Darwin Initiative Capability & Capacity Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note": (https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources/information-notes/).

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

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2024

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

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	*DARCC029*
Project title	Strengthening capacities for biodiversity management in Thailand's community forests
Country/ies	Thailand
Lead Partner	RECOFTC
Project partner(s)	The Zoological Society London (ZSL)
Darwin Initiative grant value	199,237 GBP
Start/end dates of project	1 April 2023 – 31 March 2025
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2023 – Mar 2024) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	Annual Report 1 (1April 2023 – 31 March 2024)
Project Leader name	Warangkana [redacted]
Project website/blog/social media	Project page on RECOFTC website: https://www.recoftc.org/projects/biodiversity-management-capacities/about/about-biodiversity-management-capacities RECOFTC Thailand Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/recoftcinThailand/ Citizens' Forest database: https://thaicfnet.org/
Report author(s) and date	Warangkana [redacted], first submission 30th April 2024 and second submission on 15th May 2024.

1. Project summary

Thailand is one of the most biodiverse countries in Southeast Asia, containing over 15,000 plant and 4,722 vertebrate species. Many of these species are threatened and classified as globally endangered due to various anthropogenic pressures, including urbanization, infrastructure development and agricultural expansion. Roughly 23% of the country's forests are designated as protected areas (PAs), which provide critical habitat for threatened flora and fauna. However, to be effective for conservation purposes, PAs need to be sufficiently large and connected in order to allow genetic viability of important wide-ranging species. Community forests (CFs) in Thailand, with approximately 11,000 formally registered, cover an area of 960,000 ha or about 6% of total forest cover. CFs are often located near PAs and can play an important role in habitat connectivity. CFs are important to biodiversity conservation outside of PAs. In addition to offering

potential to increase connectivity between PAs, engaging and building capacities of CF groups can lead to meaningful improvements in livelihoods and inclusion of some of the most marginalized groups nationally.

To address the aforementioned situation, the project aims to build capacity of 30 CFs in 10 provinces to conserve and utilise biodiversity as embedded in CF management plans with potential for scaling up. This project seeks to address the need for biodiversity conservation outside of protected areas (PAs), as well as the need for improved livelihoods of rural poor communities by building capacities for, and incentivizing, biodiversity conservation. The project will ensure that at least 40% of participants are women and that key roles, such as biodiversity monitors, prioritize women and ethnic minorities. The capacities built through this project will allow increased appreciation and understanding of the role of biodiversity and its monitoring as well as the direct and indirect benefits that it may provide to local communities. In the short-term, biodiversity components will be integrated into CF management plans and planning processes will be robust and participatory building upon a systematic understanding of forest and biodiversity resources within the CF.

For project locations and map, please find in the Annex 5. The total number of CFs continued in the process of capacity development has dropped from 30 CFs to 28 CFs. This is because the two CFs have limited staff to be working for the assigned tasks after the training, so they decided to discontinue. Hence, the remaining number of the CFs in this report is 28 CFs.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The project has a formal partnership with ZSL, which is a co-applicant and co-implementer of the project together with RECOFTC. Since the project designing until implementation stages, RECOFTC and ZSL have had extensive discussions to plan and implement the project. Bi-monthly meeting to update and discuss the project implementation has been conducted as plan. With the key expertise of ZSL on wildlife, the organization has been leading on training design and delivering on session relating to wildlife survey and concepts for fauna related issues. It is an ideal combination whereas RECOFTC, which is more specialized on community engagement and forestry resources. This partnership fulfils the gap of community forest information that generally emphasizes more on plant or flora more than animal or fauna aspect. Key achievements that have achieved so far include developing of a training module on biodiversity survey and management of community forest for 28 community forests, resulting in ability to collect and record more comprehensive biodiversity data by the trained participants, who are CF leaders from 28 CFs.

Aside from this formal partnership, the project has closely worked with 28 community forest groups in 10 provinces. Through 3 series of training provided by the project and coaching to ensure that the participants or so called ‘CF Masters’, who are leaders of these CFs, are able to apply the skills and knowledge. These resulted to the CFGs are able to have data collected and recognized about their CF and biodiversity situation, which will be used in community forest management planning.

The project also has engaged Kasetsart University, Faculty of Forestry (KUFF) to provide technical support in designing CFMP training and data collection tools. And to make sure that the project result can contribute to the policy and recognized by key government officials, the project has engaged with Royal Forest Department (RFD), whose mandate is to provide guidance and lead on community forest promotion and management.

For the engagement with national CSOs, the project has been in partnership with WWF and IUCN to promote Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECM) and develop Thailand’s OECM definition and scope of work.

Lastly, the project has been coordinating a CSO led community forest network so called Citizen Forest Network or CF NET together with other local CSOs e.g. Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF) Nort, Ratchaburi Conservation Foundation (RCF). These local CSOs are partners of the CF NET and have been performing as field coordinator to reach out to CFs in different regions and to provide back-stop or guidance to CFs in community forest management planning.

For the past 1 year as the project has mainly focused on capacity building for local communities, engaging with field work, the project has not yet had any engagement with British embassy nor relating UK based official. However, in the second year of the project, the project aims to reach out to both national key policy makers and British embassy to witness the CF Master completion ceremony and to observe a community forest that has been working with the project on biodiversity survey.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1: Capabilities built for improved policies and systems

Activities carried out: 1.1 Review and gap assessment of biodiversity elements within community forestry policies, regulations and procedures

50% in progress: One-day consultation meeting with relevant governmental units, CSOs and experts in biodiversity and community forest was conducted on 23 June 2023 with 23 participants attended. The key participants are from ZSL, Royal Forest Department (RFD), Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant conservation (DNP), Office of Natural Resources and Environment Policy and Planning (ONEP), IUCN Thailand, Global Youth Biodiversity Network, WWF and other CSOs. The meeting could seek comments and suggestions from the participants on key issues and views regarding biodiversity situation in community forest context and key recommendations for strengthening the biodiversity issues in community forestry. The results of the meeting are used for identifying gaps and actions, including for areas to improve the biodiversity element in community forest management. Another round of expert meeting will be organized in June 2024 to share the gap identified with proposed recommendations.

See the annex no. 6 for a report and list of attendance of the event.

Activity carried out: 1.2 Conduct capacity building of CF-Net leaders and CF National Policy Committee and CF National Policy Committee nationally on best practices and opportunities around biodiversity conservation through 1 national level workshop

Completed: A CF-Net national workshop was conducted for two days on 14-15 September 2023 to reflect on and exchange experiences on current development of community forest in Thailand, the implementation of laws and policies related to forests and biodiversity resources, including community rights, and to jointly develop recommendations to propose to the relevant government agencies.

There was a total of 57 participants from Government agencies, CSOs, media, academia actively engaged in the workshop. The workshop could collect different views and suggestions for improving forest governance and biodiversity conservation. There were issues raised in the discussion such as 1) there is a need to have an active coordination mechanism among CF members to drive and monitor the related policy; 2) there is a need to enhance capacity of community forests to develop the database of CF; and 3) a need to establish demonstration site to address the issues such as Community Forests Fund and engaged women and youth to the management level.

The event was broadcasted by Thai PBS, which is a television and online broadcasting channel that presented the round table discussion live. Moreover, after the event, CF network sent out the proposal to related government agencies to raise their voices.

See the annex no. 7 for a report and list of attendance of the event.

Activity carried out: 1.3 Develop a guideline or framework on biodiversity conservation to CF management plan development proposed to the CF National Policy Committee

50% in progress: A guideline or framework has been drafted and still being tested. In addition, it has not yet presented to CF National Policy Committee due to waiting for the official announcement of the new CF National Policy Committee, which was recently appointed. The

guideline will compose of three main sections – first will be a guideline on how to collect and assess socio-economic data to know the community situation and demand of CF resources, and second focuses biodiversity resources survey or supply of CFs and its situation, and third is on how to develop community forest management plan. The template for strengthening biodiversity management is being developed as a part of annex to the RFD's main community forest management plan template and will be included in this guideline framework.

