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# **DIR29EX\1071**

## **Increasing ecological and socio-economic resilience of Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem**

The Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem supports 1.2 million people, critical habitats, and globally-important wildlife. Unsustainable use and climate change have caused natural resource and water scarcity, leading to competition and conflict. This project provides a nature-based solution to these diverse challenges. Building capacity for sustainable natural resource management, facilitating adoption of nature-based solutions to deliver economic benefits, and restoring habitat, will increase water security, build resilience to climate change, and increase peaceful co-existence for people and wildlife.

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## Section 1 - Contact Details

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### PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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Title Ms  
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Surname Munguti  
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### GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Organisation
Name	Fauna & Flora International
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Website	[REDACTED]
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## Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

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### Q3. Title:

Increasing ecological and socio-economic resilience of Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem

### Q4. Is this a resubmission of a previously unsuccessful application?

Yes

### Q5. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

Select up to 3 biomes that are of focus, up to 3 conservation actions that characterise your approach, and up to 3 threats to biodiversity you intend to address, from dropdown lists.

#### Biome 1

Tropical-subtropical forests

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#### Biome 2

Freshwater (streams, rivers and lakes)

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### Biome 3

Savannas and grasslands

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#### Conservation Action 1

Land/water management (area, invasive control, restoration)

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#### Conservation Action 2

Livelihood, economic & other incentives (incl. conservation payments)

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#### Conservation Action 3

Law & policy (legislation, regulations, standards, codes, enforcement)

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#### Threat 1

Biological resource use (hunting, gathering, logging, fishing)

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#### Threat 2

Agriculture & aquaculture (incl. plantations)

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#### Threat 3

Human intrusions & disturbance (recreation, war)

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## Q6. Summary of Project

**Please provide a brief summary of your project, the problem/need it is trying to address, its aims, and the key activities you plan to undertake. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on the website.**

**Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.**

The Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem supports 1.2 million people, critical habitats, and globally-important wildlife. Unsustainable use and climate change have caused natural resource and water scarcity, leading to competition and conflict. This project provides a nature-based solution to these diverse challenges. Building capacity for sustainable natural resource management, facilitating adoption of nature-based solutions to deliver economic benefits, and restoring habitat, will increase water security, build resilience to climate change, and increase peaceful co-existence for people and wildlife.

## Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

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### Q7. Country(ies)

**Which eligible country(ies) will your project be working with?**

<b>Country 1</b>	Kenya	<b>Country 2</b>	<i>No Response</i>
<b>Country 3</b>	<i>No Response</i>	<b>Country 4</b>	<i>No Response</i>

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**Do you require more fields?**

No

## Q8. Project dates

Start date:

01 April 2023

End date:

31 March 2028

Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):

5 years

## Q9. Budget summary

Darwin funding request	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total request
(April - March)	£1,438,725.00	£1,038,561.00	£546,214.00	£474,354.00	£512,963.00	£4,010,817.00

Q10. Proportion of Darwin Initiative budget expected to be expended in eligible countries: %

Q11a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

The overall total budget is £ [REDACTED] of which Darwin contribution is £ [REDACTED]. FFI has secured total matched funding of £ [REDACTED].

Confirmed: FFI in-kind staff time, amount £ [REDACTED]

Confirmed: NRT in-kind field operations costs, £ [REDACTED]

Confirmed: NRT in-kind staff time, £ [REDACTED]

Confirmed: OPC in-kind staff time, £ [REDACTED]

Unconfirmed: FFI unrestricted fundraising, such as a public appeal, major donor philanthropy, or similar, amount £ [REDACTED]

Q11b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£)

£ [REDACTED]

Q11c. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

*No Response*

## Section 4 - Problem statement

Q12. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the evidence of the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and its relationship with poverty. What is the need, challenge or opportunity?

**For example, what are the drivers of biodiversity loss that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems?**

**Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in a separate attached PDF document).**

The project targets 5,800km<sup>2</sup> of the Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem, located between Mount Kenya catchment forest and Aberdare Ranges in Kenya's central highlands, and overlapping Nyeri, Meru and Laikipia counties. The ecosystem contains a vast array of habitats, from mountain forest to arid lands, supporting 1.2 million people, most of whom are part of pastoralist, agropastoralist and farming households.

The Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem is a biodiversity hotspot[Ref-1] encapsulating a total of 21 private and community conservancies and holding: 60% of Kenya's Grevy zebras (EN); 22% of Kenya's African elephant population (EN)[Ref-2]; and 65% of Kenya's black rhinos (CR). It also hosts significant populations of lion (VU); African wild dog (EN), and reticulated giraffe (EN).

The major permanent river in the ecosystem, Ewaso Ng'iro North River, is a lifeline for wildlife, people and livestock. The river draws its headwaters from Mt Kenya and Aberdare Forest, with tributaries traversing Laikipia conservancies and flowing downstream through northern Kenya into Somalia[Ref-3].

At the head of the watershed, illegal activities increased 51% from 2016-2020[Ref-4]. Logging multiplied by 350%. Livestock presence increased by 75%. Fires are becoming frequent and degrade the Mount Kenya water tower. ~90% of Mount Kenya's river water is diverted before leaving the forest reserve by community water projects, large-scale farms and services, and smallholder farms[Ref-5], significantly reducing access for wildlife and communities downstream. Upstream smallholders use inefficient irrigation techniques, and rainwater harvesting is limited due to the high upfront costs of efficient water harvesting and irrigation.

Downstream, rangeland degradation and habitat loss result from the multiple land-use pressures, specifically from overgrazing, invasive species, effects of climate change, and land-use changes caused by demands for food, construction materials, fuelwood and livestock feed. In 2014, in NRT member conservancies[Ref-6], c.70% of rangeland assessed was highly degraded, and over 50% heavily eroded. Soil carbon stocks were critically low (below 3.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) in over 40% of cases, and a decline of over 30% in land productivity, in 40% of the NRT landscape, was recorded between 2002-2016[Ref-7]. Invasive species such as *Opuntia stricta* are widespread and pose significant threats to conservation and livelihoods[Ref-8], by preventing grass and forb growth, and cause injury to livestock and wildlife.

This inequitable use and management of water, and the competing demands of agriculture, agropastoral, pastoral systems, conservation activities and commerce, are generating conflicts between user groups and wildlife[Ref-9]. In 2021, over 1,000 households in Laikipia lost their livelihoods following invasion by armed herders from neighbouring counties that were devastated by drought. Such events have been used to advance anti-conservation narratives, and the local authorities are under pressure to identify land-use systems that achieve gains for people, nature and climate.

Previous large-scale investments have made progress in addressing specific problems, but to date, no investment has brought these successes together and scaled up to an integrated, locally-led management approach for the watershed. This project seeks to be that solution.

## **Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions**

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### **Q13. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements**

**Q13a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below.**

**Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported and describe which objectives your project will address.**

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

## Q13b. National and International Policy Alignment

**Using evidence where available, please detail how your project will contribute to national policy (including NBSAPs, NDCs, NAP etc.) and in turn international biodiversity and development conventions, treaties and agreements that the country is a signatory of.**

The project will contribute to the following national and international policies:

### Nature

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) 2019-2030[Ref-10], by raising awareness of biodiversity and sustainable land use (Goal 1, Strategic Target 1) and integrating biodiversity values into county development plans (Goal 1, Strategic Target 2).

National Wildlife Strategy 2030[Ref-11] Goal 1: by increasing understanding of the Ewaso North ecosystem functioning and developing a collaborative planning framework to support national- and county-level land-use planning and sustainable infrastructure development, and rehabilitating and restoring degraded areas (Strategy 1.1) and Goal 2: by promoting coexistence to reduce Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) (Strategy 2.3).

