



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

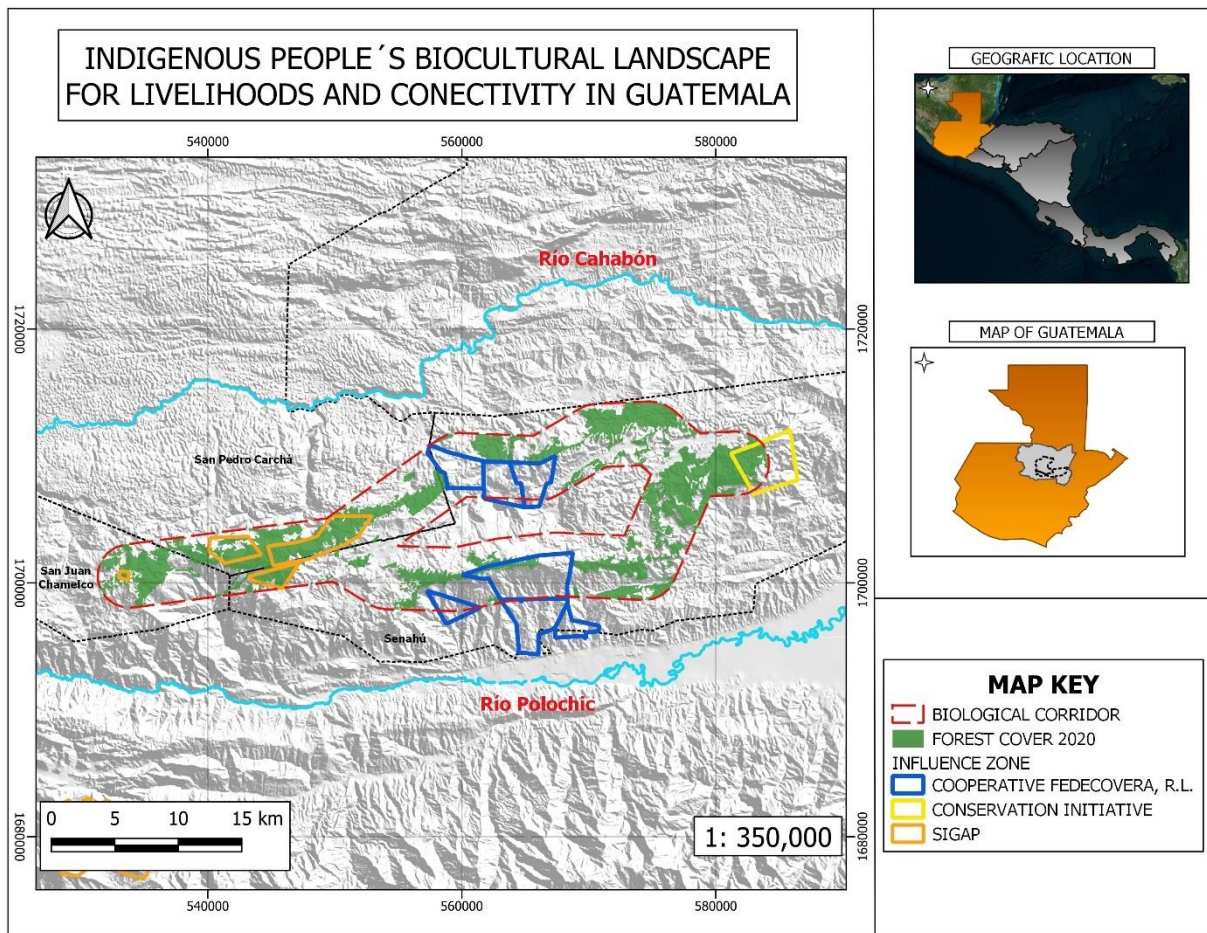
Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	29-019
Project title	Biocultural landscapes for livelihoods and connectivity in Verapaces, Guatemala.
Country/ies	Guatemala
Lead Partner	University of Greenwich, UoG
Project partner(s)	Federation of Cooperatives of the Verapaces, FEDECOVERA, Association Private Nature Reserves of Guatemala, ARNPG
Darwin Initiative grant value	Jeremy Haggar
Start/end dates of project	Start 01,09,22; end 30,08,25
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2022 – Mar 2023) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	Sept 2022 to March 2023 Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Jeremy Haggar
Project website/blog/social media	
Report author(s) and date	Jeremy Haggar and Pamela Katic, UoG Benjamin Bol and Juan Lopez, FEDECOVERA Juan Zelada, ARNPG

1. Project summary

The cultural and biological megadiversity of Guatemala is vulnerable to forest fragmentation and climate extremes, isolating highland endemic species and increasing poverty through landslides cutting off communities from markets and taking lives. In the Sierra Yalijux an Indigenous cooperative federation (FEDECOVERA) will integrate traditional knowledge and support communities including women and youth in agroforestry production and to become carbon neutral for the coffee and cardamon exports. Reforestation and forest conservation coordinated with adjacent private nature reserves will improve landscape connectivity for biodiversity, while building capacity and income from eco-tourism and provide a basis for receiving forest incentives by Indigenous families. A biological corridor is proposed as a potential co-management area between cooperatives and private nature reserves (SIGAP).



2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The projects two Guatemala-based implementing partners FEDECOVERA and ARNPG are key to the project and indeed manage over 75% of the funds. Both collaborated on the proposal development and have signed sub-contracts detailing their resources and responsibilities. A joint planning workshop in September 2022 was conducted in several stages, initially just between the partners and then involving a broader group of stakeholders (see below 3.1). Subsequently, we have monthly meetings over Teams to provide updates and plan next activities, as well as ad hoc meetings as needed.

The major investments of the project in recording indigenous knowledge, reforestation and agroforestry, improved processing of coffee and cardamon and assessment of carbon footprint were all stem direct requests of FEDECOVERA. Similarly private nature reserve management plans, biodiversity monitoring and eco-tourism are core activities of ARPNG. UoG provide methodological expertise to implement these actions and guide monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes. The first action of each partner upon starting the project was to confirm and validate the activities proposed with the cooperative members in the case of FEDECOVERA and private nature reserve farms and communities in the case of ARPNG (further details in section 3.1).