Activity carried out: 1.4 Organise policy dialogue between the CF NET leaders and the CF National Policy Committee and related line agencies (Royal Forest Department) to propose national guidelines on biodiversity conservation for CF management

15% in progress: This action is still in a preparation stage. It is due to the term of the previous CF National Policy Committee was ending and the appointment process had occurred during this reporting period. It is expected that the new CF National Policy Committee will be official on board in a few months. However, linking with the activity 1.1, it is expected that as a result of the second round of expert meeting in June 2024, the proposed recommendations and guideline for improving biodiversity conservation for CF management will be delivered as plan.

Activity carried out: 1.5 Improve www.thaicfnet.org to create functions for incorporating biodiversity data and its reporting system

15% in progress: During the Year 1 phase, the project had done a review and consultation with the web developer to identify area of improvement and to design the new functions for incorporating biodiversity data, including its reporting system. Hence, the project could have a ToR of web designing and outline of the reporting system. The project could also complete a procurement for hiring the web developer, including a consultant for developing biodiversity reporting system.

Output 2: Community-level capacities for biodiversity assessment, monitoring and reporting

Activity carried out: 2.1 Initial rapid community assessment (including landscape mapping, biodiversity related capacity needs assessment, socioeconomic profile and documentation of existing CF fund structure and management practices) and community consultation (Day 1) and combined general biodiversity training for approx. 15 community members in each of 28 CFs (Day 2).

70% in progress: The workshop was conducted on 7-9 July 2023. There were 56 participants (14 female and 42 male) from 30 community forests from 10 provinces. The project set up a title of this workshop and upcoming training processes as "CF Master" to give importance to the role of the participants, who have to join in several activities and deliver the field data collection throughout the project. This first workshop could generate understanding with the participants on importance of having data collection. They also learnt and practice using different survey tools for collecting capacity development needs assessment, socio-economic information of their communities relating to CF and the usage of CF resources.

The community assessment collected by the trained CF master includes 1) Socio-economics data and the awareness towards CF such as climate changes, gender and social inclusion in CF; 2) Capacity development needs assessment (CDNA). The CDNA summary was completed, however a profile of each CF on their socio-economic data is yet to be finalized, so it can be used by each community for back up their community forest management.
See the annex no. 8 for CDNA executive summary

Activity carried out: 2.2 Develop simplified approaches and training materials for biodiversity survey methods at community forest level for incorporation within CF management plans (28 CFs in 10 provinces) by end of Y1.

50% in progress : RECOFTC and ZSL has developed a simplified method and training materials for biodiversity survey in community forests. The materials and tools were used and link to activity 2.1 and 2.3. The trained participants will be used these tools to collect data and information after finished each series of CF Master learning process, which currently has completed 2 out of 3 series. The participants submit the data information both offline and online, so they will be familiar with online technology. Those data and information will be used in the community forest management plan (CFMP) training.

After the workshop was delivered, the project will develop a guideline linked with Activity 1.3.

Activity carried out: 2.3 Community biodiversity monitors trained in biodiversity survey methods (1 training) (ca. 56 CF members, 40% women) in Y1 and Y2, and apply biodiversity survey outputs directly into CF management plan

Completed for Y1: The community biodiversity survey training is a second training of CF Master learning series. The 2.5-day training was successfully held during 25-27 August 2023 in Kanchanaburi Province, where 53 participants (12 female and 41 male) from 28 community forests in 10 provinces attended the workshop. The participants learned to conduct the biodiversity survey and forest data collection, which will be inputs for developing CFMPs.

The third workshop of CF Master learning series is a community forest management planning, which is planned to organize in 5 regions of Thailand. The first region is Northeastern, where a 3-day workshop conducted during 25-27 March 2024 at Sakon Nakorn Province. There were 50 participants (13 female and 37 male) from 6 community forests in Sakon Nakorn Province and Surin Province attended the workshop. The participants learned to digest and apply the data and information from the data collection process in the training and used the materials and tools from activity 2.2 to develop CFMPs. Besides, participants also learned other community participatory tools to develop CF's goal in the periods of 5 years plan.

After the training, the participants or CF Masters will conduct CFMPs at their community forests, then they can submit the CFMPs for seeking approval from their respective Provincial Community Forest Committees. This learning process is an important element for strengthening biodiversity elements in the CFMPs and ensure that the participants have gained knowledge and skills based on their own actions.

Note ; The first training of CF Master learning series is the rapid assessment workshop. (activity 2.1)

See the Annex no.9 for participants attendee list

Output 3 Capacities built for improving livelihoods through sustainable biodiversity use

Activity carried out: 3.1 Collate and assess collected biodiversity data from target CFs and conduct scoping of potential enterprise pathways

Completed: The consultant was hired to conduct the research, which aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the community forest product supply chain, to identify areas for improvement, and to develop actionable strategies to enhance the business performance and market access of community enterprises. The research adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining secondary data analysis, community surveys, in-depth interviews, and workshop.

Consultants conducted an online survey targeted 28 CFs to assess the potential of CF products, in which 149 people from 24 CFs participated in this survey. The finding is that there are 6 groups of commonly found CF products namely; mushroom, fruits and vegetables, wood, herbs, products from animal and processed products. After the survey a workshop for SWOT analysis was conducted with 15 participants (2 female and 13 male) attended the meeting. The 4 final products were chosen, which are mushroom, herb, animal products and fruits and vegetable. The next step is an in-depth interview with buyers (businesses), in which 16 local businesses related to NTFPs were interviewed. Key findings are 1) Most non-forest timber products (NTFPs) are seasonal products, some of which are rare. So, it needs good marketing to address their products 'story; 2) Many NTFPs are sold to intermediaries without giving recognition about the product sources that are from CF. There is no value addition to these NTFPs; 3) CF products have to develop their new proposition to enhance their value and market access.

See the Annex no 10 for a report on community forest product supply chain

Activity carried out: 3.2 Conduct business plan development workshops for at least 3-5 CFs to draft business plans related to biodiversity and scoping exercise in 3.1

70% in progress: There is a finding from study that there are 4 potential businesses, which are mushroom, herb, animal products, fruits and vegetables. The reasons that they are potential is because 3 reasons 1) these products are commonly found in most CFs; 2) there is existing producers and logistics or connections with buyers established; and 3) it is valuable and fair price. Through the Designing Thinking process, the participants could do further analysis on how to develop business plan for those 4 products. The Design thinking workshop was conducted on 21-22 February 2024, in which 27 participants attended the workshop (12 female 15 male). The business plans have been drafted but need to consult with communities for their further comments.

Activity carried out: 3.3 Facilitate meetings between potential private sector and CFs for at least 3 business plans to identify opportunities for investment and cooperation

15% in progress: This activity is still in the preparation stage. The meeting will be conducted in October 2024.

Output 4 Knowledge management and learning exchange

Activity carried out: 4.1 Document learning process and experiences on biodiversity conservation from 20 target CFs

50% in progress: In addition to notes from the CF Master capacity development workshops, the project has been documenting the CF Masters' learning process and field experience since their first activity by contracting a photographer/videographer to capture photos and footage, as well taking the photos ourselves. With the goal of integrating biodiversity management into community forest management plans, the CF Masters have been learning about biodiversity management tools and process through our action-oriented workshops (such as biodiversity assessment, data collection and analysis, community forest management planning) and conducting these activities in their communities. In combination with written primary data on the CF Masters' development and positive changes, the raw footage and photos will be used to produce video, infographics and stories on the RECOFTC website.

Activity carried out: 4.2 Develop communication products based on 4.1 and dissemination plan for reaching wider CFs in Thailand

15% in progress: The project aims to develop two visual-based communication products with the objectives of documenting and sharing the impacts from the CF Master capacity development workshops: the project video and infographics. We also plan to publish three stories to share insights gained from the project's key activities after their completion. Production for all these will start in year two.

For the video, the project team has been collecting photos and footage as explained in the previous section and discussed the content of the video. The key messages of the video are that community members should play a key role in managing their forests' biological resources and biodiversity management should be incorporated into community forest management plans for environmental and socio-economic benefits of the communities and the society. Regarding infographics, the project will produce 2-3 pieces to show the overview of biodiversity management-related activities. The stories of insights will be in Thai for three potential topics: biodiversity management capacity development for community members, biodiversity-based business for economic development and policy recommendations for integrating biodiversity management into community forest management. As for dissemination, the communication products will be available to the public on the RECOFTC website and RECOFTC Thailand Facebook. At the policy dialogue/cross-learning event, we will show the video while infographic printing is subject to budget availability.