Wildlife Conservation and Management (Protection of Endangered and Threatened Ecosystems, Habitats and Species) Regulations, 2017[Ref-12] by conducting biomonitoring of vulnerable species across the Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem and taking measures to sustain populations (Part III, 12a).

Wildlife Conservation and Management (Joint Management of Protected Water Towers) Regulations, 2017[Ref-13], by building capacity of local organisations including Water Resource User Associations (WRUAs), to jointly and equitably manage Mount Kenya water tower and associated water resources.

Convention on Biological Diversity (Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework): Target 4 by improving the conservation status of known threatened species and reducing HWC; Target 8 by minimising the impact of climate change on biodiversity by promoting habitat restoration and sustainable water resource management; Target 10 by ensuring the Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem agriculture and forestry areas are managed for sustainable use of biodiversity while increasing productivity and resilience; Target 14 by integrating biodiversity values into local and county planning and development processes; Target 21 by safeguarding the ecosystem in consideration of the needs of women, local communities and the poor and vulnerable, and their participation in decision-making processes.

### Climate

Kenya's Updated National Determined Contribution (2020-2030)[Ref-14] through emissions reductions in sustainable agriculture, halting land degradation and supporting low-carbon technologies, including energy-saving stoves and biogas.

National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2018-2022[Ref-15], Strategic Objectives: 2 (food security and nutrition) Action 1: 'Improve crop productivity' and Action 3 'Improve productivity in the livestock sector', and, 4 (increase forest/tree cover to 10% of total land area), through afforestation, improved management practices, and conserved areas for wildlife.

### People

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

1 No poverty by promoting equal rights to natural resources (1.4) and building the resilience of the most vulnerable households (1.5).

2 Zero Hunger by implementing climate-resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production and progressively improve land and soil (2.4).

5 Gender equality by ensuring participation of women in all committees and decision-making fora (5.5).

6 Clean water by supporting and strengthening the participation of local communities for improving water management (6b) and increasing water-use efficiency, and reducing scarcity (6.4).

15 Life on land through the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the landscape (15.1), tree planting in Mount Kenya forests (15.2), and addressing biodiversity loss (15.5).

17 Partnership for the goals by implementing effective and targeted capacity development in Kenya to support national plans (17.9).

## Section 6 - Scaling up Approaches

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### Q14. Scaling up approaches

**Q14a. Darwin Initiative Extra projects should utilise and build on evidence from past activities (from Darwin Initiative and beyond) to demonstrate why the approach will deliver. Please provide evidence and details on how your proposed project will do this.**

This project seeks to scale-up FFI's previous Darwin Initiative Main project (24-002) and build on approaches and legacies of other initiatives in the watershed, including:

Replication of Mount Kenya Trust's (MKT) proven approach to up-scale forest rehabilitation, with >1.25million trees planted since 2017, building on learning from a 2019 peer-reviewed business case[Ref-16].

Equitable water allocation approaches, building on lessons learned from Ngusishi Water Resource User Association (WRUA) in Laikipia[Ref-17], to reduce water-use conflicts and sustain environmental health.

Learning from USAID Resilient Community Conservancies Program (RCCP) and Loisaba Conservancy on rangeland restoration to incentivise removal of opuntia invasive species, by using opuntia to generate biogas for cooking.

Climate change adaptation, by promoting climate-resilient livelihoods[Ref-18], proven through 'Supporting Counties in Kenya to Mainstream Climate Change in Development and Access Climate Finance'[Ref-19].

Expansion of a microcredit scheme[Ref-20,-21], already operational in the landscape, enabling access to microcredit for water-efficient technologies, and for enterprise development.

Promoting dialogue across resource user groups to build peace, building on specific experiences under Darwin 24-002 and peer-reviewed research[Ref-22].

Gender-responsive, proactive mechanisms supporting women's engagement in resource governance and diversified livelihood opportunities, following peer-reviewed research[Ref-23] and international guidance[Ref-24].

**Q14b. We expect Darwin Initiative Extra projects to demonstrate that they are additional and complementary to other activities and funding in the same area or region.**

**Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?**

Yes

**Please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits.**

Past and current initiatives tend to focus on single sites or thematic issues, but water insecurity is transboundary and the causes diverse. This project is the first to expand successful initiatives to new geographic areas and create joined-up local governance of the whole, to create integrated, locally-led watershed management.

The project aligns with, replicates, and expands the following programmes:

Removal of invasive species (*Acacia reficiens* and *Opuntia Stricta*) for rangeland restoration in Naibunga Conservancies, with use of removed invasives for biogas production[Ref-25].

Assisted rangeland regeneration through rotational grazing practices (NRT's Soil Carbon Project, [Ref-26], and wildlife density management in endangered species enclosures (OPC).

OPC's cattle fattening and marketing scheme[Ref-27], which supports the Conservancy's financial sustainability. OPC will expand the programme to include livestock from neighbouring pastoralist communities to increase their income from livestock sales.

Loisaba Community Trust cattle scheme, (2022, Darwin Initiative supported).

NRT Livestock-to-Market programme[Ref-28], which has paid over £[REDACTED] to households in northern Kenya since 2012.

Green Climate Fund, 'Towards Ending Drought Emergencies', 2020–2025, that aims to reduce climate change-induced drought in 11 counties outside the project area[Ref-29], revitalising existing natural resource management groups, increasing capacity for sustainable watershed management.

## Section 7 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

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### Q15. Methodology

**Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your Impact. Provide information on:**

- how you have reflected on and incorporated **evidence and lessons learnt** from past and present similar activities and projects in the design of this project.
- the specific approach you are using, supported by evidence that it will be effective and **justifying why you expect it will be successful** in this context.
- how you will undertake the work (activities, materials and methods).
- what will be the **main activities** and where will these take place.
- how will you **manage the work** (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).

The project builds on previous successful projects and tested approaches (see Q14a and b), including Darwin Initiative Main project 24-002, and longstanding FFI and partner engagement in Laikipia.

Activities will be implemented under four outputs.

Output 1: Ecosystem restoration.

8,070ha of Mt Kenya catchment forest will be restored. The project will establish nurseries for indigenous species, including *Olea africana*, *Ficus sur*, *Ficus thonningii*, *Prunus africana*, *Syzygium guineense*, *Hagenia abyssinica*, *Juniperus procera*, *Podocarpus falcatus*, *Podocarpus latifolia* and *Dombeya rotundifolia*. Restoration and active management of the sites for regeneration will be done in collaboration with Community Forest Associations (CFAs), Mount Kenya Trust (MKT) and Kenya Forest Service (KFS) who have experience from their ongoing presence in Mount Kenya.

280ha of cropland will be brought under sustainable management through climate-smart agriculture, soil and water conservation, improving soil health and biodiversity. Target farmlands are owned by individuals and are mainly under food crop, cash crop, and livestock rearing.

570ha of rangeland will be rehabilitated through responsible, mechanical removal of invasive *Opuntia stricta*, using the removed *Opuntia* for biogas production in 4 local schools and 1,050 households, reducing fuel wood consumption. The cleared land will be reseeded with climate-adaptable, indigenous grass species and actively managed to increase grass and forb diversity and ground cover. The intervention complements ongoing biological control using cochineal insect and grazing planning being done through other investments, including the NRT carbon project[Ref-26]. To complement the



restoration actions, the project will, through MKEWP and OPC, support introduction of energy-saving/low-carbon stoves to reduce fuelwood demand among 1,050 households and 4 schools. This integrates lessons from a previous project operated by OPC that resulted in a 50% reduction in household firewood consumption[Ref-30].

