partner	International Institute for Environment & Development (IIED)
Project partner(s)	Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI)
Darwin grant value	£ 347,626.41
Start/end dates of project	01 October 2021 to 30 September 2024
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2021 – Mar 2022) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	01 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Krystyna Swiderska
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.iied.org/establishing-biocultural-heritage-territory-protect-kenyas-kaya-forests
Report author(s) and date	Krystyna Swiderska and Chemuku Wekesa, 30 April 2022

The project started on October 1st 2021, so this report covers 6 months. IIED and KEFRI already had a strong partnership before the project started – the IIED project lead has worked with the 2 partners at KEFRI (Chemuku Wekesa and Leila Ndalilo) since 2012, on 3 different projects and we have developed excellent working relations. We have travelled to remote mountain villages together (including the Potato Park), thus also establishing personal bonds. Our productive and trusted working relationship has been further strengthened through the Darwin project. The Darwin project Launch workshop in Rabai also strengthened IIED's relationship with the KEFRI's local CBO partner, Rabai Cultural Village. KEFRI partners were closely involved in developing the project proposal and designing the project, in consultation with Rabai Cultural Village (RCV) and Kaya elders. Project planning has been done jointly by IIED and KEFRI, through monthly meetings, and KEFRI take the lead in day to day coordination. KEFRI has been closely involved in developing the approach for monitoring and evaluation, and will lead in conducting M&E activities on the ground working with RCV and community researchers from Rabai. IIED sent an email to the British High Commission in Nairobi on 7^h December 2021 to inform them about the project and the Launch workshop, and they did not respond.

1. Project progress

The main activity conducted in the first 6 months of the project is a 3-day project **Launch and Inception Workshop** in Rabai. This is Activity 1.1, included under Output 1 on establishing a collective Biocultural Heritage Territory institution for Kaya forest conservation and sustainable development in Rabai. The workshop was held on 21-23 February 2022 as this was the earliest time possible due to COVID-19 and the outbreak of the omicron variant in late 2021. It included a strong focus on enhancing understanding of the 'Biocultural Heritage Territory' (BCHT) concept and approach amongst the Rabai community and government stakeholders, and sought to enhance buy-in. It foregrounded the process to establish a BCHT as this requires long term commitment beyond individual projects. Experience with the successful Potato Park BCHT in Peru highlights the importance of supporting BCHTs as social movements to avoid creating dependence on external projects, and of using a decolonising action-research approach that strengthens indigenous knowledge and leadership. The workshop was designed as a power equalising process that re-values Indigenous knowledge and fosters community leadership, hence the first day involved the Rabai community only:

Day 1 (21st February) brought together about 45 participants from 10 villages, including Kaya elders, village leaders and 5 community researchers (1 for every 2 villages, accountable to village leaders as well as the project). The aim was to develop a common vision for establishing a BCHT with communities, discuss the Darwin project objectives and activities, plan for project implementation and prepare for the stakeholder meeting on day 2.

Day 2 (22nd February): Meeting with KEFRI, County Government of Kilifi (Director for Culture and environment representative), National Museums of Kenya, Kaya elders, Kenya Forest Service, Rabai Chief, village leaders, community researchers, IIED, Namati land rights NGO (Kenya) and Peruvian Potato Park representative (about 60 participants), to present the Darwin project objectives and planned activities and get feedback, establish a Project Advisory Committee, and present the Potato Park biocultural territory concept from Peru.

Day 3 (23rd February): Discussion with Kaya elders, community researchers and Rabai Cultural Village on the BCHT approach, key challenges facing protection of Kaya forest biodiversity, Darwin project activities, and the M&E framework including participatory M&E.

Kaya elders and village elders expressed support for establishing a collectively governed BCHT in Rabai, but also highlighted the need for a much wider sensitisation process to get the rest of the population on board (about 80,000 people in total), and for alternative livelihoods to reduce pressure on Kayas. They agreed with KEFRI's proposal to focus on producing brooms in the first instance, as this can engage a large number of people fairly quickly, and to investigate ways to access markets more directly to enhance revenues for the Rabai community.