Activity carried out: 4.3 Conduct (1) national level knowledge exchange event for CFs in Thailand to learn from best practices in the target CFs

15% in progress: The activity is expected to be conducted by October 2024.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Capabilities built for improved policies and systems

Baseline conditions: Based on capacity development need assessment (CDNA) conducted by the project in September 2023 by using a score rating scale 1-5 whereas 1 is the lowest and 5 is the highest, 245 respondents, who are members of 30 CFs viewed that their overall knowledge of community forestry is at 3.08 score and the area that they need to build their capacity the most is to learn on how to develop participatory community forest management plan, which as 3.40 score. Their knowledge and ability to manage biodiversity is relatively low at 2.28 score, whereas the key support needed to build capacity in biodiversity is on how to use biodiversity resources available in community forests to be useful in community forest management and utilization with 3.86 score.

Output indicator 1.1: A gap assessment of existing policies and systems for incorporating biodiversity in community forestry and its management plan report produced by end of Y1

50% in progress : Gap assessment conducted through a consultation workshop with key experts as presented in the activity 1.1 and review of CFMP templated was carried out.

Output indicator 1.2: A CF-Net national workshop conducted by end of Y1
Completed: CF-Net national workshop was conducted as the detail in Activity 1.2, and its results were recorded and submitted to RFD.

Output indicator 1.3: A guideline or framework for biodiversity conservation to CF management plan template proposed to the CF Policy Committee by end of Y1
50% in progress: As mentioned in activity 1.3, the guideline will be composed of 3 sections following the 3 trainings outline conducted. With this, the outline of the guideline was drafted and tested through the training conducted. The guideline aims to be completed and presented to CF Policy Committee by September 2024.

Output 2: Community-level capacities for biodiversity assessment, monitoring, and reporting

Baseline conditions: Based on a baseline survey conducted in September 2023, the level that the communities identified their level of understanding about biodiversity in general is at 2.75 score (full score is 5), ability to explain or present about biodiversity resources in their community forests is at 2.79, their ability to survey and monitor biodiversity is at 2.57, and their ability to develop biodiversity management plan for their community forest is at 1.89 score.

Indicator 2.1: Rapid assessment community profiles developed for each of 30 communities including key CF assets, landscape mapping, socioeconomic overview and (financial) capacity needs assessment by end of Y1
70% in progress: CDNA conducted with 245 members of 28 CFs was completed. For the rapid assessment, the overall information was completed, but a profile for each CF is yet to be finalized. It is expected to be completed by July 2024.

Indicator 2.2: A simplified training manual produced in Thai and English for community-based biodiversity assessment by end of Y2
50% in progress: The training manual in Thai for community-based biodiversity assessment was drafted and used for delivering a training on biodiversity survey. The training outline includes:
Topic 1: Introduction of needed data and information and its importance for CFMP.
Topic 2: The importance of biodiversity in Community Forests.
Topic 3: The guidance to conduct biodiversity inventory.
Topic 4: Fieldwork practices; Station 1) Plants data collection method 2) Wildlife data collection method.

Topic 5: Design workplan for biodiversity inventory in pilot CFs.

Indicator 2.3: 60 CF members (40% women / 60% men) are trained on community biodiversity monitoring by end of Y2
Completed for Year 1 - The first training on biodiversity survey was completed in year 1, whereas a community biodiversity monitoring will be conducted in year 2.

Indicator 2.4: 30 CF management plans incorporate biodiversity monitoring and management by end of Y2
35% in progress - CFMPs are being developed once the Third training on community forest managements planning is conducted in 5 regions. By this reporting period, the training was completed for the Northeastern region for 6 CFs only. It is expected that all CFMPs will be completed by September 2024.

Key outline of the CFMP include:

Part 1: Community information (including map) location, history, outside and inside group/organization, lists of CF committee and agreements and punishment, threats.
Part 2: Community forests information (including maps and key species zone or spot) including number of areas, territory, key spot such as pond or dam, type of forests, the lists of natural resources in specific zone (utilization zone and conservation zone), lists of Non-Timber Forests Product, and lists of valuable trees.
Part 3: SWOT analysis based on part 1 and 2, and lists of activities based on goal and SWOT analysis.
Part 4: Action plan for 5 years

Indicator 2.5: Key biodiversity information for each (30) CF uploaded to www.thaicfnet.org by end of Y2
15 % in progress: The function of biodiversity information is still being developed at this reporting period. It is expected that the biodiversity information of 28 CFs will be able to upload and in use by December 2027.

Output 3 Capacities built for improving livelihoods through sustainable biodiversity use

Baseline conditions: Based on the rapid assessment conducted by the CF Masters together with RECOFTC in September 2023, it found that 30 % of the CFs have developed their CF enterprises. It found that people whose land tenure insecurity have used CFs for their livelihood at 3.14 score from 5, people who are poor, have used the CF for 3.44 score, and women have used the CFs for 3.42 score. Most CFs (72%) do not have community forest funds.

Indicator 3.1: A report collating biodiversity data with view to identifying investment and enterprise opportunities by end of Y1

Completed: A report to identify CF products and enterprise opportunities was completed. The methodology to collect the identifying investment includes survey CF on available of NTFPs, in-depth interviews with business, workshop to identify SWOT of CF products.

Indicator: 3.2 Business plans developed for at least 3-5 CFs by end of Y2.

70% in progress: Based on activity 3.1, 4 potential products were identified, including the supply chain of these products were reviewed. The draft business plans were drafted and will need a further discussion with the CFs to finalize the plans.

Indicator 3.3: Meetings organized between private sector and CFs for at least 3 business plans by end of Y2

15% in progress: This activity will be delivered in Year 2.

Output 4 Knowledge management and learning exchange

Baseline conditions: The main tool for knowledge management for RECOFTC is through producing a publication (or e-publication), including visual document. Apart from the CF Master LINE group, RECOFTC Thailand's main communication channels are RECOFTC Thailand Facebook (over 4,900 followers from community forests, CSOs, governmental organizations and others) and the Citizens' Forest Network LINE group (over 250 members from community forests with a few members from CSOs). There also is a function Facebook Live for promote learning exchange.

Indicator 4.1: At least 100 CFs in Thailand receive and disseminate biodiversity related messaging across their networks/groups by end of Y2
15 % in progress: As reported in the activity progress, most of the work relating to the Output 4 in the first year is mainly on the documentation and collection of footage. The production and dissemination of the messages and products will be done in year 2. In the second year, we plan to conduct a survey to identify which community forest our followers/members come from, their levels of engagement and potentially their interest and/or awareness of biodiversity management.

Apart from communicating through those channels, the online Citizens' Forest database thaicfnet.org has community-managed forest data input by over 600 communities as of April 2024. We may be able to reach out to those communities using their contact information to disseminate our knowledge products.

Indicator 4.2: At least 2 communication products developed and disseminated by end of Y2
15% in progress: As discussed previously, the video and infographics will be developed in the second year as our key products to grab the attention of, give an overview of community-based biodiversity management activities and inspire community forests apart from the 28 participating ones. The Community Forest Management Planning manual with complete details will serve as a guide for other communities, available online on RECOFTC website and in print. Finally, the media will be invited to the policy dialogue/cross-learning event to share the impacts from the project to the wider society. We will request them to include links to our project page and key communication products if possible, for people outside our network to access.

Indicator 4.3: One national level knowledge exchange events for CFs in Thailand based on lessons learned from target CFs by end of Y2
15% in progress: The event will be conducted in year 2.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Outcome: Community forest members in 30 CFs have capacities built to conserve and utilize biodiversity as embedded in CF management plans with potential for scaling up nationally and with neighboring countries.

Outcome indicators: Utilizing Kirkpatrick capacity development monitoring framework, increase in changes in knowledge, skills and attitudes of local CFs by end of Y2, assessed as (% increase in perceived value (financial and otherwise) of biodiversity, measurable increase in biodiversity management and monitoring skills and knowledge by end of Y2.