The project has met with the Executive Secretary of the Council for Protected Areas (CONAP), who committed CONAP to support the actions of the project. He also attended the inaugural meeting of the project as did the regional director of CONAP. Subsequently they have attended discussions with stakeholders and offered support to the biodiversity monitoring. The project has also met with the municipal leaders of two of the four municipalities in the project area. The British Ambassador to Guatemala, Nick Whittingham, attended the inaugural meeting of the project in September, promoted the project on social media, and offered to support us where he can.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

1.1 Stakeholder meetings between local and national decision makers including National Protected Areas Council (CONAP), Institute for Forests (INAB), Private Nature Reserves association (ARNPG), municipalities, and FEDECOVERA

A stakeholder workshop was held in September 2022 between project partners, CONAP, cooperatives, and the private nature reserve association to discuss the objectives of the project. Two specific advances were to identify the most viable route for a biological corridor along the Sierra Yalijux, and thus the geographic targeting of the projects activities, and second to begin to understand the interest of indigenous communities in registering their traditional knowledge and in particular around use of medicinal herbs. Due to some roads being impassable due to landslides the private nature reserve representatives from the field were not able to join this meeting. Therefore, a second meeting was held in February (once roads had been repaired) where more detailed feedback was received from the private nature reserve owners and community representatives. A critical lesson was that the status of the private reserves is threatened by land invasion from surrounding communities, and one of the reserves owned by an environmental NGO has been abandoned. Another reserve had developed agreements with surrounding communities to allow them to continue cultivating land within the reserve that has already been cleared in exchange for a commitment to not clear any more land nor hunt in the forest. However, this agreement has not been respected. As Private Nature Reserves CONAP should provide support against illegal activities but this has been limited. We also learnt about two more farms with forest that have been invaded and forest cleared. One is the farm that FEDECOVERA planned to declare a nature reserve, a situation that will need to be resolved before a decision can be made about it. FEDECOVERA will investigate in more detail the situation at the farm. The second is a farm owned by the University of Valle also within the biological corridor identified by the project. A third interested stakeholder of the project is company Secacao that owns a hydroelectrical plant and an extensive land-holding at the eastern end of the biological corridor. Their estate includes a significant area of intact forest with the rest under plantation forest and agroforestry. They also have an environmental foundation and are conducting biodiversity monitoring. We are in discussions with them about allying with the project.

1.2 Workshop and field visits between cooperatives and private nature reserves in Sierra Yalijux to agree priority areas for reforestation.

In addition to the workshops mentioned above individual meetings were held with the Board of Directors of each cooperative to present and explain the project and agree upon areas targets for establishment of agroforestry and reforestation. Visits were also made to the private nature reserves that are active – the Chicanab community reserve and the Chelemha reserve and ecolodge, to whom the project objectives were also explained and agreement reached on collaborative activities.

2.1 Biocultural protocols (BP) will be developed by each cooperative through a consultative process that outlines their core cultural and spiritual values and customary laws relating to their traditional knowledge and resources, based on which they will provide clear terms and conditions regulating access to their knowledge and resources. Although each protocol will be distinct due to the biological and cultural diversity of the cooperatives, the protocols will cover the same general issues, which include:

1. A self-definition of the group and its leadership and decision-making processes.
2. The links between their customary laws, biocultural ways of life and spiritual understanding of nature.
3. A Peoples Biodiversity Register which contains information on availability and knowledge of local biological resources and their associated TK.
4. How they promote in situ conservation of either indigenous plants or indigenous breeds of livestock and/or wildlife.
5. Their local challenges.
6. How they share their knowledge.

7. What constitutes free, prior, and informed consent to access their lands or traditional knowledge.
8. Their rights according to national and international law.
9. A call to various stakeholders for respect of their customary laws, their cooperative protocol and a statement of the various types of assistance needed by the cooperative.

The process of protocol development is divided in four phases:

Phase 1 (Achieved in current reporting period April 2022-March 2023): Identify and describe issues 1-6 through focus group discussions.

Phase 2 (Planned for next period): Further describe issues 3-7 through individual baseline surveys and form a study/writing group in each cooperative to synthesise the information collected on issues 1-6 and identify issues 7-9.

Phase 3 (Planned for next period - 2023): Writing of draft protocols by study/writing groups.

Phase 4 (Planned for next period -2024): Discuss, revise, and validate protocols through cooperative assemblies and stakeholder consultations.

3.1 Planting of 200 ha of reforestation and 60 ha of cardamon agroforestry across 10 cooperatives

Planting material for the reforestation and agroforestry planned for 2023 is in production in FEDECOVERAs nurseries amounting to 130,000 trees (50:50 mixture of native pine and broad-leaved species), and 67,000 cardamon plants.

3.2 Planting of 40 ha of coffee agroforestry by youth cooperative.

One hundred thousand coffee plants are in production in nursery for planting in 2023.

3.6 Mapping of forest remnants and reforestation to estimate effects on connectivity

A map of forest cover for the project area has been developed integrating the latest 2020 land-cover map for Guatemala from the University of Valle with international forest cover databases. From this we see that the primary forest cover in cooperatives is very low just 3.3%, while the private nature reserves have 75% primary forest cover. Nevertheless, most of the remaining area of the cooperatives is secondary forest, agroforestry or possibly degraded forest. Most of the coops claim to have some forest patches still but recognise most of the land has been deforested. Six forest patches have been provisionally identified but require field validation and then further discussion with the coops about how they may be conserved.

4.1 Purchase and installation of cardamon drying plants in 2 cooperatives

Two cardamom dryers have been fabricated and are in the process of being installed in Actela and Las Nubes cooperatives.

4.2 Purchase and installation of ecological coffee mill and solar dryers.

The ecological coffee mill that eliminates the use (and therefore contamination) of water has been purchased and is in the process of being installed in Santa Maria San Marcos Cooperative. It could not be installed earlier as the previous mill needed to be removed and this couldn't be done until after the previous coffee harvest was over (in Feb). The cooperative where the mill is being installed already have solar dryers so this part of the investment was not required.