Dry-season water availability across the habitats will be improved through: i) 7 earth-pans/dams in 5 community conservancies, to increase water access for wildlife, improving wildlife distribution and habitat utilisation, and reducing risk of human-wildlife conflict. This aligns with NRT's existing water infrastructure development strategy; ii) two common water intakes to allow environmental flows and reduce water-user conflict, proven through existing Ngusishi WRUA water intakes[Ref-31], and iii) a collaboratively-developed landscape water-sharing plan, informed by an ecosystem services assessment, to enhance equitable water access for users.

Output 2: Poverty reduction through nature-based solutions, to increase food security, job creation, and income.

The project will enable members of 2,906 farming, agropastoral and pastoral households to develop or diversify sustainable livelihoods in line with ecosystem-based adaptation, including climate-smart agriculture (rainwater harvesting, drought-resistant and fast-maturing crops, terracing, cover crops, mulching, organic manure, agroforestry/fruit trees, hydroponics, fodder production, and rotation farming), soil and water conservation and land restoration.

To develop livestock markets, the project will support OPC and 22 surrounding communities to expand its existing commercially-tested, successful livestock-to-market model[Ref-27]. Through a revolving fund, OPC will purchase, fatten and sell c.1,670 steers from five self-help community groups within five pastoralist communities benefitting c.100 households/ 500 people.

Participatory market system development, involving 700 households, will be used to enable improved market access for milk, beef and crops, and to identify ways to reduce input costs. The households will be supported to form farmer/pastoralist-producer groups with governance structures, to enable bulk purchase of inputs and bulk marketing, reducing costs and increasing market access/income.

56 pastoralist youth and women from community conservancies will be supported to undertake technical and vocational training to diversify livelihoods, based on NRT's successful approach[Ref-32]. 656 households (including the 56 pastoralists) will be supported to access microcredit to adopt approaches that increase their resilience and enable adaptation to climate change, including efficient irrigation technologies, energy-saving/low-carbon stoves, water harvesting and storage technologies, and sustainable livelihoods opportunities. The project will support development of a community revolving fund to which 5% of profits are allocated, creating sustainable access to microcredit.

Output 3: Capacity building among local people and institutions to equitably use and manage natural resources.

The project will use the 'train the trainer' (TOT) approach to build the capacity of 90 representatives from local CBOs and staff from local CSOs, who will in turn train representatives from c.1,800 farming, agropastoralist and pastoralist households in resource governance and sustainable livelihoods, and represent them in county decision-making processes.

Based on findings of an institutional capacity assessment, the capacity of the five CSOs will be strengthened through training led by FFI, for example in safeguarding, governance and fundraising.

We will build the capacity of 12 monitors (50%W, 50%M) drawn from six WRUAs to collect and manage data on water flows, abstraction and pollution. Three OPC conservation technology lab staff will support WRUAs in project-wide SMART water flows and quality monitoring, including training on technologies and data management. Five CFAs will be trained on fire prevention and management.

Output 4: Develop enabling environment to leverage commitment and investment for further scale-up of project approaches.

The project will engage diverse stakeholders in the project area, county and national government agencies, to promote and mainstream project findings and recommendations into strategies and formal plans including sub-catchment management plans, conservancy management plans, county integrated development plans, county spatial plans, county climate action plans, and national reports to MEAs (CBD, NDC).

The project will develop a business case for generating income from ecosystem services to inform a sustainable financing plan, and hold co-creation meetings with county governments and relevant international bodies and NGOs, and/or with

private investors, (tourism, beef, energy) to pursue opportunities to implement the plan.

The project will raise awareness, locally and with specialist audiences, on the economic value of conservation and importance of biodiversity, using the project as an evidenced model for sustainable watershed management, to mobilise additional replication and adoption of approaches within the watershed and further afield.

A project steering committee (PSC) will be formed at inception, of key staff from all project partners and key stakeholders, including representatives from the three county governments. The PSC will hold biannual meetings to monitor and evaluate progress and integrate lessons learned, to adaptively manage, maximising the significant value project partners bring through their experience and networks, which is essential to project success.

## **Q16. Capability and Capacity**

**How will you support the strengthening of capability and capacity in the project countries at organisational or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take, who will benefit and the post-project value to the country.**

The project will be delivered with local partners and institutions with long-term presence on the ground: OPC, NRT, MKEWP, and MKT, in collaboration with CBOs (CFAs and WRUAs) and government institutions (KWS, KFS, and county governments of Nyeri, Meru and Laikipia). LCA will lead scoping studies across its membership to develop the business case outlined in Q15.

CFAs are formed of forest-adjacent communities who are primarily small-scale farmers and engage in sustainable, participatory forest management in line with Kenya Forest Act 2005. Under Output 3, we will develop their practical skills in fire prevention, patrolling, monitoring, tree planting, climate-smart agriculture, and management of natural resources. CFAs will be supported to establish a conservation fund to finance operations. The project will cultivate links between target CFAs and successful CFAs in the watershed (or beyond), and will facilitate peer learning to improve water stewardship. We will also support the development of water-allocation plans and sub-catchment management plans, using common intakes as a tool to enable equitable water sharing. Under Output 4, CFAs will be trained and mentored in proposal development skills, to enable access to conservation funding.

WRUAs comprise of water resource users, riparian land owners and other stakeholders cooperatively sharing a common water resource. In the project context, members are farmers and pastoralists who depend on a shared river. WRUAs will have capacity built under Output 2, to collect and disseminate data across the watershed to inform decision-making on water use and management. This will be supported by OPC's conservation technology lab[Ref-33], established through a partnership between FFI, Liquid Telecom, Arm, and The Royal Foundation to develop technology-based solutions to conservation challenges.

MKEWP membership is drawn from water users, government agencies, civil society, researchers, CFAs, WRUAs in the Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem to collectively identify and address water challenges. MKEWP will receive training and mentoring in proposal development skills, to improve access to government funds, and also be supported by OPC's technology lab.

30 youths from farming and agropastoralist communities will be trained to install energy-saving stoves in households, to support the reduction in fuelwood use under Output 1.

Using a training-of-trainers (TOTs) approach under Output 2, 90 people from MKEWP, OPC, MKT, CFAs and WRUAs will be trained to train pastoralist, agropastoralist, and farming household beneficiaries on sustainable livelihoods and business skills for nature-based approaches. Using these trainers as a key resource, as well as FFI and key government staff such as extension officers, the project expects to reach >15,000 people.

Project partners and county officials will use project information and lessons learned for policy development and integration in county strategies, and to engage with diverse stakeholders, to develop their capacities to manage and monitor the watershed collaboratively and sustainably.

The increased capacity described above will enable joint, collaborative, equitable management of natural resources, to ensure sustainability of impact after project end, including financing to help sustain critical operations for ecosystem

management post-project.

## Q17. Gender equality

**All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your understanding of gender equality within the context your project, and how is it reflected in your plans. Please summarise how your project will contribute to reducing gender inequality. Applicants should, at a minimum, ensure proposals will not increase inequality and are encouraged to design interventions that proactively contribute to increased gender equality**

The role of women varies among the different groups in the watershed. In agricultural areas, households' water needs are largely fulfilled by retrieving water, with women primarily responsible for this time-consuming task. A study[Ref-34] in the Laikipia region found that women prioritised water access, storage, and infrastructure, which is consistent with current WRUA activities. However, marginalisation of women from WRUA participation is entrenched in beliefs and behaviours about women's roles and domestic responsibilities, lack of money to participate, and lack of time given other responsibilities. This project will build the capacity of 6 women from 6 WRUAs, and support them to participate in water management.