To further explain the Kirkpatrick Model, following is the four levels for evaluating the learning:

Level 1: Reaction is the degree to which participants find the training favourable, engaging, and relevant to their jobs

Level 2: Learning is the degree to which participants acquire the intended knowledge, skills, attitude, confidence, and commitment based on their participation in the training

Level 3: Behaviour is the degree to which participants apply what they learned during training when they are back on the job

Level 4: Results is the degree to which targeted outcomes occur as a result of the training and the support and accountability package

Baseline conditions: As mentioned in the above based conditions of Output 1 and Output 2, the project has the same baseline conditions for Outcome level indicator.

Based on CDNA conducted by the project in September 2023 by using a score rating scale 1-5 whereas 1 is the lowest and 5 is the highest, 245 respondents, who are members of 30 CFs viewed that their overall knowledge of community forestry is 3.08 and the area that they need to build their capacity the most is to learn on how to develop participatory community forest management plan, which as 3.40 score. Their knowledge and ability to manage biodiversity is relatively low at 2.28 score, whereas the key support needed to build capacity in biodiversity is on how to use biodiversity resources available in community forests to be useful in community forest management and utilization with 3.86 score.

For the level of understanding about biodiversity in general, the respondent rated their level of understanding at 2.75 score (full score is 5), ability to explain or present about biodiversity resources in their community forests is at 2.79, their ability to survey and monitor biodiversity is at 2.57, and their ability to develop biodiversity management plan for their community forest is at 1.89 score.

Progress:

Totally, the project has achieved in delivering 2 key trainings to 53 CF leaders, including 39 male and 14 female; whereas 15 of them are from ethnic communities from 28 CFs. As the project has still been undergoing, the endline survey is not yet conducted. To measure progress on this outcome indicator at this reporting period, the project applies the Level 2 of the Kirkpatrick Model, which used pre and post-test as a tool to measure learning of the participants and to answer if the learning transfer occurred. Based on the pre and post-test of the community forest biodiversity survey training, it found that the participants gained higher scores for their post-test comparing to their pretest. Aside from the pre-post test results, the project also has applied the Level 3 monitoring to assess their behavioural change after the training by giving after training assignment asking all trainees to conduct data collections and submit the information back to the project to review and analyse. Currently, 27 CFs from 28 CFs could submit community biodiversity information. The data that have been collected including plants and wildlife species. The methodology is using line transect to collect wildlife data at every 50-100 m. depends on the length of CF by witness the existence or observe the wild animal track or hearing their voices. In addition, at the same spot, set up the 3 different size of square plots to collect plants and trees. 1) 10x10 m. plot is for recording the tree, bamboo, other significant plants species such as rattan and also wildlife. 2) 4x4 m plot is for recording the tree sapling and 3) 1x1 m plot is for recording the tree seedling. The form and instruction sheet to record all those data has been developed for CF master to collect their data.

Annex no 11 pre and post-test report for the community biodiversity survey training

Q:Are the indicators adequate for measuring the intended Outcome?
A: Due to the time constraints, the project can present up to Level 3 evaluation of the Kirkpatrick Model. For measuring the Level 4, which is to assess if the training influence performance of the participants and produce any return or results, may require more time going beyond the project lifetime, so the project will have to limit to the Level 3 evaluation, which is to measure if the training change behaviour of the participants. And for applying the Kirkpatrick methodology, especially in Level 3, it may not be suitable for measuring the progress by using % of increase knowledge as the methodology assesses changes in the learning through application and transformation of knowledge to action, which cannot be measured by using percentages. The proposed change is by using checking their behavioural change through deliverable of assignments.

Q: Is the project likely to achieve the Outcome by end of funding? If not, what action will you take to ensure the situation can be improved?

A: Yes, the project can achieve the outcome by end of the funding with the above proposed methodology for assessing the outcome indicator.

Indicator: 30 CF management plans developed and operationalized with biodiversity conservation and utilisation elements by end of Y2

Baseline: 25 of CF joined this project have already produced their CFMPs prior the project, whereas 3 of them do not yet have CFMPs developed prior. For those already have the CFMPs, they have to renew their CFMPs by year 2024.

Progress: For this reporting period, the CFs cannot yet develop CFMPs as they have mainly worked on data collection and data analysis. The final workshop for developing CFMPs has just started rolled out for the first region (out of 5 regions), so the CFMPs should be drafted and completed by September 2024.

Q: Are the indicators adequate for measuring the intended Outcome?
A: Yes.

Q: Is the project likely to achieve the Outcome by end of funding? If not, what action will you take to ensure the situation can be improved?

A: Yes, the project can achieve the outcome by end of funding.

Indicator: Biodiversity inclusive template for CF management plans shared with and adopted by CF National Policy Committee as model template for upscaling by end of Y2

Baseline conditions: RFD has developed and announced the official CFMP template according to the CF Act.

Progress: The project has been working on reviewing of different CFMPs templates both in Thailand and from other countries to identify areas for improvement for the CFMP template under the CF Act. An expert meeting to draft and review proposed biodiversity inclusive template will be held in June 2024 and the recommended template will be proposed to CF National Policy Committee in October 2024.

Q: Are the indicators adequate for measuring the intended Outcome?
A: Yes.

Q: Is the project likely to achieve the Outcome by end of funding? If not, what action will you take to ensure the situation can be improved?

A: Yes, it can achieve the outcome by end of funding.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

The key project assumptions are being regularly monitored and still hold true in terms of their relevance to the project. Below is an assessment of the key assumptions substantiated by key actions and trends.

Assumption 1: Understanding biodiversity management and value will lead to stronger community forest management and associated plans, leading to improved community-level management of biodiversity.

Comment: Biodiversity conservation, a core aspect of community forest management plans, has been enhanced by the project's support in collecting biodiversity information at community level. This information is reflected in the CF Management planning process, enabling communities to strengthen their conservation activities within the CFs. Over time, these efforts will allow communities to observe changes in the forest, thereby reinforcing the value of biodiversity management. However, as this concept is new to the targeted communities, there are challenges in instilling this concept and adapting it into concrete practices. Therefore, the reflection and understanding of biodiversity information require ongoing effort. This iterative process of learning and adaptation will ultimately lead to improved community-level management of biodiversity, validating the assumption statement.

Assumption 2: Policy makers see value in, and are supportive of, strong community forest management plans, including robust biodiversity data that will inform these plans.
Comment: Thailand's commitment to biodiversity conservation is evident in its ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the role of the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) in leading biodiversity conservation efforts and drafting a Biodiversity Act. The integration of biodiversity conservation into the work of the Royal Forest Department (RFD) and the Department of National Parks (DNP) is also noteworthy. The National Strategic Plan (2018 – 2037) outlines principles for biodiversity conservation, including the creation of a genetic bank database system and mechanisms for sustainable local utilization. Despite the existence of several biodiversity-related laws (among others are the National Parks Act, the Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act, the National Forest Act, the Community Forest Act, the Marine and Coastal Resources Management Promotion Act, and the Plant Use Protection Act), a central law - Biodiversity Act, is currently being drafted to provide clarity in enforcement and management mechanisms, thereby facilitating public participation in biodiversity management.

Assumption 3: The private sector finds that CF and biodiversity conservation are important and the best way to support their business sustainability policy is to support CFs.
Comment: An increasing number of private sector entities are demonstrating interest in biodiversity conservation as a key component of their sustainability promotion and Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives. A study conducted by the project consultant further supports this assumption. The study found that private companies and entrepreneurs recognize the potential of biodiversity-based businesses. These businesses can add value to forest products and services and can be further developed into forest enterprises. This not only aligns with their sustainability and CSR goals, but also presents opportunities for economic growth and diversification. Therefore, supporting CFs and biodiversity conservation becomes a strategic choice for the private sector, contributing to their business sustainability while also promoting environmental conservation.

3.5 Achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty reduction

1.The expected change that the project aims to achieve regarding capability and capacity for biodiversity conservation is to strengthen biodiversity components in community forest management plan and ability of local community to undertake biodiversity survey and assessment of their community needs for biodiversity-based livelihoods.