5.1 Baseline and end of project survey of contribution of sustainable activities to Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods.

Implementation of the baseline livelihood survey was delayed to April, as we needed to wait until the coffee and cardamom harvest were completed and paid for. This was done by the coop assemblies which were held at the end of March. In preparation for the survey, we held focus group discussions (see activity 2.1) which provided context and reference information that informed the design of the survey. At the time of submission of this report (5th May 2023) 305 household interviews have been conducted with equal numbers of men and women and a third are young adults. Full results of the base line survey will be presented with the half-yearly report.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

1. Sustainable landscape management plan co-developed between Indigenous coops, private landowners, and local authorities.

All three groups of stakeholders have committed to the project (see activity 1.1), and additional potentially interested actors identified, but due to logistical difficulties it has not yet been possible to have a meeting jointly between the local authorities, private landowners and the cooperatives. This highlights the baseline condition of no coordination across the landscape between these stakeholder groups. Output indicator is the minutes of the meetings held (in Annex). The combination of the experience of the ARNPG in developing processes of co-management, and FEDECOVERA's logistical capacity and willingness to engage outside its immediate membership should enable the development of a multi-stakeholder co-management plan by the end of the project.

2. Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge, values and heritage about nature are registered in a community biocultural protocol complemented by monitoring of key biodiversity in the landscape

There is no existing register of indigenous knowledge of these Q'eqchi communities. There is interest on the part of the communities to develop such a register, but the nature of such a register has yet to be decided. Focus groups also highlight fauna and flora that are being lost and species of cultural significance. A summary from the focus groups is in the annex, but presentation of beliefs and values is limited as that is for the communities to decide with whom it is shared.

3. Forest restoration and agroforestry to mitigate climate change and generate income

Current forest cover and type has been determined, with 25% primary forest cover across the proposed biological corridor, and 48% under secondary forest or agroforestry. Private nature reserves have 75% primary forest cover, but cooperatives only 3%. Although the % primary forest cannot be increased in the cooperatives, the aim is to identify degraded forest patches that may be conserved and undertake additional reforestation. More details in annex.

4. Carbon footprint of coffee and cardamom production assessed and reduced

Fuel efficient cardamom driers are being installed in two cooperatives and water efficient coffee processing mill in a third cooperative (documentation in annex). The effect of this improved processing (and use of agroforestry production systems) on the carbon footprint of these commodities under baseline and after installation will be assessed in 2023/24.

5. Capacity developed for inclusive and sustainable livelihood options.

Base line conditions are being surveyed for assessment

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Sierra Yalijux biocultural landscape providing equitable and improved livelihoods, greater connectivity for biodiversity, and mitigating climate change

01. Baseline livelihood conditions are being surveyed. Changes in income from increased agroforestry products may not be realised within the timeframe of the project as it takes 3 years for cardamom and coffee systems to enter production. Direct income from working in the establishment of the reforestation and agroforestry will be realised during the project as this work is paid for by the cooperative. Other activities such as medicinal herbs or eco-tourism may start within the project timeframe.

02. Forest connectivity. Baseline primary forest connectivity cannot readily be changed. Actions to conserve degraded forest fragments and reforest can be georeferenced but are not distinguishable from the general landscape mosaic of secondary forest and agroforestry. Therefore methodologically it may not be possible to estimate forest connectivity changes. We will submit a change request to change this indicator to DI D01: Change in hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices.

03. Carbon footprint. The baseline carbon footprint and estimate change will be assessed in 2023. While we are confident of a positive influence the magnitude of the change is unknown.

04. Indigenous knowledge. Baseline knowledge status is being assessed. Given the interest among indigenous families, we are confident of a positive change by the end of the project.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Outcome assumptions

Assumptions 1 and 3 no change at present

Assumption 2: “No or mild impact of extreme climate events such as hurricanes or drought”.

Damage to roads due to high rainfall has led to inability of project staff to reach private nature reserves, nor their representatives to attend stakeholder meetings. Efforts to meet and engage with them have been successful in the recent dry season (Feb-April), but access may again become impeded in the next rainy season. Activities may need to be reprogrammed if that is the case.

Output assumptions

Output 1: Original assumptions appear to hold.

Land and governance conflicts (originally under output 2) have emerged with the invasion and deforestation in three properties, one already a reserve the other planned to become one.

Sharing experiences between landowners and CONAP will hopefully identify a pathway to address the potential social conflict.

Output 2: Climate extremes – have impeded access to the private nature reserves where monitoring is planned. If this repeats monitoring may have to be restricted to dry season.

Output 3: FEDECOVERA has agreed with member coops areas agreed for reforestation and agroforestry (see table provided in annex).

Contact has been made with INAB (Forestry Institute) who manage forest incentives, but allocation of funds will depend on new government to be elected mid-2023.

Output 4: High interest of coops in improved processing facilities

Market for coffee and cardamom maintained.

Demand for carbon neutral products requires better evidence, especially for cardamom.

Output 5. Ability and interest of women and youth to participate remains to be confirmed

Poor road access needs to be added to security and disease risk as assumption for eco-tourism benefits.

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

Impact statement is: Indigenous people’s managing their biocultural landscape generating sustainable equitable livelihoods, increased populations of endemic biodiversity from a landscape resilient to climate change.