In targeted pastoral community conservancies, women and men are not equal participants in conservation, and decision making is seen as the preserve of men[Ref-35]. Pastoral women often struggle to be heard in public spaces[Ref-36] and cannot consistently attend meetings because of household chores, childcare, and animal herding, particularly among the poorest families that cannot afford to hire a herder or have children attend school. Most meetings are planned without due consideration of women's schedules. From a 2019 gender audit of NRT's member conservancy boards, women were underrepresented: 118 women (20%) versus 485 men (80%) on boards; of 39 conservancy managers, only 3 were women (8%); only 43 Conservancy scouts were women (6%), and there were no women on the NRT council of elders (Chairpersons of Conservancies)[Ref-37]. Women's roles and influence in the livestock sector are often underestimated, and interventions focused on livestock and meat production risk excluding women from decision-making and control of financial benefits. During this project, we will ensure that our interventions do not undermine the control that women do have, for example sale of milk and hides, and we will explore opportunities for increasing this, for example through including cattle belonging to women's groups in the purchasing schemes, building on learning from Darwin Initiative project 24-002.

The project design will identify and address the specific barriers women face to equitable participation and access to benefits. The project design has clearly indicated quotas of the percentage of women to be targeted for livelihood development interventions, microcredit access, market linkages, and capacity building. We will ensure that data and analysis is sex-disaggregated and will take steps to ensure that women are consulted, represented, able to participate, encouraged to take on leadership roles, and enabled to benefit from project activities.

Activities will be facilitated and project information distributed to promote women's engagement, through targeted, carefully scheduled, separate discussions. Women will be included in all committees/decision-making fora and, additionally, women outside of such fora will be consulted to ensure that their views and priorities are taken into account. This follows equal opportunity principles enshrined in the Kenya constitution[Ref-38], which requires no less than one-third of either gender in all forms of representation. FFI will also draw on its existing institutional policies and guidance, including its 'Gender in Conservation' position paper[Ref-39].

## Q18. Awareness and understanding

**How will you raise awareness and understanding of biodiversity-poverty issues in your stakeholders, including who are your stakeholders, what approaches/formats/products will you use, how you will ensure open and free access to all data, and how will you know that the messages are understood?**

The project will hold stakeholder consultations with local community members, representatives from county governments, CBOs and CSOs to develop a stakeholder map and engagement plan. We will tailor communication approaches to different stakeholders, considering the needs of women and marginalised groups, including those who contest conservation.

Local stakeholder participation: WRUAs and CFAs will be engaged in water and catchment forest management, raising awareness through the training outlined in Q16, of good governance, natural-resource monitoring, and water regulations. Local community members' awareness (farmers, agropastoralist and pastoralists) of climate-smart farming and livestock

management practices will be increased. Methods are likely to include meetings, farmer field days, dialogue forums, community mobile units, public notices, and mass texting, and will account for linguistic and literacy needs.

Counties and other state agencies (Water Resources Authority, KFS, KWS) will be reached through courtesy visits, consultative stakeholder meetings and validation meetings, including at project inception, the ecosystem services assessment and water-sharing plan development. Methods will include face-to-face discussions, presentations, written reports and dissemination of lessons-learned documents.

The project will raise awareness to specialist and wider audiences on the value of biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation, through news articles, websites, social media, and presentations at national and regional conferences e.g. National County Devolution Conference, Kenya Private Sector Alliance Natural Resource Forum, UNEA, and UN Biodiversity Conference COP16.

The ecosystem services assessment report, water-sharing plan, and lessons-learned documents will be published on FFI and partner websites. An article based on the findings of the ecosystem services assessment will be submitted for publication in an open-access, peer-reviewed journal. At the end of each project year, we will disseminate recommendations to key stakeholders through presentations and face-to-face meetings.

Understanding of key messages will be evidenced through the successful uptake of project activities and measured as per logframe indicators and methods.

## Q19. Change expected

**Detail the expected changes to both biodiversity and poverty reduction, and links between them, this work will deliver. You should identify what will change (the Outcome) and who will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended).**

**When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit, differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used.**

Short-term

370ha of Mt Kenya catchment forest will benefit from active restoration actions, and 7,700ha will benefit from natural regeneration, as a result of tree planting and a 40% reduction in fuelwood use, leading to a 50% increase in vegetation cover by project end.

1,050 agricultural and agropastoral households (HH) (c.5,250 people, 50%W, 50%M) and four schools will benefit from the adoption of fuel-efficient stoves, using invasive species opuntia for biogas.

Quantity and quality of water flow in and out of Mount Kenya forest will increase, benefitting pastoralist, agropastoralist, and farming households, and stabilising populations of key wildlife species, (elephant, giraffe, black rhino, white rhino, zebra, lion, wild dog, and freshwater species).

570ha of rangeland in four target conservancies will benefit from a 30% increase in plant species composition, diversity and groundcover, as a result of active restoration and responsible invasive species removal.

1,100 farmer and 600 agropastoral households (8,500 people, 50%W, 50%M) will benefit from improved cropland health, as a result of adoption of at least two climate-smart agricultural practices, increased water availability through adoption of water storage infrastructure and efficient irrigation technologies, on 280ha of cropland, increasing their resilience to climate change.

Innovations in equitable water use in the upper catchment (two common water intakes serving 3,600 households/ 18,000 people) and a landscape-level water-sharing plan, will regulate water demand.

7 earth-pans/dams will harvest groundwater, providing new dry-season water supply for wildlife in five conservancies. This will reduce the competition for water between people and wildlife, leading to reduced incidents of human-wildlife conflict

and loss of produce for 300 farming households.

Diversified, sustainable livelihoods will reduce overdependence on, and make more efficient use of, natural resources, benefitting 2,906 households / c.14,450 people (at least 40% women) from farming, agropastoralist, and pastoralist communities, including climate-smart cropland, livestock, and agricultural practices, and improved access to market and enterprise development. 80% of households participating in training will be able to apply their acquired knowledge and see benefits from climate-resilient livelihoods by project end, seeing a 40% increase in produce and 30% increase in income. As part of farmer/pastoralist-producer groups, 700 households will benefit from reduced input costs and increased income, as a result of bulk purchase and marketing. 656 households (60%W, 40%M) will have developed small enterprises as a result of access to microfinance, paying taxes/levies to county governments.

90 people from partner staff and CBOs, (50%W, 50%M), will benefit from becoming trainers, able to train others on nature-based approaches (see Q15) for addressing water security and livelihood challenges, (habitat restoration, sustainable natural-resource use, sustainable production, safeguarding, and governance), and will be able to represent their organisations in county decision-making processes. These trainers will train a further 1,100 farmer, 600 agropastoralist, and 100 pastoralist households (50%W, 50%M), 12 community members from six WRUAs, and 100 community members from five CFAs. As a result, 656 households will be accessing conservation microcredit (60%W) by project end, with 100 pastoralist households benefiting from a livestock revolving fund, to support long-term financing of climate-resilient, sustainable pastureland management.

MKEWP and WRUAs will benefit from increased capacity including in governance, safeguarding and fundraising, enabling them to access financing opportunities after project end.

Sustainability of project impact will be secured through increased awareness of, and greater support for, conservation, with project approaches mainstreamed into county plans, policy, and legislative processes. Recommendations on using ecosystem services to generate income for conservation will inform a sustainable financing plan, with funding/investment secured by project end, to progress implementation of the plan.

Long-term

The project vision is a water-secure Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem, that supports thriving biodiversity and people, and provides a scalable model of an integrated watershed management approach for other similarly water-stressed landscapes.

The project legacy will be improved health and resilience of wildlife, livestock and people to the effects of climate change, and improved ecosystem functioning and more equitable management of, and access to, ecosystem services. Local institutions will benefit from improved capacity and will benefit from more integrated working that supports effective use of all funds generated within and invested to this watershed.