During day 1, a livestreamed training webinar was provided by community researchers (including women) from the Potato Park BCHT in Peru for Rabai community participants. Quechua researchers presented the Potato Park objectives, collective governance system, conservation and livelihoods activities (with translation from Spanish to English and English to Swahili). A group of Rabai women (village leaders) asked to visit the Potato Park after the session, and IIED is looking for additional funds to support a learning exchange in the Potato Park for Rabai leaders, Kaya elders, community researchers, and Rabai local government (Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs) who also asked to visit the Potato Park at a follow-up meeting on 11 April 2022 (will be reported on in Year 2 report).

Participants at the stakeholder meeting in Day 2 – including the County Director for Culture and National Museums of Kenya (responsible for Kaya forests) - expressed strong support for establishing a BCHT in Rabai, and agreed to take part in a Project Advisory Committee. Alejandro Argumedo from the NGO ANDES, Peru, who coordinated the establishment of the Potato Park, shared practical experience and guidance for establishing BCHTs, highlighting the need for a 1-2 year visioning process with key actors in the communities before initiating a wider consultative process. Representatives from Namati and IIED's Legal Tools team participated in the 3 day workshop, and shared a methodology for establishing community associations and by-laws to enable communities to gain legal recognition of their land rights. They advised that Rabai can use the National Museums and Heritage Act to register Kaya forest land and the Community Lands Act to register private and common land (contributing to Activity 1.5 and Indicator 1.2).

During Day 3, elders shared their knowledge and concerns regarding Kaya forest biodiversity, including Elephant shrew, and said they appreciated being actively involved in the project from the start. The workshop was covered on national TV news (KTN) in Kenya, see: [Coastal line conservation: KEFRI empowers coastal communities, aims to reduce level of destructions - YouTube](#)

Even before the workshop, IIED provided guidance to KEFRI on decolonising action-research approaches and the role of external facilitators, during monthly planning and mentoring meeting, since this approach has been vital to the success and sustainability of the Potato Park, generating strong community ownership. This community-led approach should guide the process to establish a collective governance institution in Rabai ([Output 1](#)) and all the activities as far as possible. In addition, Alejandro Argumedo, provided practical guidance and lessons for establishing a BCHT in Rabai to KEFRI and IIED, in a meeting on 4 February 2022. We also held a discussion with Alejandro Argumedo and IIED's M&E and Gender Advisor to discuss community-led M&E approaches for BCHTs, that can persist beyond projects, on 16 February 2022. Alejandro shared his experience with PM&E for the Potato Park BCHT. Based on this, the Most Significant Change approach was identified and discussed with Kaya elders who very much liked the idea of a story-based approach to M&E to complement the more quantitative indicator-based approach (which requires literacy skills and prioritises externally defined indicators).

Output 4 on restoring endemic endangered fuelwood species, native trees and elephant-shrew habitat/food : In December 2021, KEFRI consulted Rabai Cultural Village, Kaya elders, women and youth to identify threatened endemic tree species which are particularly sought after for livelihoods, food, medicine and cultural value, to prioritise these species for restoration in Kaya forests and on-farm. They then initiated the process to procure the necessary seedlings from KEFRI and other nurseries as the KEFRI procurement process can take a few weeks. Tree planting started in mid-April as soon as the rains arrived to take full advantage of the long rainy season.

KEFRI and RCV held the first project meeting in Rabai on 25th January 2022 with Kaya elders, community researchers and other community members. They first undertook a Free Prior and Informed Consent process where they fully informed participants about the project, and invited them to deliberate and place conditions if they wished (this is an important step in a power-equalising decolonial approach that re-values TK). Participants granted consent and welcomed the project. FPIC was also obtained for the tree restoration activity.

1.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

The project timeline was updated to reflect that the project started 3 months later than planned (in October rather than July). The activities envisaged in the timeline are as follows:

Output 1: Activities envisaged in Year 1 Q4:

1.1 Launch workshop: completed, see draft workshop report submitted

1.2 FPIC process and M&E surveys: FPIC has been obtained for the project. FPIC will be requested at the beginning of each activity. M&E surveys have not yet been completed.