Activities initiated by the project with through FEDECOVERA – an indigenous cooperative federation – if successful will empower their members to manage their biocultural landscape and contribute to sustainable livelihoods across gender and generations. Whether this will lead to increased populations of endemic biodiversity and a landscape more resilient to climate change will depend upon the biocultural decisions they take, but also whether they are able to influence other indigenous communities in the landscape who are not members of the cooperative. In particular biodiversity conservation success will depend upon agreements between indigenous communities and private nature reserves most of which are owned by non-indigenous actors. The main remaining areas of primary forest are on private estates including these private nature reserves. The growing rural population and need to find land for new generations to farm is one of the main drivers of deforestation, and one of the reasons for the invasion of the forest land on the private nature reserves. It is also the reason why the primary forest cover on the cooperatives is so low (3%), as admitted by the families who live there. Thus there is a real trade-off between providing land for new generations to live off and reduce poverty and conserving forests for biodiversity. We hope that by working with the communities we will be able to identify some actions that may mitigate that trade-off.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project has met with the Council for Protected Areas (CONAP), the focal point for the CBD. The full support of the Executive Secretary and his team is in function of the likely contributions of the project in developing conservation strategies outside of formal protected areas and with the full participation of indigenous communities. In particular the project contributes to the following objectives of the Guatemalan Biodiversity Strategy (2012-2022): i) recovering and valuing traditional knowledge and practices and integrating with scientific knowledge; ii)

conservation and restoration of protected areas through supporting the private nature reserve network; iii) mitigation and adaptation to climate change through increasing connectivity, increasing landscape resilience to climate extremes, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing carbon sequestration.

Under the National Climate Change Action Plan (2019) Guatemala has committed to a GHG reduction of 11.2% by 2030, and with appropriate support 22.6% as part of their NDC. Agriculture and forestry land-use change are one of the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions being addressed through the National Reforestation Strategy, supported by the forestry incentive scheme PROBOSQUES. The project will support the cooperatives to apply for these funds to support their forest conservation and reforestation activities. Furthermore the assessment of the carbon footprint of coffee and cardamon production and processing will enable FEDECOVERA to identify where reductions can be made in line with the countries commitments.

5. Project support to poverty reduction

The project’s activities to improve livelihoods are yet to be initiated but will include supporting the production of sustainable agricultural products, and develop new income streams from medicinal herbs and eco-tourism. All the beneficiaries of these actions are indigenous household from rural communities. Our baseline survey will assess their current level of income and some general indicators of household wellbeing, but it must be recognized that most of the activities being invested in will take a few years to bring results. The broader actions of the project of reforestation and reducing the contamination of water sources from coffee processing will help conserve water sources, and hopefully reduce the incidence of land-slides during extreme weather events that destroy roads and have even taken lives. The investments in lowering the environmental impact of coffee and cardamon production and potentially becoming carbon neutral will enable FEDECOVERA to comply with sustainability standards and international regulations ensuring its continued access to differential markets that pay higher prices for it’s products and thus improved income to its members.

6. Gender equality and social inclusion

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	The lead staff of the project partners are two male (UoG and FEDECOVERA) and one female (ARNPG)
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 .	None

Among the 9 named staff working on the project between partners a third are women. Among the main beneficiaries of the project are the ten cooperatives members of FEDECOVERA who are all indigenous Q’eqchi. Of the 10,995 associates of these cooperatives 4755 are women (43%). When focus group discussions were held about indigenous knowledge of nature 65 out of 177 participants were women (37%) – proportionally slightly less than the associate members. Across the 10 coops women’s participation varied from being a majority to a small minority which depended on other commitments the men or women had. In meeting held with the Board of Directors of the cooperatives there was only one woman present among 8-10 representatives. In the household survey of 305 participants 50% were women and 30% were youth. Monitoring and evaluation. Through the project activities we aim to give greater voice to women, especially through their inclusion in the process of development of protocols of

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.

indigenous knowledge, where women have a distinct and complementary contribution to men. Furthermore, the project will support women in developing medicinal herb production and sales something that has generated considerable interest.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

The first half-year of the project has been a process of understanding in greater detail the status of the different stakeholders in the project. This has required some adjustment to indicators and targets, which have been approved, but the context of the project also continues to evolve requiring constant monitoring of the assumptions. Furthermore, upon revision of the Standard indicators there are several that are applicable to the project, and some that may reasonably replace current indicators. We intend to submit a change request to request these substitutions.

Indicators are a mix of qualitative and quantitative. The base line survey will provide information on household income (indicator 0.1), knowledge of household members (indicator 0.4), and some indicators of overall well-being. Having now a more detailed mapping of forest cover, indicator 0.2 on forest connectivity may be hard to implement, as primary forest connectivity cannot effectively be changed. Otherwise, most of the landscape is classified as secondary forest or agroforestry which cannot be differentiated from the reforestation being planned. Therefore, we proposed to change to indicator DI-D01 on change in hectares under sustainable management. Indicator 0.3 on C-footprint will be assessed by bespoke calculations of the footprint of production and processing with and without project actions, and the potential of C in-setting under agroforestry production practices.

Under output 1, the main challenge is the illegal invasion of properties with forest areas. At the same time a coordinated strategy between landowners and local authorities may present the best option to address this problem. The project activities highlighting this situation and facilitating dialogue between the stakeholders may yet allow achievement of the output.

Under output 2, the development of indigenous knowledge protocols and scientific biodiversity modelling is directly achievable by the project partners. The activities will generate community protocols and scientific registers, and then exchanges of information between the two will be recorded. Nevertheless, the content of the indigenous protocols is under the control of the communities and it is their decision as to what aspects they wish to share. The protocols themselves will not be provided as evidence, we can only provide the assurance of the communities that they have been developed.

Under output 3, the reforestation and agroforestry activities are under the control of FEDECOVERA. They will be recorded and georeferenced in the field and employment generated can be verified from the cooperative administrative records.

M&E is conducted collectively amongst the partners, but overseen by University of Greenwich. Results are shared as they become available to inform and orient our activities, during our monthly meetings, or in more detail at periodic workshops.

8. Lessons learnt

The main limitations to project implementation were in administrative aspects related to i) the requirements for sub-contracted partners to pass due diligence and, ii) the restrictions on passing budget between financial years requiring exact estimation of expenditure under conditions of uncertainty. For some of the project partners for whom managing such projects is new this will require closer support to estimate costs, foresee limitations with greater anticipation and avoid sub-execution of funds. For others preparing proposals a possible approach would be to view the funding as a series of annual projects each with discrete activities and outputs to be achieved against a fixed budget.