Land under conservation management will remain secure as communities and counties see evidence of benefits of nature-based solutions, for livelihood development, poverty alleviation, and increased tax payment from income generated. The security of conservation lands will promote increasing populations of globally-important endangered species, with potential for them to act as source populations for re-stocking efforts elsewhere.

## Q20. Pathway to change

**Please outline your project's expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline why and how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, longer term, your expected Impact.**

**This should directly relate to your overall project's Theory of Change which must be uploaded alongside your application in Flexi-Grant. See the separate [Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance](#) for further information on your Theory of Change.**

This project contributes to building resilience to the impacts of climate change, increasing food and water security, and providing a sustainable future for people and wildlife in the Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem (impact).

The overall Theory of Change is that promoting sustainable and equitable use of natural resources and governance by local people will increase water security and promote ecosystem functioning in the Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem, supporting key species, reducing conflict, increasing human wellbeing, and adapting to climate change (outcome).

The Project will take specific actions to achieve this:

1. Habitat restoration, reducing fuelwood use through eco-stoves, promoting climate-resilient cropland management, and developing a collaborative water-sharing plan, to increase the quantity and quality of dry-season river flows, and improve soil, rangeland, and forest habitat health (output 1).
2. Supporting uptake of climate-resilient, nature-based solutions among 2,906 farming, agropastoral and pastoral households, including sustainable land, pasture and water management practices, and improved market linkages (output 2).
3. Working with 11 local community-based organisations and 5 local civil society organisations so they have the capacity and capability to jointly, equitably, and sustainably manage natural resources (output 3).
4. Disseminating project learning and promoting recommendations to evidence the value of biodiversity conservation and human-wildlife co-existence for economic productivity, water security and climate resilience, to leverage commitment and investment for further scale-up (output 4).

This pathway to change assumes county and national governments remain supportive of holistic natural resource management; targeted communities remain cooperative; and partners engaged in this work remain in the project area. The risks associated with these assumptions are mitigated by the long-term presence and existing relationships of FFI and partners, including government stakeholders; the strong engagement and support of local partners in project design (which has already catalysed greater engagement from County governments); and Kenya's enabling conservation policy environment.

## **Q21. Exit Strategy**

**How will the project be sustained or continue to deliver benefits post-funding?**

**How will post-project scaling of the approach be delivered: through new finance or through uptake by stakeholders or other mechanisms? Are there any barriers to scaling and how will these be addressed?**

Sustainability is at the core of project design. Whilst FFI and partners will continue to work in the watershed beyond the project period, sustainability of impacts achieved is critical to achieving our vision.

Fundamental to this will be demonstrating the economic value of conservation as a land-use choice, and evidencing the compatibility of conservation and economic development objectives. This will be ratified within the project period by county governments and other relevant stakeholders formally endorsing, and adopting, water-sharing plans, and mainstreaming recommendations into their plans, policies, and budgets. Once formally adopted, these documents will remain key governance instruments in perpetuity, providing a framework for continued watershed-level coordination. Integration into County Integrated Development Plans and spatial plans will also ensure that resources are allocated for implementation after project end.





Farmer/pastoralist-producer groups will be established early in the project to ensure that by project end they are effective, strong and able to maintain linkages with external markets, whilst providing financing for their operations as well as contributing to conservation funds. The PMSD approach will embed sustainability in enterprise development; FFI acts as the facilitator, with resulting private-sector relationships developed directly with the community enterprise, avoiding long-term dependencies on NGO actors. Livelihoods interventions will be financed post-project through the community-led micro-credit scheme and underpinned by increased capacity of governance structures. Project financing for livelihoods will be catalytic, and will 'grow' within the lifetime of the project through repayments by beneficiaries, providing community financing of initiatives beyond 2028.

All training will be delivered at group level, so that the departure of specific individuals will not be detrimental to capacity levels. The use of TOTs will be adopted from the outset, enabling FFI and other partners to progressively step back and adopt a more oversight-focused role, catalysing community ownership of implementing project approaches.

Water, biodiversity and habitat monitoring will be conducted by communities throughout the life of the project, incentivised by the benefits generated, and will continue beyond project end. OPC will undertake long-term responsibility for water monitoring technology, and with MKEWP, will train communities in maintenance and repair of this technology. Being based in the landscape, OPC will support with backstopping for maintenance issues that cannot be resolved by communities.

Securing the resources to enable further scaling of the work after project completion is also a planned project output. Project partners will work together, building on and incorporating project evidence, to leverage further large-scale support to replicate project approaches throughout the wider watershed, including co-creation of a funding proposal to a multilateral opportunity by project end, and development of a business case for financing based on an ecosystem services assessment, considering, for example, carbon finance, such as using agriculture-related carbon credits. Project partners operating in other areas will also mainstream learning by supporting implementation of water-sharing approaches in other Kenyan watersheds and beyond.

**If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps or references etc., as a PDF using the File Upload below:**

-  [References, acronyms, map](#)
-  03/10/2022
-  15:04:02
-  pdf 637.95 KB

## Section 8 - Risk Management

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### Q22. Risk Management

**Please outline the 6 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the [Risk Guidance](#). This should include at least one Fiduciary, one Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.**

**Projects should also draft and submit their initial risk register, using the [Risk Register template](#), and upload below.**





Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
<b>Fiduciary</b> Significant budget amounts will be sub-granted to implementation partners to undertake activities. There is a risk that these funds are intentionally (fraud) or unintentionally (e.g., through misunderstanding grant requirements) misused or misreported, leading to loss of project funds and risk to project reputation.	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	FFI's Due Diligence Policy & Procedure requires due diligence be conducted on sub-grantees, including to ascertain financial risks. Funds will be disbursed on a quarterly basis subject to satisfactory financial reporting. Partner staff will be trained on fund management and requirements. FFI staff will undertake quarterly visits and spot audits.	Minor

<p><b>Safeguarding</b></p> <p>The community and private conservancies targeted by the project include both armed conservancy staff and National Police Reserve who interact with communities to check for illegal activities. In such cases, there is a safeguarding risk and communities may be aggrieved.</p>	Major	Rare	Moderate	<p>FFI has a mandatory Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy &amp; Procedure which requires compliance from all FFI staff, associates and partners, including sub-grantees, service providers and third parties who carry out work on behalf of or in conjunction with FFI, including clear investigation and disciplinary procedures, and grievance mechanisms.</p>	Minor
<p><b>Delivery Chain</b></p> <p>Some of the civic implementation partners (membership organisations) operate on a lean staff, e.g., MKEWP. There is a risk that their capacity is below that needed to meet the needs of the project. This would lead to slow implementation and increase burden on other project partners.</p>	Moderate	Possible	Major	<p>Capacity building is a core component of this project. FFI's partner due diligence process also enables identification of risks that may arise from low capacity. FFI's Partnerships and Organisational Development team will support the project and capacity gaps will be kept under review to inform adaptive management.</p>	Minor
<p><b>Risk 4</b></p> <p>In recent years, pasture conflicts have been witnessed during extreme dry periods, (2017 and 2021), mainly within Laikipia, Samburu, and Isiolo counties. This is caused by migration of pastoralists from other counties, outside the project area, that have led to life and property losses.</p>	Major	Possible	Major	<p>Two approaches required: 1) Risk avoidance; in the event of conflict occurring, implementing protocol, plans, and incident reporting processes. 2) In the long term, reduction in the root cause of conflict achieved through project interventions, e.g., replicating NRT Community Conservancies' successful approach and stakeholder-agreed grazing plans.</p>	Moderate
<p><b>Risk 5</b></p> <p>Riverine water access conflicts in the watershed intensify during extreme dry periods, (2017 and 2021), which can lead to life and property losses, including human-wildlife conflict.</p>	Moderate	Possible	Major	<p>As with pasture conflict, there are two approaches required: 1) Risk avoidance (as above). 2) Long-term reduction in the root cause of conflict achieved through project interventions, e.g., equitable water sharing, management plans, and habitat restoration to increase water availability in the landscape, particularly during dry periods.</p>	Minor



<b>Risk 6</b>	Minor	Possible	Moderate	Most project interventions will happen in rural communities, which are less likely to be affected by disturbances. We will follow the 2022 election plan, which worked well. This included contingency planning, hibernation processes, and monitoring of conflict activity in the region. Project partners also have comprehensive contingency planning in place.	Minor
<p>Past elections in Kenya have been marked with tensions and violence, predominantly in major towns and cities. When new county leaders are elected, the transition process takes time. The 2027 Kenya national election could temporarily slow down project implementation activities due to possible tensions.</p>					

Please upload your Risk Register, with Delivery Chain Risk Map, here.