1.3 Village and inter-village meetings on BCHT have not been initiated but the community researchers have attended public meetings in their villages to talk about the project and the concept of BCHT for the community to understand the objectives of the project, activities and implementation plan.

The M&E surveys (1.2) and the village meetings for BCHT visioning (1.3) were due to start in March 2021. However, a conflict between Rabai Cultural Village (RCV) and a Kaya elder came to light at the launch workshop, which had to be resolved before the project activities could continue as it involved accusations of financial irregularities by the RCV Coordinator, a community researcher. IIED and KEFRI could not make any payment to this community researcher until and unless the matter was resolved, in accordance with IIED Anti-Fraud and Bribery Policy and KEFRI policies. A community meeting was held on 9th April 2022 which cleared the RCV coordinator of any wrong-doing, based on evidence from other community members and Kaya elders (who have to be of great integrity to become Kaya elders). The meeting found that lack of record keeping and clear communication had led to the accusation,

and the funds in question were fully accounted for. KEFRI is working with RCV and Kaya elders to building financial record keeping capacity. See report of the meeting attached. This conflict delayed the activities by about a month.

With the sudden onset of rains in mid-April, the planting of tree seedlings in Kayas and on-farm has been prioritised and is currently underway (Output 4). The M&E baseline survey for trees is being conducted during the planting process, and the rest of the baseline survey will be conducted as soon as it is completed, in May. The village meetings for BCHT visioning will then be initiated in June. Therefore, due to COVID-19, the conflict and the timing of the rains, the M&E surveys (1.2) and initiation of village meetings on the BCHT (1.3) have had to be pushed back to Year 2 Q1.

Output 2: Activity envisaged in Year 1 Q4

2.1 Establishing cultural village enterprises and houses: This activity will also be initiated in Year 2 Q1, for the same reasons as explained above.

Output 3: Activities envisaged in Year 1 Q4

3.1 Training to produce stoves: Will be initiated in Year 2, Q1, for the above reasons.

3.3 Installing briquette presses & training: Will be initiated in Year 2, Q1, for the above reasons. Briquette presses have been procured, but the installation and training to be done in Year 2, Q1, for the above reasons.

Output 4: Activities envisaged in Year 1 Q3 and Q4

4.1 Seedlings/saplings raised & sourced: This activity was initiated in Q3 and completed in Q4, as planned. A meeting was held with communities in January 2022 to prioritize tree species for planting in Kaya forests and farms and to seek FPIC for the project (see attached report). The planting is in progress.

Output 5: Activity envisaged in Year 1 Q4:

5.3 Biocultural festivals. A small biocultural festival celebrating Rabai dance, music and biodiversity was held at the RCV (Kaya Mudzi Muvya) on the last day of the launch workshop, with dancing and drumming by women and men members of RCV.

1.2 Progress towards project Outputs

The project started in October 2021 and so has only been running for 6 months. In the first 2 months we reviewed the Darwin agreement, submitted a change request for the start date (as we only received the offer letter from Darwin on 15 September), developed the sub-contract with KEFRI, updated the implementation timeline, and had a meeting with KEFRI to explain all the project requirements including finance and M&E. Actual implementation began in December 2021, so we are reporting on the first 4 months of implementation. We have not yet completed the baseline study for reasons explained above. Overall, some progress has been made towards:

Output 1: Collective gender-balanced culturally-rooted BCHT institution established for Kaya forest conservation and sustainable development, legally registered and internationally recognised