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

Not applicable

10. Risk Management

The main new risk is the invasion of farms that are private nature reserves, or where planned to become one, by local communities who have cleared forest for farming or removed timber. This

makes the renewal of their management plans invalid, or similarly their declaration as nature reserves. CONAP – the Council for Protected Areas will be informed of the situation, which legally is their responsibility, but it is doubtful they will be able to take action. However, the issue will be further discussed in the multi-stakeholder group. As regards the area to declare as a new nature reserve, FEDECOVERA is seeking an alternative site. The risk register has been updated with this issue.

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

None

12. Sustainability and legacy

There is undoubtedly interest among the indigenous cooperatives to discuss the degradation of their environment and how to recover it. Also, there is considerable interest in recognising local indigenous knowledge, and developing use of medicinal plants. Actions to build upon this interest and generate capacity to address them are only just starting. It is important to note that the indigenous knowledge collated will be done by the communities for their use, and shared at their discretion, it will not be open access.

Most components of the theory of change for the project remain valid, although the threat to the integrity of some of the private nature reserves, may put in jeopardy the concept of having a co-management plan for the biological corridor along the Sierra Yalijux. At the same time those threats highlight the need for a multi-stakeholder plan and approach to the conservation of the area, as the threats to those properties are in part because of the lack of institutional support and community engagement.

CONAP, has shown genuine interest in the project as a potential example of co-management between actors outside of a national park. Their engagement with local stakeholders will be critical to continuing the initiative after the project.

Development benefits of the project activities will be ensured by FEDECOVERA who have a history of institutionalising sustainable and ethical agricultural production and processing. Twenty years ago through their participation in a previous project lead by the project leader FEDECOVERA adopted agroforestry systems to be promoted as the most sustainable option for agricultural production across its membership. Their commitment is also shown by their certification under organic, Fairtrade and FSC certifications.

13. Darwin Initiative identity

The project was launched on 26th September with the presence of Mr Nick Whitingham, British Ambassador, Carlos Martinez, Executive Secretary of CONAP (Council for Protected Areas), Sr Domingo Cu, President of FEDECOVERA, and Sr Martin Keller, President of ARPNG. The Ambassador provided an overview of the UK's commitments to biodiversity and funding through the Darwin Initiative. The inauguration was promoted on twitter by the Embassy and reposted by partners. The project itself does not have its own social media accounts.

The project has a distinct identity among the partners and is known and presented to local stakeholders as a distinct entity, and with separate funding from the Darwin Initiative. A draft informative leaflet about the project has been developed, but not yet finalised.



Panel of dignitaries at the inauguration of the project, with the Ambassador speaking.

14. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	No
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	No
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 33% [3] Planned: 0% [0]
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? No Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.	
There have been no challenges nor lessons in this respect in the past 12 months	
Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify.	
None are planned	

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)				
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	120,435	118,808.05	-1.35	

The costs in the above tables are drafts subject to the review of by University of Greenwich administrative officers, and potential requests for clarification of partner submissions. [REDACTED]

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).

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
Impact Indigenous people's managing their biocultural landscape generating sustainable equitable livelihoods, increased populations of endemic biodiversity from a landscape resilient to climate change		Too early to assess	
Outcome Sierra Yalijux biocultural landscape providing equitable and improved livelihoods, greater connectivity for biodiversity, and mitigating climate change	<p>0.1 Income from sustainable livelihood activities for 4500 families increases (20%) by 2025 against baseline, equitable across ethnicity, generations and gender</p> <p>0.2 Proportion of land rated with high forest connectivity or better increased by 25% by 2025 compared to 2020.</p> <p>0.3 Carbon footprint of coffee and cardamon production and export reduced by 20% compared to 2020 baseline by end of project.</p> <p>0.4 Proportion of cooperative members who know traditional methods to derive value from biodiversity including the traditional language, songs, dances, stories and ceremonies associated with these practices increased by 20% compared to 2020 baseline by end of project.</p>	<p>Too early to report any progress</p> <p>Baseline forest cover established at 25% primary forest cover.</p> <p>Too early to report any progress</p> <p>Too early to report any progress</p>	<p>Establish base-line income from sustainable livelihoods</p> <p>Identify forest remnants on cooperatives</p> <p>Assess baseline carbon footprint.</p> <p>Base-line knowledge of cooperative members established</p>
Output 1. Sustainable landscape management plan co-developed between Indigenous coops, private landowners, and local authorities	1.1 Private nature reserve owners and Indigenous coops identify priority concerns and activities for nature (2023)	Priority concern is the invasion of private nature reserves by local communities	

	<p>1.2 Management plans for 3 private nature reserves updated by 2024</p> <p>1.3 Submission to CONAP of technical study for new Indigenous private nature reserve by 2024</p> <p>1.4 Node established for co-management of landscape between private nature reserves, cooperatives and communities of Sierra Yalijux by 2025</p>	<p>Currently only one or two of the private nature reserves are secure enough for work to be done to update their management plans</p> <p>The farm identified for this output has been invaded and is unlikely to be in condition to declare as a private nature reserve. We are in contact with a neighbouring estate that may be interested.</p>
Activity 1.1 Stakeholder meetings between local and national decision makers including National Protected Areas Council (CONAP), Institute for Forests (INAB), Private Nature Reserves association (ARNPG), municipalities, and FEDECOVERA		<p>Minutes available of one multi-stakeholder meeting.</p> <p>Bilateral meetings planned for mid 2023, multi-stakeholder meeting for early 2024</p>
Activity 1.2, Workshop and field visits between cooperatives and private nature reserves in Sierra Yalijux to agree priority areas for reforestation		<p>Meetings conducted with ten cooperatives and four private nature reserves.</p> <p>Continued April 2023</p>
1.3 Elaboration and updating of management plans for 3 private nature reserves.		<p>Programmed for late 2023/early2024</p>
1.4 Diagnostic field study, technical report written and submitted to CONAP for a new private nature reserve for FEDECOVERA		<p>Pending decision on status of farm foreseen to become private nature reserve due to invasion of property</p>
1.5 Workshops between local stakeholders for development of a “node” between private nature reserves, cooperatives and municipalities for maintenance of a biological corridor along the Sierra Yalijux.		<p>Programmed for 2024/25</p>
<p>Output 2. Indigenous Peoples’ traditional knowledge, values and heritage about nature are registered in a community biocultural protocol complemented by monitoring of key biodiversity in the landscape</p>	<p>2.1 Community biocultural protocol developed by Indigenous communities registering traditional knowledge and identifying priority activities for nature by 2023</p> <p>2.2 Register of bird, mammal and amphibian species on nature reserves and selected cooperatives by 2023</p> <p>2.3 Integrated sociocultural and biological registers of biodiversity and nature by 2024</p>	<p>2.1 Community protocols setting out Indigenous Peoples’ customary values, rights and rules about biocultural heritage recognising the experience and holistic worldviews of Indigenous Peoples. Baseline is no existing protocols or similar documents exist.</p>