The project has progressed on this expected change through 1) identification on shortcomings or gap of CFMPs in biodiversity management and developing recommendations for improving the plans; 2) providing training and mentoring 53 local community leaders (39 male, and 14 female; within 53 participants 15 of which are from ethnic communities) from 28 CFs to assess needs and practices of the community on CF utilization; 3) providing training and mentoring 53 CF Masters to survey their CF situation and to collect biodiversity data, using scientific tools to quantify and record the information in a systematic manner and 4) conduct a training to develop a community forest management plan. Through this process CF Masters will use the information to develop their own management plan, which reflects on the result of their learning as they have applied and lead to behavioural changes.

At this reporting period, participants from 28 CFs covering approximately 20,488 people can gather both socio-economic and biodiversity data of their CFs and being developed as their profile and used in developing CFMPs. Having the record of biodiversity information carried out

by local people raises awareness and appreciation of biodiversity resources in their own communities. Some information gathered will also be uploaded to the online platform – www.thaicfnet.org, which can contribute to the overall information on biodiversity in Thailand.

2. The expected change on poverty reduction

Based on the community survey, it found that people considered as poor have used community forests for their livelihood at the level of 3.44 (out of 5). Each community forest serves both members within the village or community where the CF located, and also people nearby areas. Based on the rapid assessment, in average around 40-100 people per community forest have regularly collect NTFPs for their livelihood. To improve their ability to earn more from the CF, the project has conducted a supply chain assessment to identify potential products and ways they can position themselves in the existing supply chain. This study also survey views of buyers to assess their needs and interest in CF products. This resulted to CF potential business ideas for 16 CFs. Furthermore, with the improved community forest management plan, CF and biodiversity resources will be better managed, resulting to improved livelihoods of local communities, including their accessibility to key ecosystem services such as water, food.

Contribution that the project making to the higher-level impact on biodiversity conservation

According to the Thailand's Country Profile to CBD, Thailand is one of the most biodiversity-rich countries in Southeast Asia. Thailand contains around 15,000 plant species, representing 8% of the world's total. Forest area covers at least 32% of the country's total area, with at least 18% comprised of conserved forests. Community forest area contributes roughly about 6% of the remaining forest covered area. Conservation of biodiversity in protected areas of Thailand is in a much better situation due to stronger legal protection, however the core area of the protected forests is being pressured by surrounding land use changes and fragmentation of forest. Strengthening roles and capacities of community forest performing as buffer zone can be one way to conserve the overall biodiversity situation. The project has been working with 28 CFs in 5 regions and 10 provinces of Thailand to strengthen their role in biodiversity conservation. There is a great diversity of ecosystems that these CFs represent – terrestrial forest, covering different types of forest ecosystem e.g. deciduous forest, dry dipterocarp forest, moist dipterocarp forest, peat swamp forest, mangrove forest, some of which connect with to key forests complex e.g. Phuphan Forest Complex, Western Forest Complex. Having an integration of biodiversity survey into the community forest management plan is therefore helping CFs to have awareness on biodiversity based on the tangible information they gathered and can make better decision on how they should manage their biodiversity resources. Through the capacity building process, forest health of 28 CFs was assessed, and biodiversity resources were surveyed and recorded by local people themselves. Management practices are being reviewed to accommodate information of biodiversity data and to make it more effective e.g. link with threats and utilization needs. All the process is driven and led by local people. Improving understanding of biodiversity situation in these CFs and strengthening their management plans will result to not only biodiversity conservation in the CFs, but also for preventing threats to the core protected areas.

Contribution that the project making to a higher-level impact on human development and wellbeing (poverty reduction)

The expected beneficiaries of this project are local communities, whose livelihoods depend on forest resources. Despite Thailand's development status may consider as upper middle-income country, pocket of poverty and inequality is still a notable fact of the country. Based on the official statistics of National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), people with less than 77 US$ monthly income considered as poor. In 2022, around 4.5% of Thai found as poor. Interestingly, people whose incomes or employments are from natural resources-based jobs e.g. forestry or fishery are the largest group (or 10%) of people identified as poor. This can be implied that people, depending on forest are at risk of being poor and facing a greater challenge to gain income security. Another important fact on poverty in Thailand is striking inequality rate or income gap. Again, the sector that needs attention to are those families that rely on natural resources such as forest. Since natural asset is crucial for livelihood of these forest dependent families, having improved capacity to manage and utilize the forest and biodiversity resources is ultimately necessary for improving their household income and wellbeing.

Whereas Thailand is a biodiversity rich country, unfortunately biodiversity resources may not result to poverty reduction for some group of people. Mainly, it is due to constraint of legal framework, weak forest management and because of poor supply chain development for Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) or biodiversity-based economy.

The interventions supported by the Darwin Initiative therefore focuses on capacity building on community forest management and its planning as it is a tool to gain access and utilization rights of forest dependent communities recognized by the law. Another important element is through the assessment of NTFPs supply chain and identification of potential business, including disseminating impact of CFs via online platform to draw attention and support from other sector, especially private sector. For this project due to the time constraints, its impact may not result directly to improve of income within the project duration, it has tackled important elements of livelihood foundation of poor families in rural forest area of Thailand.

Project can improve community governance by empowered communities to be better manage resources and potentially increase income. This could lead to more sustainable practices and potentially higher long-term benefits. In addition, improved biodiversity monitoring and management could lead to a healthier forest ecosystem.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

Thailand has become a Contracting Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on January 29, 2004. Based on the COP 15 of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), a target to achieve 30X30 of conservation areas was adopted. The 30X30 targets refers to 30% of protected areas by 2030. To achieve this target, the other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) was proposed as an important measure. The term ‘other effective area-based conservation measure’ describes a geographic site, which is not within a protected area, that delivers long-term biodiversity conservation. OECMs can be governed by a variety of rights holders and actors including Indigenous peoples and local communities, government agencies, as well as sectoral actors, private organizations, and individuals. Community forest – which refers to a system of participatory forest management covering various type of forest can be considered as potential area for OECMs. The project has been engaged in promoting OECMs to achieve 30 X 30 targets of CBD in Thailand. RECOFTC as a CSO representative was now appointed to be a national committee for driving OECMs.

For a national policy that relevant to this project, the project is directly linked to the Community Forest Act (CF Act) enacted in 2019. Regarding the CF Act, the project has contributed to the legal implementation requiring that all CF registered with this Act must develop a CF Management Plan and renew the plan in every 5 years as it is helping building capacity of CFs to improve their CFMPs and developing recommendations for improving the CFMP template.

5. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Our project has proactively contributed to promoting equality and ensuring equitable outcomes. We developed a gender inclusion strategy devised by the women’s network under Citizens’ Forest Network (CFNET), aiming to promote women's leadership in community forestry committees across 10 provinces in Thailand. A CF-Net women leadership group was formed in 2022 with 10-15 key members, providing a space for women to collaborate, make decisions, share knowledge, and advocate for women’s issues in community forestry at different levels. In 2023, four representatives from the group participated in the online gender leadership meeting organized by RECOFTC, sharing their achievements and strategies for supporting women in forest management in Thailand. The group also gathered to discuss new strategies for action to promote women's roles in various areas, including carbon credit discussion, climate change adaptation, community forest database, leadership development, economic value addition, and advocating for gender balance among CF committee members.

Despite the challenge of lack of legal recognition for women’s roles in forest management, the project has made significant contributions to the overall CF-Net mission, including increased

understanding of gender equality, inspiration from other women leaders, identification of women's needs, creation of more learning spaces for women in community forest management, expansion, and exchange with other women's networks from various regions, and the establishment of a women's working group. Looking ahead, the network plans to include diverse groups such as ethnic minorities, youth, and vulnerable groups, and increase their participation in community forest activities. These efforts provide clear evidence of our commitment to promoting equality and engaging participants in a meaningful way.