-  [2022 R29 Kenya Risk Register](#)
-  03/10/2022
-  12:51:31
-  xlsx 112.04 KB





## Section 9 - Implementation Timetable

**Q23. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities**

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the Word template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project and upload this below as a PDF.

[Implementation Timetable Template](#)

Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and fill/shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

-  [R29 Kenya Implementation-Timetable](#)
-  03/10/2022
-  15:01:00
-  pdf 291.33 KB

## Section 10 - Monitoring and Evaluation

**Q24. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)**

Describe how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the project's M&E.

Darwin Initiative projects are expected to be adaptive and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the delivery of the project including its management. M&E is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see [Finance Guidance](#)).

**Darwin Initiative Extra Projects are required to commission an Independent Final Evaluation to report by the time that the project completes. The cost of this should be included in the project budget, and within the total project cost for M&E.**

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) (see Q15) will oversee project M&E and adaptive management. The team will, at project inception, develop a detailed M&E plan to capture evidence of change at key stages along the project’s impact pathway. This will be endorsed by the PSC. The M&E plan will outline key project indicators to monitor (as per the logframe), roles and responsibilities, schedule, budget, M&E tools, project findings, and communication plan. Biannual meetings will be held to review workplans and activities, and adjust plans based on lessons learned.

The M&E plan will guide: establishment of project-specific baselines in Y1; continuous tracking of project impacts; risk mitigation, and enable adaptive management. FFI’s approach to project-level M&E[Ref-40] draws on best practice[Ref-41] and standard approaches, including the Sustainable Livelihoods framework[Ref-42].

An ecological monitoring framework will be developed in Y1 to guide monitoring of key indicator species including plants, freshwater species, savanna elephant, reticulated giraffe, black rhino, white rhino, common zebra, Grevy’s zebra, lion, and wild dog.

MKEWP and MKT will generate GIS land vegetation maps to monitor impact of forest restoration activities. OPC rangeland health will be monitored using the Pasture Disk Meter methodology[Ref-43] to measure pasture quantity, grass species abundance, and frequency. NRT will monitor rangeland health in the four target community conservancies using Veg-CoMMS, a vegetation monitoring system adapted from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Monitoring Rangeland Health Guide[Ref-44], for grass and forb species composition, diversity, and groundcover. This builds on ongoing monitoring approaches across large areas enabling identification of trends over time.

SMART will be deployed in target conservancies to collect wildlife data on species sightings, distribution, and habitat utilisation, for analysis and to continually inform adaptive management. OPC will undertake an annual wildlife census to provide data on population trends.

The project will use participatory approaches during community inception meetings to define the ‘most vulnerable’ households, following recommendations from the socio-economic and monitoring guidance developed during the concluded Laikipia Darwin project led by FFI[Ref-36] to conduct a participatory, gendered, socioeconomic impact assessment.

In Y1, the project will develop criteria for, and create, localised, targeted, thematic training manuals for TOTs, and support TOTs to conduct baseline capacity assessments for WRUAs, CFAs, farmers, pastoralists and agropastoralists, and prepare capacity building plans. TOTs will collect and submit livelihoods data to MKEWP, OPC and NRT for analysis and annual reporting and dissemination to stakeholders. TOTs will carry out organisational capacity assessments of WRUAs in Y1, 3, and 5.

A mid-point project evaluation will be undertaken, the results from which will be considered by all project partners and the PSC to inform adaptive management for the remaining project period, which may include revising of the ToC, logframe and indicators, if appropriate, with approval from the Darwin Initiative.

The project will hold a competitive tendering process in to secure the Independent Final Evaluator. The proposed methodology for the final evaluation will be agreed in advance with the Fund Manager. The project will meet with the independent evaluator and share annual reports information as agreed.

<b>Independent Final Evaluation in GBP</b>	██████████
<b>Independent Final Evaluation (%)</b>	█
<b>Total project budget for M&amp;E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)</b>	£ ██████████
<b>Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&amp;E (%)</b>	█
<b>Number of days planned for M&amp;E</b>	308

# Section 11 - Logical Framework

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## Q25. Logical Framework (logframe)

Darwin Initiative projects will be required to monitor and report against their progress towards their Outputs and Outcome. This section sets out the expected Outputs and Outcome of your project, how you expect to measure progress against these and how we can verify this.


See the [Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance](#) for advice on completing a logical framework and selecting Indicators.


- [Logframe Template](#)


The **logframe template** needs to be downloaded from Flexi-Grant, completed and uploaded as a PDF – **please do not edit the logframe template structure (other than adding additional Outputs if needed) as this may make your application ineligible.**


**Please upload your logframe and Theory of Change as a combined PDF document.**

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 [Kenya Logframe and ToC](#)

 03/10/2022

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 pdf 268.22 KB

### Impact:

A water-secure Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem supports thriving biodiversity and people, providing a scalable model for human-wildlife co-existence, climate-resilient livelihoods, nature-based solutions and sustainable economic development for other water-stressed landscapes.

### Outcome:

Sustainable natural resource management increases water security and ecosystem functioning in the Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem, supporting key species, reducing conflict, increasing human wellbeing, and adaptation to climate change.

## Project Outputs

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### Output 1:

Habitat restoration, reduced fuelwood use, equitable water-demand regulation and sharing, and climate-resilient cropland management, increases quantity and quality of dry-season river flows, and improves soil, rangeland, and forest habitat health.

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### Output 2:

Climate-resilient, nature-based solutions, sustainable land, pasture and water management practices, and improved market linkages, increase wellbeing for 2,906 farming, agropastoral and pastoral households/ c.14,530 people (at least 40% women).

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### Output 3:

Conservation CBOs (6 WRUAs and 5 CFAs) and local civic organisations (MKEWP, OPC, LCA, NRT,MKT) have the capacity and capability to jointly, equitably, and sustainably manage natural resources.

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### Output 4:

The value of project outcomes, (biodiversity conservation, human-wildlife co-existence, economic productivity, water security, climate resilience), is evidenced and ready to be scaled up, through local stakeholder commitment and larger-scale investment.

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### Output 5:

*No Response*

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## Do you require more Output fields?