	2.4 Proportion of oak-pine and montane forest restricted range species utilizing agroforestry and reforestation determined by 2024.		
2.1 Indigenous men, women and youth from 10 coops develop community biocultural protocols, under which they register traditional knowledge, cosmovision of nature, identify and map the distribution of culturally significant plants and animals and identify priority activities for cultural and natural heritage conservation.		Base-line knowledge collected through focus groups and household surveys.	Sessions are being designed to discuss with communities how they wish to register and use indigenous knowledge starting in May 2023.
2.2 Bird, mammal and amphibian species monitored in forest of private nature reserves and forest fragments in cooperatives			Monitoring will be initiated in May 2023 to July, then repeated Jan-March 2024.
2.3 Bird, mammal and amphibian species monitored in reforestation and agroforestry areas that are potential biological corridors			Programmed for 2024/25
2.4 Participatory workshop to recognise the interconnected dynamics of cultural and natural heritage related to biodiversity within a joint monitoring protocol.			Programmed for late 2023
2.5 Workshop to co-develop a plan for landscape biodiversity conservation between private nature reserves, Indigenous cooperatives and local authorities.			Programmed 2025
Output 3. Forest restoration and agroforestry to mitigate climate change and generate income	<p>3.1 200 ha of forest restoration and 100 ha agroforestry established providing employment to 3200 people, including 500 youth by 2024</p> <p>3.2 Inventory plots established and monitored of forest restoration and agroforestry for estimation carbon sequestration by 2024</p> <p>3.3 10 cooperatives registered to receive reforestation and forest conservation payments for their 9000 associates by 2025.</p>	<p>3.1 GPS monitoring of reforestation and agroforestry areas and integration into land-cover maps</p> <p>Base-line land cover maps have been generated - see annex.</p>	
3.1 Planting of 200 ha of reforestation and 60 ha of cardamon agroforestry across 10 cooperatives		Planting material being propagated in FEDECOVERA nursery for 42 ha in 2023	Planting planned for mid 2023, remainder in 2024
3.2 Planting of 40 ha of coffee agroforestry by youth cooperative.		Planting material being propagated in FEDECOVERA nursery for 28 ha in 2023	Planting planned for mid 2023, remainder in 2024

3.3 Training in use of tool for estimation of carbon stocks in reforestation and agroforestry and establishment of monitoring plots			Training planned for May 2023
3.4 Measurement of carbon stocks in reforestation and agroforestry and estimation of carbon sequestration.			Annual measurements planned for 2023 and 2024
3.5 Elaboration of management plans for forest conservation, reforestation, agroforestry and forest remnants for application for forestry incentives from PROBOSQUES			Planned for 2024
3.6 Mapping of forest remnants and reforestation to estimate effects on connectivity		Base line forest cover map developed	Areas of degraded or secondary forest need identification on cooperatives
Output 4. Carbon footprint of coffee and cardamom production assessed and reduced	4.1 Installation of energy efficient cardamom driers in 2 coops by 2024 4.2 Installation of ecological coffee mill and driers by 2024 4.3 Carbon footprint assessed by 2024 4.4 Strategy for carbon neutrality developed by 2025.	3.1 Contracts for purchase and installation of driers provided in additional supporting materials	
4.1 Purchase and installation of cardamon drying plants in 2 cooperatives		Dryers purchased, installation in progress	Installation to be completed by May 23
4.2 Purchase and installation of ecological coffee mill		Mill purchased and installation in progress	Installation to be completed by May 23
4.3 Training of cooperatives in management and use of processing plants.			Training planned for mid-late 2023 – at start of new harvest
4.4 Training in use of tool for estimation of carbon footprint in production and processing of coffee and cardamom for FEDECOVERA		C-footprint tool identified and being validated for use	First training in use planned for May 2023
4.5 Assessment of carbon footprint presented to and discussed with FEDECOVERA			Data collection will proceed after training with results reviewed in late 2023 early 2024.
4.6 Options identified for the reduction in the carbon footprint of coffee and cardamom of FEDECOVERA			For 2024/25
Output 5. Capacity developed for inclusive and sustainable livelihood options	5.1 350 women with at least 10% of their income from biocultural restoration activities by 2025	To be determined from baseline	

	<p>5.2 Eco-tourism established in at least one additional private nature reserve by 2024</p> <p>5.3 Visitor numbers to private nature reserves increase by 30% by 2025 compared to 2022.</p>	The two existing eco-tourism venues in the project zone reported zero visitors in 2022, this is the baseline condition.	
5.1 Baseline and end of project survey of contribution of sustainable activities to Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods		Base line data collected from approx. 305 respondents in April 2023	Base line will be reported with half-yearly report in Oct 23
5.2 Training and capacity building among women in production and sale of biocultural products			Planned for mid 2023
5.3 Establishment of production areas by women for biocultural products e.g. medicinal plants.			Planned for late 2023/2024
5.4 Establishment of production preparation and sales areas by women for biocultural products			Planned for 2024/25
5.5 Diagnostic of tourism potential and plan for eco and ethnic tourism among private nature reserves in Sierra Yalijux			Planned for late 2023
5.6 Training of private nature reserve members in development of eco-tourism offer (trail development, attention to tourists, estimating costs and charges etc)			Planned for 2024
5.7 Strategy for promotion of Sierra Yalijux reserves as part of touristic offer of the Cloud Forest Biological Corridor Association implemented through website offer, leaflets and signage.			Planned for 2024/25