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board[1].	Women represents 70% in the Project Board.
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].	Women represent 80% in the leadership position of the project partner

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
Not yet sensitive	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
Sensitive	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	
Empowering	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	X
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

6. Monitoring and evaluation

Our project has developed and used M&E plan and an indicator tracking table as internal tools to monitor and assess progress. These tools, developed based on a set of indicators stated on the project log frame, have proven suitable for our needs. The M&E responsibility primarily lies with RECOFTC, with the implementing partner, ZSL, reporting their work progress for data consolidation. Information sharing is managed by RECOFTC, facilitated through quarterly meetings with the project partner and ad-hoc field visits combined with activity implementation. A baseline assessment on biodiversity and community forestry situation was conducted during the first six months of the project. This data serves as a benchmark for changes by the end of the project, allowing us to demonstrate that the project's outputs and activities contribute to the project outcome. The findings are shared and reviewed by both RECOFTC and ZSL, ensuring transparency and collaborative efforts to implement the project on the ground. Apart from these,

[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.

RECOFTC has internal M&E tools, Output Reporting and Outcome Harvesting, that helps project to capture relevant information and ensure contribution to organizational goals.

In terms of changes to the M&E plan, one revision was made to the project logframe in March 2023, just before formal implementation began.

7. Lessons learnt

Things that have worked week in the past are as follows.

1) The learning process of the CF Masters, which is a learning by doing and continued process and regular support, is an effective learning approach for local communities in biodiversity conservation. The CF Masters are asked to apply the knowledge and skills and work based on the assignment, which are new to them. However, they mostly could deliver the work according to the assignment. Importantly, the project has been doing very well in providing mentoring or coaching individually to each CF to ensure that the CF Master can feel confident in doing the work by themselves without feeling afraid that they would be wrong.

2) Strong collaboration and combination of expertise among the project partners. Generally, community forest is more about community engagement process and overview assessment of forest conditions. With the collaboration with ZSL, the approach and tools in community forest management got expanded and be more comprehensive with the integration of animals or wildlife perspective. This help filled the gap in presenting the biodiversity status of community forest.

Things that did not work well for the project are as follows:

1) As there are a lot of information to collect, digest and analyse in a systematic manner, the project could not yet fully work on the data management. Some of the useful information collected was not adequately used as an input in the discussion with the communities to plan their CFMPs.

2) The tools and assignments for the CF Masters to collect the information some of which are still too technical and difficult for the CF Masters to apply them without extra support. Some collected information is hard for the local communities to interpret and use them directly. This results to the community cannot effectively see the situation of their forest and biodiversity.

Things that the project want to do differently:

1) Better design the tools for data collection that is simpler, whereas the data should be better used to encourage discussion and preparing the CFMPs

2) The field work and a training for CFMP, which is occurred in dry season when temperature is extremely high, is very challenging for effective learning. The field work should be moved to other season when the temperature is cooler.

3) Despite the intention to balance participation of women and men, including people from different ages into the learning process, majority of the participants are still dominated by men leaders. The project should find other methodology to have more women and marginalized population e.g. people who do not have land for cultivation, forest collectors, to participate in the project.

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

This is not applicable for this report as there is no comment from the previous review.

9. Risk Management

During the current reporting period, no new risks were identified. However, the project has noted inconsistent participation from local community members in training sessions. This inconsistency is largely attributed to the lifestyle of the local communities, where villagers are often busy with daily jobs and childcare responsibilities, preventing them from consistently participating in the training. This risk presents a significant challenge to the project's objective of providing continuous training to community members. It could potentially lead to gaps in knowledge transfer, diminished effectiveness of the training. To mitigate and manage this risk, the project has implemented the following strategies to minimize the impact of the identified risk and ensure the project's objectives are met effectively.

1) Flexible scheduling: The project team schedules training sessions at times most convenient for the majority of community leaders and members to accommodate the villagers' daily routines and responsibilities.

2) Engagement with community leaders: The project team actively engages with community leaders to emphasize the importance of the training and seeks their assistance in promoting consistent participation.

3) Certification for full participation: The project team encourages all participants to attend the entire series of training sessions by offering a certification upon completion as an incentive.

10. Sustainability and legacy

There are four main legacies of the project and way the project results will be sustained after the project duration. They are 1) Capacity of local community to develop community forest plans are built directly to the local leaders. So, they can be more engaged in CFMPs, which is required by the CF Act to be renewed for every 5 years; 2) Guideline for biodiversity survey and CFMP development, which is a step by step guideline on how CFs can do CFMPs. This project result will help expand the knowledge and practices to other CFs beyond the project target areas; 3) Database of Community Forests will be maintained and uploaded into www.thaicfnet.org, where engagement with private sector will be facilitated for fund raising and support to the CFs; and 4) The project also aims to reach to the policy makers such as Royal Forest Department and the National Community Forest Committee to propose the recommendations and the new template of the CFMP, so the result of the project can be widely accepted and officially recognized.

11. Darwin Initiative identity

The project has made consistent efforts to recognize the Darwin Initiative and the UK Government's contribution through both logo usage and acknowledgement in our project activities and communication products. For activities (workshops in the first year), we thanked both entities' contributions during opening sessions and included the logos in banners and backdrops at the activity venues. (Example in this photo.) In our communication products such as artworks and Facebook posts, we included acknowledgement text that we received funding from the Darwin Initiative through the UK Government and logos after we were granted permission to use them. (CF Master overview infographic and Facebook post example.)

As for the extent of understanding of the Darwin Initiative in Thailand, we are uncertain, but international non-governmental organizations with focus on animal conservation in Thailand are likely familiar. Additionally, our project beneficiaries are learning about biodiversity and the Darwin Initiative's mission as the workshops progress. We hope that through our acknowledgement of the Darwin Initiative at the project's future public events and publications, attending organizations especially from the forestry sector, media and other audiences could be introduced to the Darwin Initiative.

12. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No
Have any concerns been reported in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes. Name of the focal point Mr.Thanapol [redacted], Program Management Coordinator, Email: [redacted]
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 % [2 from 6] Planned: 16% [1 from 6]
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses. There are no observed challenges on this issue in the past 12 months.	

Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and number of participants. The project conducted orientation to the CF Masters before they started community data collection during the rapid assessment for CDNA and socio-economy information and CF biodiversity survey. As most of the community engagement works are carried out mainly by local community people themselves, it helps create smooth community work and can prevent some uncomfortable feeling to provide information to external people.
Have there been any concerns around Health, Safety and Security of your project over the past year? If yes, please outline how this was resolved. Because of extremely hot temperature e.g. 40 Celsius in dry season, there is a concern on health and safety when conduct the outdoor or field work, which requires for a training on community forest management planning and field data collection. The project has to consider reduce hours or training session that require field work on the day that the temperature is too high.

13. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24 Total Darwin Initiative Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs	[redacted]			As it is the year 1, in which number of preparation works required supports from other team members aside from a full-time project staff, the acutal amount of staff time contributed to the project were higher than anticipated.
Consultancy costs				The expenditures of this line budget could spend as plan. However, due to the term of payment for the consultant fee, which was due after this reporting period, made this line budget has significant variance at 15%.
Overhead Costs				This is a result of the overall project spending is larger tha the planned budget of Year1.
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	**65,278**	**74,520.34**	**13%**	

The project made a change request and gained approval from Defra on 5 January 2024 for the reallocation of budget of Year 1 amount [redacted] GBP to be [redacted] GBP, which is a new total budget for year 1.

Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)	[redacted]		1. Thai Corporate Governance Fund (CG Fund) 2. RECOFTC's Core Fund
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)	n/a		

14. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

There are some concerns that communities lack familiarity with both common and scientific names of local wildlife and plants. This inconsistency can lead to misunderstandings and misidentification. Besides, many youth and community members underestimate the importance of local species. They may be unaware of the presence of endangered species in their environment. The project can extend to developing a knowledge hub and communication products, so the communities understand the common and scientific names of plants and animals and highlighting the ecological and economic significance of local flora and fauna.

15. 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 to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

Training Citizens' Forest Masters: A step towards improved biodiversity management in Thailand's community forests

What rare animal species inhabit community-managed forests? How much of their vegetation is foraged? How do we ensure conservation and sustainable utilization of our biological resources?

While Thailand's forest landscapes are lauded for their rich biodiversity and communities have long managed many forests, we often struggle to answer these important questions since biodiversity data in community forests remains unmanaged. Furthermore, communities face barriers to livelihood improvement and making policy-level contributions in forest management.