The launch workshop started to develop a common vision for establishing a BCHT institution that brings together Kaya elders and village leaders to collectively govern the whole Rabai landscape based on customary rules for conservation and sustainable development. It was agreed that this new supra-village institution should be based on customary governance systems and rules as far as possible, and that village level BCHT committees should also be established linking Kaya elders and village leaders. Some village leaders are appointed by Chiefs (local government) rather than elected; it was agreed that this can and should be changed to revert back to *elected* leaders to promote autonomy (an important feature of community-led BCHTs). Women were actively involved in the workshop discussions (including village leaders), paving the way for establishing a gender-balanced institution. Ten village leaders participated in the workshop and agreed in principle to establish a collective BCHT institution. The vision, objectives and rules for the BCHT and its collective governance

institution will be developed in village meetings from May/June 2022 to March 2023. It may take another 9 months to build this common vision, so Indicator 1.1 (which is really a target) “Kaya elders and 10 village leaders have agreed to establish a BCHAT institution comprising 30-50% women; and have agreed culturally-rooted objectives, guiding principles and rules for conservation and equity”, should be changed to ‘By end of Year 1’ rather than ‘By mid-2022’.

Progress was made in identifying suitable options for registration of the BCHAT institution and by-laws (see section 3), but Indicator 1.2 “proposed BCHAT institution presented to local government agencies; suitable option for registration identified” should be changed to end of Year 2 (rather than end of 2022) and the last part of Indicator 1.2 “documents submitted for registration” is expected to be completed by Year 3 Q1.

A 3 hour meeting was held with Rabai local government officials (Chiefs and Sub-Chiefs) on April 11th 2022 to present the proposed BCHAT and Darwin project, which got their full support (to be reported fully in the next report).

In February 2022, IIED launched the project web-page, with a post on Twitter, which is expected to contribute to international recognition, see: [Establishing a biocultural heritage territory to protect Kenya’s Kaya forests | International Institute for Environment and Development](#)

Output 2: Rabai Cultural Village is strengthened and scaled-out to 3 other Kayas and capacity of 3200 forest-dependent women and youth is built to triple incomes from sustainable products with high demand.

Nothing to report yet as the activities will start in May/June after the baseline is complete, except that the conflict resolution meeting held on April 2022 has strengthened relationships between RCV management and members and Kaya elders and has led to strengthening of the record keeping practices of RCV, see section 3.1.

Output 3: 800 fuel-efficient stoves and 4 briquette-making machines are installed, halving fuelwood consumption, reducing pressure on endangered fuelwood trees and enhancing income.

This activity will begin in May/June 2022 once the baseline study is completed. Briquette making machines and coconut extractor have been procured, installation to be done in June 2022.

Output 4: Endangered endemic fuelwood species, threatened native trees and elephant-shrew food/habitat are restored in degraded Kayas (50 ha), and on-farm (80 ha) providing alternative fuelwood, medicine and fruit and enhancing ecological connectivity.

Tree planting was initiated in April 2022 with the onset of rains. The planting is covering 400 farms (approximately 80 ha), and degraded sites within Kaya forests (approximately 50 ha). Prioritized species (see report) have been procured from the community nurseries and are being planted in partnership with local community members. The planting will be completed in mid-May 2022.

Output 5: Traditional crops and agroecological practices are restored and indigenous vegetables ‘domesticated’ on 800 farms, enhancing resilience, nutrition, ecological connectivity and butterflies, and reducing pressure on Kayas

This activity will begin in May/June 2022 once the baseline study is completed.

1.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Outcome: Biodiversity and endangered species are protected and restored in Rabai’s Kaya forests and surrounding farming landscapes, poverty is reduced, culture and TK revitalised, and indigenous peoples and women empowered.

We cannot report much progress towards protecting biodiversity and reducing poverty as the activities have only recently started – apart from planting of threatened native tree seedlings.

8,800 seedlings have been planted on farms of which 2,800 are fruit trees, and 3,150 seedlings have been planted in Kaya forests – 1,350 of these are endangered trees.