Annex 2: Project’s full current logframe with agreed changes (as of 13,12,22)

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: Indigenous people’s managing their biocultural landscape generating sustainable equitable livelihoods, increased populations of endemic biodiversity from a landscape resilient to climate change (Max 30 words)</p>			
<p>Outcome: (Max 30 words) Sierra Yalijux biocultural landscape providing equitable and improved livelihoods, greater connectivity for biodiversity, and mitigating climate change</p>	<p>0.1 Income from sustainable livelihood activities for 4500 families increases (20%) by 2025 against baseline, equitable across ethnicity, generations and gender 0.2 Proportion of land rated with high forest connectivity or better increased by 25% by 2025 compared to 2020. 0.3 Carbon footprint of coffee and cardamon production and export reduced by 20% compared to 2020 baseline by end of project. 0.4 Proportion of cooperative members who know traditional methods to derive value from biodiversity including the traditional language, songs, dances, stories and ceremonies associated with these practices increased by 20% compared to 2020 baseline by end of project.</p>	<p>0.1 Household survey of 5% of cooperative members on income sources from sustainable livelihood activities 0.2 Analysis of future forest connectivity incorporating reforested areas into base-line forest cover. 0.3 Carbon footprint scenario analysis incorporating fuel efficient driers, ecological coffee mill and carbon capture from agroforestry 0.4 Household survey of 5% of cooperative members on the use and transmission of methods, knowledge, language, ceremonies, dances, prayers, oral histories, stories and songs related to traditional knowledge of biodiversity, as well as in relevant cultural/ceremonial practices</p>	<p>International markets for coffee and spices do not experience extreme fluctuation in price or demand No or mild impact of extreme climate events such as hurricanes or drought Reasonable political stability and functioning government</p>
<p>Outputs: 1. Sustainable landscape management plan co-developed between Indigenous coops, private landowners, and local authorities</p>	<p>1.1 Private nature reserve owners and Indigenous coops identify priority concerns and activities for nature (2023) 1.2 Management plans for 3 private nature reserves updated by 2024</p>	<p>1.1 Recordings and minutes of meetings within and between cooperatives and private landowners and local authorities. 1.2. Updated management plan documents for 3 nature reserves 1.3. Submission documents for nature reserve to CONAP</p>	<p>Members of Indigenous and ladino communities are willing to meet and discuss areas of common interest. CONAP continue to register new reserves and review documents</p>

	<p>1.3 Submission to CONAP of technical study for new Indigenous private nature reserve by 2024</p> <p>1.4 Node established for co-management of landscape between private nature reserves, cooperatives and communities of Sierra Yalijux by 2025</p>	<p>1.4 Minutes of meetings between stakeholders in co-management of Sierra Yalijux</p>	
<p>2. Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge, values and heritage about nature are registered in a community biocultural protocol complemented by monitoring of key biodiversity in the landscape</p>	<p>2.1 Community biocultural protocol developed by Indigenous communities registering traditional knowledge and identifying priority activities for nature by 2023</p> <p>2.2 Register of bird, mammal and amphibian species on nature reserves and selected cooperatives by 2023</p> <p>2.3 Integrated sociocultural and biological registers of biodiversity and nature by 2024</p> <p>2.4 Proportion of oak-pine and montane forest restricted range species utilizing agroforestry and reforestation determined by 2024.</p>	<p>2.1 Community protocols setting out Indigenous Peoples' customary values, rights and rules about biocultural heritage recognising the experience and holistic worldviews of Indigenous Peoples</p> <p>2.2 Report and photo records of birds, mammals and amphibians on private nature reserves and their sociocultural significance</p> <p>2.3 Work flows for data collection and inventory integrating biodiversity surveys, geographical information systems, historical research and participant observation</p> <p>2.4 Report on use of existing agroforestry and reforestation areas by restricted range species.</p>	<p>Members of Indigenous communities are capable and willing to engage and lead a process of development of biocultural protocols, which set the terms under which they share their traditional knowledge</p> <p>Climate extremes or security don't impede biodiversity monitoring</p> <p>There are no land nor governance conflicts in the territory that impede participation of stakeholders</p>
<p>3. Forest restoration and agroforestry to mitigate climate change and generate income</p>	<p>3.1 200 ha of forest restoration and 100 ha agroforestry established providing employment to 3200 people, including 500 youth by 2024</p> <p>3.2 Inventory plots established and monitored of forest restoration and agroforestry for estimation carbon sequestration by 2024</p> <p>3.3 10 cooperatives registered to receive reforestation and forest</p>	<p>3.1 GPS monitoring of reforestation and agroforestry areas and integration into land-cover maps</p> <p>3.2 Coop records of employment in reforestation and agroforestry plantations.</p> <p>3.3 GPS locations and database of estimated carbon stocks.</p> <p>3.4 Submission of management plans to PROBOSQUES/INAB for reforestation payments</p>	<p>Cooperative members remain willing to dedicate land to reforestation and agroforestry systems</p> <p>Guatemalan government assigns sufficient budget for the payment of reforestation incentives.</p>

	conservation payments for their 9000 associates by 2025.		
4. Carbon footprint of coffee and cardamom production assessed and reduced	4.1 Installation of energy efficient cardamom driers in 2 coops by 2024 4.2 Installation of ecological coffee mill and driers by 2024 4.3 Carbon footprint assessed by 2024 4.4 Strategy for carbon neutrality developed by 2025.	3.1 Contract for purchase and installation of driers 3.2 Monitoring of firewood use at drying plants. 3.3 Report from carbon foot-print study 3.4 Strategy document for carbon neutrality	Acceptance and good maintenance of energy efficient driers Markets demand for coffee and spices maintained without extreme variations. EU import requirements to demonstrate carbon foot printing and market demand for carbon neutral products maintained
5. Capacity developed for inclusive and sustainable livelihood options	5.1 350 women with at least 10% of their income from biocultural restoration activities by 2025 5.2 Eco-tourism established in at least one additional private nature reserve by 2024 5.3 Visitor numbers to private nature reserves increase by 30% by 2025 compared to 2022.	5.1 Survey of contribution of biocultural restoration strategies on women's livelihoods 5.2 Report detailing additional eco-tourism services offered by private nature reserves. 5.3 Records of visitor numbers to Sierra Yalijux reserves	Youth maintain interest in rural employment Existing commitments allow women to participate in biocultural restoration activities Personal security concerns don't affect tourists, and no disease related travel restrictions