**N.B. – Most projects have 3-4 Outputs. It is advised to have fewer than 6 outputs.**

No

## Activities

**Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.**

### Output 1

- 1.1 Produce wet and dry season land-use and landcover maps for Mt. Kenya catchment and rangeland, to identify and monitor areas that require restoration (Y1).
- 1.2 Support 2 CFAs (17,200 people) to establish native tree nurseries (Y1,Y2) and plant seedlings in degraded forest land.
- 1.3 Train 5 CFAs on fire prevention and management (Y1), provide equipment (Y1, Y4), and support ongoing patrols and monitoring of forest areas under natural regeneration.
- 1.4 Identify energy use/needs of households and schools. Train 30 youths (50%W, 50%M) to install energy-saving stoves in 1,050HH (Y1) and biogas in 4 schools (Y2).
- 1.5 Monitor the uptake and impact of energy saving stoves and biogas, and disseminate results (Y3, Y5).
- 1.6 Restore c.570ha of degraded rangeland through active interventions and natural regeneration, including erosion control, responsible removal of invasive species, reseeding with adaptable/indigenous grass species (Y1-5).
- 1.7 Conduct annual Ecological Outcome Verifications at OPC (baseline Y1) to monitor soil, biodiversity and ecosystem health, including training 10 OPC staff (Y1-2).
- 1.8 Annually monitor the impact of restoration interventions on forest cover, rangeland health, indicator species, and wildlife (including freshwater), against Y1 baselines, and share lessons learned.
- 1.9 Support WRUAs/communities in the construction and operation of 2 approved water intakes, based on collaborative site selection, expert input, and environmental impact assessments (Y1-5).
- 1.10 Support WRUAs/communities in the construction/desilting of 7 earth-pans/watering pools and collaboratively develop governance and access guidelines (Y1-3).
- 1.11 Based on an Ecosystem Services Assessment (Y1), produce a catchment water-sharing plan (Y2). Advocate for formal adoption by County governments (Laikipia, Meru and Nyeri) (Y2-3).
- 1.12 Support MKEWP and 12 WRUA scouts to monitor water offtake, quantity, quality, and water-use compliance, within targeted catchment tributaries, with OPC Technology Lab, (baselines Y1).

### Output 2

- 2.1 Identify 6,506 households (WRUAs, CFAs, farmers, pastoralists, agropastoralists) to benefit from sustainable livelihoods support and establish baselines for wellbeing, yields, income and climate vulnerability (Y1).
- 2.2 Based on learning needs assessments (Activity 3.3), conduct training-of-trainers (TOTs) for 90 individuals from partner institutions and community groups (Y1, Y3).
- 2.3 Facilitate TOTs to conduct soil test assessments to inform crop selection and climate-smart agriculture and livestock practices, (baseline Y1, repeat Y3 and Y5).
- 2.4 Develop training manuals (Y1) and facilitate TOTs to train c.15,000 people on climate-smart agriculture, land restoration, low-carbon stoves/biogas, and nature-positive livelihood diversification (Y1-3).
- 2.5 Facilitate 700 households to form, and strengthen, farmer-producer groups, for production, bulking and marketing (Y3-5).
- 2.6 Facilitate approx. 656 households (subset of 2.1) to access the microfinance scheme, (see Activity 3.10), including youth and women (Y2-4).
- 2.7 Conduct training for 5 pastoralist community groups neighbouring OPC (2,400 households: c.12,000 people, 30% W, 70%M) on the livestock-to-market scheme (Y1-2).
- 2.8 Facilitate 5 pastoralist community groups (see 2.7) to establish 5 producer groups, with governance structures, to facilitate buying/selling of cattle, and to access inputs (Y2-3).
- 2.9 Support OPC to establish a revolving fund to purchase, fatten and sell c.1,670 steers from the 5 communities, benefiting c.100 pastoralist households (Y1).
- 2.10 Facilitate 56 pastoralist youth and women to select business opportunities (e.g., welding, masonry, tailoring) and conduct tailored vocational and entrepreneurial training (Y2).
- 2.11 Conduct a feasibility study to identify suitable scale-up of NBS, (e.g., agroforestry/fruit trees, hydroponics, fodder production), and prepare an NBS-business plan and financial model (Y2-3).
- 2.12 Informed by the 2.11 study and plan, conduct market analysis for NBS products from beneficiary households (Y3), and

develop marketing strategies targeting bulk buyers (Y4).

2.13 Identify and engage external buyers for each NBS product, establishing links with farmers, agropastoralists, and pastoralists, through identified market hubs (Y4).

2.14 Monitor the impact of livelihoods interventions (Y3, Y5), including carrying out socio-economic surveys, and a Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis.

#### Output 3

3.1 Undertake organisational capacity assessment for WRUAs and MKEWP and develop institutional capacity development plans to guide tailored trainings, including on governance and fundraising (Y1-2).

3.2 Map existing safeguarding approaches among all 5 project partners and deliver training for TOTs to address identified gaps (Y1).

3.3 Support TOTs to conduct capacity assessments of WRUAs, CFAs, farmers, pastoralists, agropastoralists, and community conservancies, on NBS and sustainable practices, (baseline Y1, monitor growth Y3).

3.4 Support TOTs to use capacity assessments to prepare capacity building plans and revise training materials for project beneficiaries (Y2, Y3).

3.5 Develop monitoring tools for livelihoods interventions, and train TOTs to use them to submit data to MKEWP, OPC and NRT, for analysis/reporting (from Y2).

3.6 Organise exchange visits between identified WRUA representatives and more established/successful WRUAs in the landscape (or beyond) for peer-to-peer learning and mentorship (Y2).

3.7 Facilitate biannual dialogue meetings for water users and managers, led by MKEWP, and agree water-use allocation, and adoption and management of common waters intake (Y1-5).

3.8 Assess existing microcredit facilities among beneficiaries, and develop guidelines for targeted promotion of conservation microcredit uptake among communities (Y1).

3.9 Support beneficiaries to develop and strengthen governance structures for conservation microcredit facilities, including training in financial management, leadership, governance, and monitoring, evaluation and learning (Y1-Y4).

3.10 Support targeted microcredit facilities through seed funding (supporting affordable water-harvesting infrastructure, enterprise development for pastoralist youth and women, and cattle purchase scheme by OPC) (Y1-Y4).

3.11 Support farmer-producer groups, CFAs and WRUAs to create a conservation fund (Y1), with governance. Monitor the performance of the fund regarding WRUA/CFA operations (Y3).

3.12 Train 12 WRUA and MKEWP staff in SMART water data collection, analysis and dissemination (see Activity 1.14) (Y1-3).

3.13 Based on the landscape-level water-sharing plan, facilitate 3 WRUAs to review, develop and implement sub-catchment management plans (Y3-5).

3.14 Train and facilitate WRUAs to efficiently deter, detect, and take action against, illegal abstractions of river water and illegal activities in Mt Kenya Forest (Y1-2).

3.15 In collaboration with the OPC technology lab/hub, build the capacity of MKEWP and WRUAs in the collection and dissemination of biodiversity data (Y2).

3.16 Support WRUA communities to lobby against point and non-point pollution within the 3 sub-catchments targeted by the project (Y1-5).

#### Output 4

4.1 Hold biannual project implementation committee meetings, comprising of key staff from all partners, to evaluate progress and guide implementation and adaptive management (Y-5).

4.2 Consultatively develop a stakeholder engagement plan, to guide inclusive awareness raising to increase support for conservation, (e.g., Farmer Field Days, radio, World Environment Day) (Y1).

4.3 Facilitate ongoing dialogue processes at County level on conservation, to allow those with different perspectives on land management to have their voices heard (Y1-5).

4.4 Annually, disseminate project findings and recommendations to County governments, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, KFS, KWS (including CBD contact point), WRA and other relevant agencies (Y1-5).

4.5 Disseminate project results and lessons learned at national and regional conferences, meetings and workshops, and submit an article to an open-access, peer-reviewed journal (Y1-5).

4.6 Conduct scoping studies, market-analysis, assessment of income benefits of ecosystem services, and financial mechanisms, (e.g., carbon credits, biodiversity offsets), and engage private sector (Y1-2).

4.7 Based on 4.6, identify sustainable finance options and target stakeholders locally, nationally and internationally, to promote scale-up of project approaches. Develop a business case (Y2-3).