IIED and KEFRI designed the launch workshop in order to help reduced power imbalances between Indigenous Rabai communities and external researchers and government agencies – the 1st day was held only with community members so that they were well prepared for the meeting with other stakeholders on day 2. Inclusive participatory methods were used – with separate break out groups for women (day 1). The Potato Park community presentation showed how women can play a leading role in BCHTs. During Day 2, Indigenous Kaya elders and women were asked to sit at the main workshop table (set out in a U-shape), alongside government officials and KEFRI, rather than in the row behind as is usually the case. Kaya elders were invited to speak at the Opening session, and opening remarks by the government and KEFRI were kept short. Two Rabai Cultural Village coordinators (community members) were invited to give presentations. Rabai women were encouraged to speak. IIED and KEFRI repeatedly stressed the enormous value of Rabai culture and traditional knowledge (TK) and the critical importance of BCHTs being established and managed through community-led processes, based on TK and cultural values, where women are actively engaged in leadership. In Day 3, Kaya elders were centre-stage. IIED and KEFRI asked Kaya elders to share their views about the BCHT idea, knowledge about challenges etc. and kept their interventions fairly short. Kaya elders shared traditional prayers and beliefs relating to the sacredness of land etc, at the start of every day. The biocultural festival also celebrated Rabai culture. The Potato Park presentations emphasised the vital importance of ancestral concepts and values that promote conservation and equity to guide collective landscape management, and how this can lead to secure land rights, food, livelihoods and community autonomy. Therefore, we believe that the workshop did contribute to empowering indigenous peoples and women, and to revitalising culture and TK.

1.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Outcome:

Assumption 1: Bulk buyers regularly purchase honey, broom, basket and coconut oil produced by Cultural Village enterprise groups associated with each Kaya, and market demand remains high.

Comments: Still holds true, the products demand remains high.

Assumption 2: Enough tree planting materials (seedlings/saplings) of each species can be raised in nurseries; and planted sites are protected from grazing animals.

Comments: Still holds true, we have adequate seedlings in community nurseries in Kilifi County (where the project is based) and neighbouring Kwale county. Meetings are being held with community members during the planting to ensure the planted trees are protected.

Assumption 3: Rainfall patterns remain largely unchanged, and seedlings planted at the start of the rainy season get enough water to establish – if not water will be obtained from a perennial stream close to RCV or seedlings kept in KEFRI field stations.

Comments: Still holds true, the rainfall amount this year has been good, rainfed planting is being undertaken. KEFRI stations have standby water storage tanks for use to water the seedlings during dry spells.

Assumption 4: Farmers are motivated to restore traditional crops and indigenous vegetables for resilience and nutritional value, as well as for market.

Comments: Still holds true, traditional crops and indigenous vegetables remain popular in the community for their resilience and market demand is increasing due to their nutritional value.

Assumption 5: Kaya Council of Elders' resolutions/decisions are adopted as Rabai community by-laws, and enforcement is supported by government agencies.

Comments: Still holds true, Kaya council of elders are respected, and their decisions too respected by the community and the council receives support from government administrators. Respect of elders by youth has improved, but is still variable and will continue to be monitored; the project livelihood activities are expected to improve this.

Output 1:

Assumption 1: Different village authorities are committed to working together, empowering Kaya elders and safeguarding biocultural heritage: Yes, this still holds true.

A.2. Village authorities and Kaya elders recognise the critical role of women in sustaining resilient, nutritious traditional crops and farming systems, and the need to enhance gender equity. Still holds true, women have been incorporated in the Kaya council of elders

A. 3. Local government agencies continue to be supportive and engaged through 6-monthly project advisory group meetings. Yes, this still holds true

A. 4. Appropriate legal framework can be found to register Rabai BCHAT as a community association. Yes, this still holds true.

A. 5. Side event applications are accepted by CBD and FAO. Not yet relevant.

Output 2: Assumptions:

1. Market demand for honey, brooms, baskets and coconut oil remains high, bulk buyers can regularly purchase products (or KEFRI can help to link the community to Mombasa and Nairobi markets), and women and youth can produce sufficient quantities. Yes, still true.
2. Beehives thrive in forests and are managed safely by villagers. Not yet relevant.
3. Trained community groups are able to apply practical skills and have access to sufficient sustainable sources of raw materials from trees on-farm (this is currently the case but will be monitored). Not yet relevant.
4. Alternative income, combined with increased enforcement of conservation rules and enhanced awareness, leads farmers to shift to sustainable livelihoods. Not yet relevant.