RECOFTC recognizes the interlinkage between these challenges. We believe that capacity building in biodiversity data collection, monitoring and reporting can empower communities to make more informed forest management decisions. It can also maximize the economic potential of forest resources and create opportunities for dialogue with policymakers.

To lay the foundation for biodiversity management in 28 target community-managed forests across Thailand's five regions, we launched the Citizens' Forest Master (CF Master) workshops in July 2023 in partnership with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) in Thailand.

Our capacity development workshops are designed to help participants understand the environmental and economic value of biodiversity management. We hope to support their transformation into leaders who can facilitate evidence-based forest management planning in their communities. Over 50 CF Masters, comprising male and female community members and volunteers from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, have been working toward incorporating biodiversity in their forest management plans.

We consulted with communities to better understand their situations and capacity development needs and conducted a biodiversity-related policy gap assessment. With these results to inform our workshops, the CF Masters have developed knowledge and skills in data management.

Since August 2023, the CF Masters have been leading their communities in collecting and synthesizing biodiversity data, along with other key data like socio-economic overview and forest management practices. All this information will underpin their community forest management planning, ensuring they are socially inclusive, climate-resilient and community-tailored.

As of April 2024, communities in two of the five regions have completed biodiversity data collection and are preparing to incorporate biodiversity data management into their plans. The other three regions are also on track to meet their goals.

Going forward, we will develop biodiversity-based business plans and connect the CF Masters with national-level policymakers through our cross-learning event. Ultimately, we envision biodiversity management will be embedded into Thailand's community forest policies.

Writer: Nitchanun Tantapong, RECOFTC Thailand Communication Officer

Editor: Rachana Chettri, RECOFTC Editorial and Publishing Officer

Image, Video or Graphic Information:

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption, country and credit	Online accounts to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
Image	Name : RECOFTC Thailand CFMaster Workshop 1 Location : submitted in the annexes folder	Caption: The CF Master inception workshop brings together community members and volunteers of various backgrounds to learn the basics of forest data management and set common goals for their forests. Location: Bangkok, Thailand Photo by RECOFTC Thailand.	RECOFTC Thailand Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/recoftcinThailand/	Yes
Image	Name : RECOFTC Thailand CFMaster Workshop 2 Location : submitted in the annexes folder	Caption: The biodiversity data assessment workshop introduces the CF Masters to biodiversity data	RECOFTC Thailand Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/recoftcinThailand/	Yes

		collection tools and process. Location: Kanchanaburi Province, Thailand Photo by RECOFTC Thailand.		
Image	Name : RECOFTC Thailand CFMaster Workshop 3 Location : submitted in the annexes folder	Caption: The CF Masters and community members conduct forest survey inventory. Location: Ratchaburi Province, Thailand Photo by RECOFTC Thailand.	RECOFTC Thailand Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/recoftcinThailand/	Yes
Image	Name : RECOFTC Thailand CFMaster Workshop 4 Location : submitted in the annexes folder	Caption: The landscape of Ban Sa Si Mum Community Forest, one of the target communities in the western region. Location: Ratchaburi Province, Thailand Photo by RECOFTC Thailand.	RECOFTC Thailand Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/recoftcinThailand/	Yes
Image	Name : RECOFTC Thailand CFMaster Workshop 5 Location : submitted in the annexes folder	Caption: The CF Masters and community members plan how to incorporate biodiversity management into their community forest management plan. Location: Sakon Nakhon Province, Thailand Photo by RECOFTC Thailand.	RECOFTC Thailand Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/recoftcinThailand/	Yes

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Indicators of Success for Financial Year 2023-2024

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024	Actions required/planned for next period
Outcome Community forest members in 30 CFs have capacities built to conserve and utilize biodiversity as embedded in CF management plans with potential for scaling up nationally and with neighboring countries.		
Outcome indicator 0.1 Utilizing Kirkpatrick capacity development monitoring framework, increase in changes in knowledge, skills and attitudes of local CFs by end of Y2, assessed as (% increase in perceived value (financial and otherwise) of biodiversity, measurable increase in biodiversity management and monitoring skills and knowledge by end of Y2.	Two training provided, whereas assignments for socio-economic data collection and biodiversity survey were given to the participants. 27 CFs from 28 CFs have completed this assignment.	To support the CFs to apply the learning gain from the Third training to develop their CFMPs. To develop capacity development assessment tool.
Outcome indicator 0.2 30 CF management plans developed and operationalized with biodiversity conservation and utilisation elements by end of Y2	Data sets needed for the CFMPs were collected and analysed.	To deliver CFMPs training for 5 regions covering 28 CFs and to provide coaching to the CF Masters to complete their CFMPs.
Outcome indicator 0.3 Biodiversity inclusive template for CF management plans shared with and adopted by CF National Policy Committee as model template for upscaling by end of Y2	The template in a drafting stage based on a review the templates from other sources.	To conduct an expert consultation to review the proposed template. To organize a meeting with CF National Policy Committee to present the new template.
Output 1 Capabilities built for improved policies and systems		
Output indicator 1.1 1 gap assessment of existing policies and systems for incorporating biodiversity in community forestry and its management plan report produced by end of Y1.	-Gap assessment with expert conducted through 1 workshop and review of CFMP	To conduct the second expert consultation meeting to present the new template for the CFMP and collect opinion for improving the biodiversity conservation in CF.
Output indicator 1.2 CF-net national workshop conducted by end of Y1	-CF net national workshop conducted	N/a

Output indicator 1.3 A guideline or framework for biodiversity conservation to CF management plan template proposed to the CF National Policy Committee by end of Y1	-A guideline or framework drafted, but has not yet presented to CF National Policy Committee	To develop and finalize the guideline and to conduct the meeting with the CF National Policy Committee.
Output 2. Community-level capacities for biodiversity assessment, monitoring and reporting		
Output indicator 2.1. Rapid assessment community profiles developed for each of 20 communities including key CF assets, landscape mapping, socioeconomic overview and (financial) capacity needs assessment by end of Y1	-Rapid assessment conducted / capacity needs assessment conducted	To finalize the rapid assessment and develop each CF profile
Output indicator 2.2. 1 simplified training manual produced in Thai and English for community based biodiversity assessment by end of Y2	-training module developed, but the manual will be done in year2	To finalize the training model and translate into English
Output indicator 2.3. 60 CF members (40% women / 60% men) are trainined on community biodiversity monitoring by end of Y2	-The biodiversity survey training conducted for 53 CF Masters in year 1.	The community biodliversity monitoring training will be conducted for the CF Masters in year 2.
Output indicator 2.4. 30 CF management plans incorporate biodiversity monitoring and management by end of Y2	-CFMPs are being developed	To finalize the CFMPs for 28 CFs
Output indicator 2.5. Key biodiversity information for each (30) CF uploaded to www.thaicfnet.org by end of Y2	-ToR of the www.thaicfnet.org was developed with the design of the function on how present the biodiversity informaiton	-To develop the website by the hired web-developer and test the system with the CF members and other users
Output 3. Capacities built for improving livelihoods through sustainable biodiversity use		
Output indicator 3.1. 1 report collating biodiversity data with view to identifying investment and enterprise opportunities by end of Y1.	1 report has done	
Output indicator 3.2. Business plans developed for at least 3-5 CFs by end of Y2.	4 Potential of business plans were prepared based on designing thinking workshop	To finalize the plans with the interest and potential CFs
Output indicator 3.3.	No progress for this reporting period	To conduct a meeting between the potential CFs and

Meetings organised between private sector and CFs for at least 3 business plans by end of Y2.		business/buyers that are interested in the business plan
Output 4. Knowledge management and learning exchange		
Output indicator 4.1. At least 100 CFs in Thailand receive and disseminate biodiversity related messaging across their networks/groups by end of Y2	No progress for this reporting period	To prepare and list the distribution channels
Output indicator 4.2. At least 2 communication products developed and disseminated by end of Y2	Key progress is about documentation and footage collection for developing the communication tools	To produce the communication products based on the story outline.
Output indicator 4.3. 1 national level knowledge exchange events for CFs in Thailand based on lessons learned from target CFs by end of Y2	No progress for this reporting period	To conduct an event in the field to show case the CF that has done the CFMPs and passed the learning process of CF Master