Activities

- 1.1 Stakeholder meetings between local and national decision makers including National Protected Areas Council (CONAP), Institute for Forests (INAB), Private Nature Reserves association (ARNPG), municipalities, and FEDECOVERA
- 1.2 Workshop and field visits between cooperatives and private nature reserves in Sierra Yalijux to agree priority areas for reforestation.
- 1.3 Elaboration and updating of management plans for 3 private nature reserves.
- 1.4 Diagnostic field study, technical report written and submitted to CONAP for a new private nature reserve for FEDECOVERA
- 1.5 Workshops between local stakeholders for development of a "node" between private nature reserves, cooperatives and municipalities for maintenance of a biological corridor along the Sierra Yalijux.
- 2.1 Indigenous men, women and youth from 10 coops develop community biocultural protocols, under which they register traditional knowledge, cosmovision of nature, identify and map the distribution of culturally significant plants and animals and identify priority activities for cultural and natural heritage conservation.
- 2.2 Bird, mammal and amphibian species monitored in forest of private nature reserves and forest fragments in cooperatives
- 2.3 Bird, mammal and amphibian species monitored in reforestation and agroforestry areas that are potential biological corridors
- 2.4 Participatory workshop to recognise the interconnected dynamics of cultural and natural heritage related to biodiversity within a joint monitoring protocol.
- 2.5 Workshop to co-develop a plan for landscape biodiversity conservation between private nature reserves, Indigenous cooperatives and local authorities.
- 3.1 Planting of 200 ha of reforestation and 60 ha of cardamon agroforestry across 10 cooperatives
- 3.2 Planting of 40 ha of coffee agroforestry by youth cooperative.

- 3.3 Training in use of tool for estimation of carbon stocks in reforestation and agroforestry and establishment of monitoring plots.
- 3.4 Measurement of carbon stocks in reforestation and agroforestry and estimation of carbon sequestration.
- 3.5 Elaboration of management plans for forest conservation, reforestation, agroforestry and forest remnants for application for forestry incentives from PROBOSQUES
- 3.6 Mapping of forest remnants and reforestation to estimate effects on connectivity
- 4.1 Purchase and installation of cardamon drying plants in 2 cooperatives
- 4.2 Purchase and installation of ecological coffee mill and solar dryers.
- 4.3 Training of cooperatives in management and use of processing plants.
- 4.4 Training in use of tool for estimation of carbon footprint in production and processing of coffee and cardamom for FEDECOVERA.
- 4.5 Assessment of carbon footprint presented to and discussed with FEDECOVERA
- 4.6 Options identified for the reduction in the carbon footprint of coffee and cardamom of FEDECOVERA
- 5.1 Baseline and end of project survey of contribution of sustainable activities to Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods
- 5.2 Training and capacity building among women in production and sale of biocultural products, identified in 2.1.
- 5.3 Establishment of production areas by women for biocultural products e.g. medicinal plants.
- 5.4 Establishment of production preparation and sales areas by women for biocultural products.
- 5.5 Diagnostic of tourism potential and plan for eco and ethnic tourism among private nature reserves in Sierra Yalijux
- 5.6 Training of private nature reserve members in development of eco-tourism offer (trail development, attention to tourists, estimating costs and charges etc)
- 5.7 Strategy for promotion of Sierra Yalijux reserves as part of touristic offer of the Cloud Forest Biological Corridor Association implemented through website offer, leaflets and signage.

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
DI-A04	No previous capacity indicator	Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.	People	Technical staff Men Women Indigenous Men Women					No specific target in terms of numbers
DI-B01	1.2 Management plans for 3 private nature reserves updated by 2024 1.3 Submission to CONAP of technical study for new Indigenous private nature reserve by 2024	Number of new/improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	Plans	Private Nature Reserves					4
DI-B10	5.1 350 women with at least 10% of their income from biocultural restoration activities by 2025	Number of individuals / households reporting an adoption of livelihood improvement practices as a result of project activities.	Number	Women Biocultural activities					350
DI-B06	2.1 Community biocultural protocol developed by Indigenous communities registering traditional knowledge and identifying priority activities for nature by 2023	Number of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (people) with strengthened (recognised/clarified) rights over traditional knowledge	Number	Men Women Youth Communities					10
DI-C17	Articles published by members of the project team	E.g. Number of unique papers published in peer reviewed journals	Number	None					2
DI-D01	0.2 Proportion of land rated with high forest connectivity or better	Change in hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices	Number	Private Nature Reserves					200

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
	increased by 25% by 2025 compared to 2020.			Community forest Reforestation					100 200
DI-D06	0.3 Carbon footprint of coffee and cardamon production and export reduced by 20% compared to 2020 baseline by end of project.	Net change in greenhouse gas emissions – tonnes of GHG emissions reduced or avoided as a result of the project [ICF KPI 6 24]	Tonnes CO2 equivalent						20% reduction
DI-D10	3.1 200 ha of forest restoration and 100 ha agroforestry established providing employment to 3200 people, including 500 youth by 2024	Area of improved sustainable agriculture practices benefitting people to be more resilient to weather shocks and climate trends	Hectares	Reforestation Agroforestry					200 100
DI-D11	3.1 200 ha of forest restoration and 100 ha agroforestry established providing employment to 3200 people, including 500 youth by 2024	Number of people benefitting from improved sustainable agriculture practices and are more resilient to weather shocks and climate trends	People	Adults Youth					3200 500
DI-D16	0.1 Income from sustainable livelihood activities for 4500 families increases (20%) by 2025 against baseline, equitable across ethnicity, generations and gender	Number of households reporting improved livelihoods	People	Men Women Youth					

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?	Yes
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	No
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.	No
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Yes
Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	No
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 16)?	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.	