Output 3 Assumptions:

1. 800 fuel efficient stoves can be made by women and men in Rabai. Yes, still holds true
2. Women and men like fuel efficient stoves, agree to install them in their houses, and have access to sustainable fuel and are willing to use it (twigs, crop residues, briquettes). Yes, still holds true.
3. Level of cooking and stove use does not significantly increase. Not yet relevant.

Output 4 Assumptions:

1. Farmers are willing to plant trees on-farm, nurture them to maturity, and sustainably use trees. Yes, still holds true.
2. Trees are planted at the start of the rainy season and rainfall patterns remain largely unchanged, providing enabling conditions for the trees to establish and grow. So far this holds true.

Output 5 Assumptions:

1. Awareness of nutrition, health and resilience value of traditional crops/foods, leads to greater demand amongst Rabai villages; and costs to consumers are kept down due to reduced input costs. Not yet relevant.
2. Farmers are motivated to restore traditional crops and agroecological practices for health, resilience, food security and cultural benefits (not just economic benefits). Yes, still holds true.
3. Restoration of native trees and open-pollinated crops restores butterflies. Not yet relevant.

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

We cannot yet report on impact as implementation of project activities has only been underway for 4 months.

2. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

Ministry of Environment and Forestry Principal Secretary, who is the primary focal point for the CBD and a member of KEFRI's Board of Directors, has been made aware of the project by the Director of KEFRI through KEFRI Board meetings. KEFRI's director participated in the project Launch workshop.

3. Project support to poverty reduction

Various livelihoods activities are planned – these will be initiated in May/June, once the baseline survey has been completed.

4. Consideration of gender equality issues

See sections 3.2 and 3.3. A study on gender dynamics in decision-making, biodiversity management and value chains will be conducted as part as the M&E baseline study, to better understand potential barriers to women's participation and benefits from the project. The study is currently being designed.

5. Monitoring and evaluation

The M&E systems are not yet fully established as the baseline survey is still being conducted.

Progress towards establishing a BCHT will be monitored by KEFRI through participation in monthly BCHT visioning meetings in Rabai and through monthly meetings with community researchers.

Trees seedlings planted in Kaya forests will be monitored at least weekly by Kaya Elders and community researchers for the first 6 months, and then monthly. Trees planted on farm will be monitored at least weekly by farmers and community researchers for the first 6 months and then monthly. KEFRI will conduct monthly monitoring visits to Kayas and farms for the first 6 months and failed saplings will be replaced.

KEFRI will monitor progress with all activities through monthly meetings and field assessments with community researchers in Rabai (1 researcher will be responsible for 2 villages).

IIED will monitor progress with all project activities and outputs through monthly meetings with KEFRI, participation in 6-monthly Project Advisory Committee meetings – the first meeting will be held in July 2022, and annual project workshops in Rabai.

In addition, we will develop a system for Participatory M&E, using the Most Significant Change (MSC) approach. An M&E workshop will be held with Kaya elders, village elders, community researchers and farmers in Rabai in May/June 2022 to discuss M&E systems. For MSC, broad areas to monitor will be identified; initial discussions at the Launch workshop identified the following areas: Kaya forest conservation, livelihoods, gender, respect of Kaya elders by youth. At the end of each year, community researchers will document 'stories of change' from Kaya elders and others, and these will be presented at the annual project workshops, to share them with the Rabai community and government stakeholders. Progress towards outputs and against logframe indicators will also be reviewed at annual project workshops.

6. Lessons learnt

Launch workshop: Overall this workshop went very well – Rabai participants commented at the end of the workshop that they now understood the BCHT concept much better, and that they

learnt a lot from the Potato Park presentations. Kaya elders said they were happy that they were actively involved in the project from the start. One aspect that could have been improved: most Kaya elders are not literate, so, on hind-sight it would have been better not to use any writing on power point presentations, and only use pictures/audio visual formats. This would have made them feel more included. To really empower Rabai elders, future multi-stakeholder event/workshop formats should be centred around Kaya elders talking and government and other actors listening. This will be taken into account in the design of all future project meetings. Similarly, Indigenous women should be given formal roles as presenters in all meetings. Ideally, we should have provided a brief evaluation form for participants, but most Kaya elders would not have been able to respond in written form, so perhaps short audio-visual recordings could also be captured on smart phones. These two methods will be used for future project workshops and training.