Annex 2: Project's full current Indicators of Success as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification
Outcome: Community forest members in 30 CFs have capacities built to conserve and utilise biodiversity as embedded in CF management plans with potential for scaling up nationally and with neighboring countries.	• Utilizing Kirkpatrick capacity development monitoring framework, increase in changes in knowledge, skills and attitudes of local CFs by end of Y2, assessed as (% increase in perceived value (financial and otherwise) of biodiversity, measurable increase in biodiversity management and monitoring skills and knowledge by end of Y2. • 30 CF management plans developed and operationalized with biodiversity conservation and utilisation elements by end of Y2 • Biodiversity inclusive template for CF management plans shared with and adopted by CF National Policy Committee as model template for upscaling by end of Y2	Baseline assessment of sample CF members (10 surveys drawn from each of 30 targets CFs) at beginning of project and re-assessment at close of project
Output 1 Capabilities built for improved policies and systems	1.1 1 gap assessment of existing policies and systems for incorporating biodiversity in community forestry and its management plan report produced by end of Y1. 1.2 1 CF-net national workshop conducted by end of Y1 1.3 A guideline or framework for biodiversity conservation to CF management plan template proposed to the CF National Policy Committee by end of Y1	1.1 gap assessment report 1.2 training workshop report 1.3 A revised CF management plan template for proposed use by Royal Forest Department in CF registration. 1.4 biodiversity components and baseline data included in CF-NET online portal
Output 2 Community-level capacities for biodiversity assessment, monitoring and reporting	2.1 rapid assessment community profiles developed for each of 30 communities including key CF assets, landscape mapping, socioeconomic overview and (financial) capacity needs assessment by end of Y1 2.2 1 simplified training manual produced in Thai and English for community based biodiversity assessment by end of Y2 2.3 60 CF members (40% women / 60% men) are trainined on community biodiversity monitoring by end of Y2 2.4 30 CF management plans incorporate biodiversity monitoring and management by end of Y2	2.1 rapid assessment community profiles 2.2 training manual 2.3 training reports/ attendance sheets/ 2.4 photographic documentation 2.5 biodiversity monitoring incorporated in CF management plans

	2.5 Key biodiversity information for each (30) CF uploaded to www.thaicfnet.org by end of Y2	
Output 3 Capacities built for improving livelihoods through sustainable biodiversity use	3.1 1 report collating biodiversity data with view to identifying investment and enterprise opportunities by end of Y1. 3.2 Business plans developed for at least 3-5 CFs by end of Y2. 3.3 Meetings organised between private sector and CFs for at least 3 business plans by end of Y2.	3.1 1 report detailing biodiversity investment opportunities for target CFs 3.2 3-5 biodiversity based business plans 3.3 Meeting minutes with private sector
Output 4 Knowledge management and learning exchange	4.1 At least 100 CFs in Thailand receive and disseminate biodiversity related messaging across their networks/groups by end of Y2 4.2 At least 2 communication products developed and disseminated by end of Y2 4.3 1 national level knowledge exchange events for CFs in Thailand based on lessons learned from target CFs by end of Y2	4.1 Views and comments on RECOFTC's social media channels 4.2 List of publications and communication products on RECOFTC's website 4.3 workshop reports (1)

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

Output 1 Capabilities built for improved policies and systems

1.1 Review and gap assessment of biodiversity elements within community forestry policies, regulations and procedures

1.2 Conduct capacity building of CF-Net leaders and CF National Policy Committee and CF National Policy Committee nationally on best practices and opportunities around biodiversity conservation through 1 national level workshop

1.3 Develop a guideline or framework on biodiversity conservation to CF management plan development proposed to the CF National Policy Committee

1.4 Organize policy dialogue between the CF NET leaders and the CF National Policy Committee and related line agencies (Royal Forest Department) to propose national guidelines on biodiversity conservation for CF management

1.5 Improve www.thaicfnet.org to create functions for incorporating biodiversity data and its reporting system

Output 2 Community level capacities for biodiversity assessment, monitoring and reporting

2.1 Initial rapid community assessment (including landscape mapping, biodiversity related capacity needs assessment, socioeconomic profile and documentation of existing CF fund structure and management practices) and community consultation (Day 1) and combined general biodiversity training for approx. 15 community members in each of 30 CFs (Day 2).

2.2 Develop simplified approaches and training materials for biodiversity survey methods at community forest level for incorporation within CF management plans (30 CFs in 10 provinces) by end of Y1Q2.

2.3 Community biodiversity monitors trained in biodiversity survey methods (1 training) (ca. 60 CF members, 40% women) in Y1, and apply biodiversity survey outputs directly into CF management plan in Y2

2.4 Biodiversity monitoring and reporting tools and plan aligned with CF management plans co-developed with biodiversity monitors by end of Y2

2.5 Biodiversity monitors trained in biodiversity data management (1 training) including regular uploading of monitoring data to the CF-Net portal by end of Y2. Monitors map and share focal species detections at CF meetings for dissemination within the community by the end of Y2.

Output 3 Capacities built for improving livelihoods through sustainable biodiversity use

3.1 Collate and assess collected biodiversity data from target CFs and conduct scoping of potential enterprise pathways

3.2 Conduct business plan development workshops for at least 3-5 CFs to draft business plans related to biodiversity and scoping exercise in 3.1

3.3 Facilitate meetings between potential private sector and CFs for at least 3 business plans to identify opportunities for investment and cooperation

Output 4 Knowledge management and learning exchange

4.1 Document learning process and experiences on biodiversity conservation from 30 target CFs

4.2 Develop communication products based on 4.1 and dissemination plan for reaching wider CFs in Thailand

4.3 Conduct (1) national level knowledge exchange event for CFs in Thailand to learn from best practices in the target CFs

Important Assumptions

1. Understanding biodiversity management and value will lead to stronger community forest management and associated plans, leading to improved community level management of biodiversity.
2. Policy makers see value in, and are supportive of, strong community forest management plans, including robust biodiversity data that will inform these plans.
3. Private sector find the CF and biodiversity conservation are important and the best way for supporting their business sustainability policy is to support CFs

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

Regarding the project indicators, in this reporting period, we have confirmed that the original project indicators are still relevant to the context. For the Standard Indicator, we did not plan or discuss reporting against the indicators as the project applied and received approval in the Round 29, whereas the Standard Indicators are applied with the projects started after Round 30. However, we are open to adjusting our project indicators if the context changes in the future.

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
E.g. DI-A01	E.g. Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	People	Men	20			20	60
E.g. DI-A01	E.g. Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	People	Women	30			30	60
E.g. DI-B01	E.g. Number of new or improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	Number	New	1			1	2
E.g. DI-B01	E.g. Number of new or improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	Number	Improved	1			1	3

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, 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)
* Announcement of the opening of application for the Citizens' Forest Master workshops (CF Master)	News and poster on Facebook	Nitchanun Tantapong, 2023	Female	Thai	-	Link

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, 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)
* Announcement of the opening of application for the Citizens' Forest Master workshops (CF Master)	Event/activity archive on RECOFTC website	Nitchanun Tantapong, 2023	Female	Thai	-	Link
* Announcement of selected candidates for the CF Master workshops	News on Facebook	Nitchanun Tantapong, 2023	Female	Thai	-	Link #1 Link #2
* Summary and photos from the CF Master inception workshop	News on Facebook	Nitchanun Tantapong, 2023	Female	Thai	-	Link
* Summary and photos from the CF Master biodiversity data assessment workshop	News on Facebook	Nitchanun Tantapong, 2023	Female	Thai	-	Link
* Infographic standee on the overview of the CF Master workshops	Exhibit	Nitchanun Tantapong, 2023	Female	Thai	-	Link
* Interview with a female CF Master on women's roles in community forest	Interview on Facebook	Nitchanun Tantapong, 2024	Female	Thai	-	Link

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, 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)
management for the 2024 International Women's Day						
* Summary and photos from the CF Master community forest management planning workshop	News on Facebook	Nitchanun Tantapong, 2024	Female	Thai	-	Link

Remark: for CF that has only population in households unit, the project calculates 1 household with 4 people.

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 BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	X
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
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 15)?	X
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.	