The livestreamed presentation from the Potato Park worked well, but the wind in Rabai had just blown KEFRI's TV screen over and cracked the screen, making the visibility less good. There was also some glare on the screen due to the open air location. The workshop was held in the Kaya court, providing panoramic views of the Rabai landscape, but in future, it might be best to have presentations on TV screens in covered areas or indoor rooms to avoid such problems. Zoom was used and the internet connection was fine, thanks to a phone chip. However, a visit to the Potato Park would be a lot more effective for capacity building and mobilising action in Rabai, hence IIED is seeking funding for this additional activity, we hope it can take place in 2022.

We also feel it would be beneficial for Kaya elders and community researchers to visit the Kaya Kambe forest near Rabai which is well preserved based on customary rules, to learn more about the traditional Mijikenda landscape governance system and learn from Kambe's success. It appears that there is less pressure on Kaya Kambe because they get more rainfall and hence can grow more food – so this suggests that lower rainfall in Rabai in recent years has exacerbated forest degradation in Rabai. Therefore, the project has started planting drought tolerant cashew nuts in Rabai for food and income, building on success elsewhere in Kenya.

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

Not relevant

8. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

The project has undergone a full IIED ethics review (see Annex 4). A data management plan has been developed in response to the review: household survey data will be anonymised at collection and stored using codes rather than peoples' names (the codes and corresponding names will be stored in a separate sheet). Data will not be collected from children under the age of 16. Issues relating to possible tensions with communities outside the project area will be explored during community meetings to identify/agree beneficiary households.

The possible financial irregularities (which did not involve any Darwin funds) have been fully investigated with community members, in a meeting which also involved National Museums of Kenya and senior KEFRI staff. All were satisfied that no financial wrong-doing has taken place. KEFRI has provided training to RCV to address the issue of lack of record keeping, and will continue monitoring the situation closely through regular visits to Rabai (at least monthly). See also section 3.1.

9. Sustainability and legacy

We have established a project website. The Launch workshop report will be finalised in May 2022, published on the IIED website and project webpage and shared through social media. It will also be shared with all workshop participants and published on the biocultural heritage website. It will be shared through IIED's biodiversity newsletter and biocultural heritage newsletter. The media coverage generated visibility for the project in Kenya being on prime-time TV news.

The exit strategy is still valid – IIED and KEFRI are still committed to providing long term support to maintain a successful BCHT in Rabai, beyond the Darwin project.

10. Darwin identity

Darwin support and the UK government’s (and tax-payers’) contribution to the project was acknowledged at the project Launch workshop. Darwin support is also acknowledged on the project web-page. The Darwin logo has not yet been used, but will be included on the workshop report and any subsequent publications.

11. Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery

So far, COVID-19 has delayed activities by about 1 month, as the omicron variant meant that the workshop could not be held before late February 2022. The COVID-19 situation is improving in Kenya and further delays are not expected.

12. Safeguarding

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

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

13. Project expenditure

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

All figures reported below are **indicative only**, since we are still preparing the financial expenditure reports with partners (due in May).

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				Revision agreed with Eilidh Young (see email correspondence of 14/01/2022) to bring forward some consultancy expenditure into FY21/22 (with reciprocal reduction in staff and overhead cost expenditure).
Overhead Costs				IIED overhead rates were reduced during the reporting period, giving us a small underspend on this cost category.
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)	-	-	-	M&E is not included in our contracted budget as its own cost category, but M&E costs are included <i>within</i> the other cost categories reported against. We can provide an indication of the level of M&E-related expenditure with our detailed financial report due in May22.
Others (see below)				
TOTAL				Small expected overspend will be covered by IIED reserves/Frame Funds.

14. 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 correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	X
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
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.	X
Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	X
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	X
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	