4.8 Informed by 4.7, co-create a proposal to a multilateral funding opportunity, (e.g., GCF, GEF), with other international NGOs (e.g., Conservation International) and national NGOs (Y4-5).

## Section 12 - Budget and Funding

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## Q26. Budget





Please complete the Excel spreadsheet below, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

Note that there are different templates available, please ensure that you use the [BCF budget template](#). Please refer to the Finance Guidance for more information.

Please ensure you include any co-financing figures in the Budget spreadsheet to clarify the full budget required to deliver this project.

**NB: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.**

Please upload the Lead Partner's accounts at the certification page at the end of the application form.

 [345-DAR1 budget 30.09.22 FINAL](#)  
 03/10/2022  
 13:23:31  
 xlsx 103.02 KB

## Q27. Funding

**Q27a. Is this a new initiative or does it build on existing work (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?**

Development of existing work

**Please provide details:**

The project does not overlap with ongoing interventions, but builds on, upscales and improves successful approaches, including: wildlife monitoring and management; sustainable livelihoods and economic development; water management; and habitat restoration. Ongoing and previous projects implemented by project partners have informed and strengthened this project's design:

FFI and OPC Darwin Initiative project (24-002): using an inclusive approach to strengthen rangeland and water management, interventions aimed to reduced natural-resource conflict, safeguard local livelihoods, and extend dispersal areas for endangered wildlife. This project was preceded by a Darwin Initiative Scoping award (EIDPR149).

OPC introduced solar power systems, energy-saving stoves and biogas in over 200 households adjacent to the conservancies [Ref-30]. This project will upscale this to an additional 1,050 households, jointly implemented by OPC and MKEWP (in communities adjacent to Mt. Kenya Forest).

In 2021, 3.2 million verified and validated carbon credits became available for purchase through NRT's Northern Kenya Carbon Project[Ref-26], anticipated to remove and store 50 million tons of CO2 over 30 years. The project spans 1.9 million ha, to improve grazing for pastoralists and generate additional revenue for 14 community conservancies. This project will support rangeland restoration through removal of invasive species in 5 participating community conservancies (in Laikipia County), and increase dry-season water access for wildlife. The carbon project does not cover these complementary interventions.

LCA's USAID-funded project, 'Strengthen Laikipia's Conservancies' (2021–2023); this project will build on LCA's achievement of improved collaboration between conservancies and other stakeholders to facilitate expanded wildlife monitoring and data-sharing, to influence conservation policies and plans within the landscape, and address natural-resource use issues.

MKT supports patrols to enable enforcement of existing laws, restoration activities, and community engagement, to secure Mt Kenya forest and tributaries. This project builds on MKT's long-term experience and expands forest restoration to other degraded areas not currently supported.

**Q27b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?**

No

**Q28. Capital items**

**If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.**

We are requesting █████ of the budget for capital items (£█████). Capital items purchases, for both FFI and partners, will primarily occur within Y1 and 2 of the project. This is to establish the necessary resources early within the period of implementation and ensure value-for-money on those purchases.

A vehicle will be purchased for FFI which, given the geographic scale and scope of the project area, is necessary to enable frequent travel for effective coordination and monitoring. Prices of new vehicles in Kenya over the last few years have escalated, and, from recent experience, their procurement has become more difficult and time consuming due to disruptions in global supply chains. We will therefore purchase a second-hand vehicle, to save on costs and time.

Partner capital costs include the purchase of motorbikes for forest habitat and river water monitoring, and to enable movement around the project area and frequent contact with stakeholders. The majority (£█████) of the remaining capital costs are primarily partner capital costs for water harvesting (water dams), and management of invasive species *Opuntia* (tractor, biodigesters). These one-time purchase items will endure well beyond project end and are essential for success of the project's rangeland restoration and water management interventions. Laptops and cameras are for use by project staff for day-to-day work and water and biodiversity monitoring.

For all purchases over £█████ three quotes will be obtained to justify the choice of supplier. All capital items will remain in the host country once the project has completed and will remain available to the local partners, communities and/or stakeholders.

All capital items will remain the property of the respective organisation post-project to support ongoing operations. They assume responsibility for maintenance and insurance.

**Q29. Value for Money**

**Please demonstrate why your project is good value for money in terms of impact and cost-effectiveness of each pound spend (economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity). Please make sure you read the guidance documents, before answering this question.**

**Economy:** All procurement will comply with FFI's procurement policy or donor regulations, whichever is more stringent, to avoid conflict of interest and ensure Value for Money. Purchases of >£3,000 require multiple, documented quotations. Procurement decisions may be made according to quality and safety as well as cost. Key FFI and partner implementation staff are based close to the working sites, reducing travel expenses and emissions. Opportunities to combine activities and share costs will be identified by the Project Manager throughout implementation.

The project draws upon FFI's in-house expertise, reducing consultancy and tendering costs and enabling more continuous support. A multitude of partners' expertise and resources will also be leveraged, including linguistic skills, (project staff are fluent in Kiswahili, English and local languages), reducing translation costs and ensuring effective communications with target communities. Where additional external expertise is required, the project will contract discrete specialist inputs through appropriate local partners, private companies, and consultants.

**Efficiency:** The project has been designed to scale-up proven approaches and build on existing, long-term partnerships. As such, start-up costs will be minimal and activities will start immediately. The project will leverage partners' extensive local knowledge and experience, to provide robust and cost-effective on-site capacity for community engagement, environmental monitoring, restoration, and planning and policy. Project implementation will be community-led and the 'infrastructure' for most of the planned work already exists i.e. CFAs, WRUAs, micro-credit schemes, and NBS models.

Effectiveness: The project will use adaptive management throughout. A joint online budget tracker will be set up to monitor expenditure and reporting by all partners. Project interventions are designed to leverage each partner's and organisation's strengths, expertise and networks. Darwin Initiative support for this project will also leverage match funding. Partners' organisational commitments and prioritisation of this project are evidenced by their in-kind staff time and operations contributions.

Equity: The project generates benefits for identified marginalised groups, including women and downstream water users. Women play the key role of safeguarding household welfare, (water and food availability, cooking energy). This is a barrier to participation in leadership and decision making in community issues. Effects of climate change (e.g., drought) mean more effort and costs borne by women to take care of their households. We have carefully considered integration of benefits to women from project interventions: adoption of energy stoves and biogas to reduce household energy access costs and time; microcredit access to enable implementation of water harvesting and storage structures, and enterprise development to enhance household water security and income; climate-resilient agriculture support to increase food security; inclusion of cattle owned by women's groups in the cattle purchasing scheme.

Over-abstraction by upstream water users has led to inequitable allocation of water for downstream pastoralists, particularly from commercial farming in the dry season, and financial constraints preventing sustainable water harvesting and storage. Development and implementation of a water-sharing plan, construction earth-pans/dams, and the microcredit scheme will facilitate equitable water sharing and increase water security.

## Section 13 - Safeguarding and Ethics

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### Q29. Safeguarding

**Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place.**

**Please confirm the Lead Partner has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:**

**Please upload the lead partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF on the certification page.**

<b>We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse</b>	Checked
<b>We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application (file upload on certification page)</b>	Checked
<b>We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with</b>	Checked
<b>We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made</b>	Checked
<b>We share our safeguarding policy with all partners</b>	Checked
<b>We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised</b>	Checked
<b>We have a Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards</b>	Checked

**Please outline how you will implement your safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that all partners apply the**



same standards as the Lead Partner.

**If your project involves data collection and/or analysis which identifies individuals (e.g. biometric data, intelligence data), please explain the measures which are in place and/or will be taken to ensure the proper control and use of the data. Please explain the experience and role of the involved partners in managing this information in your project.**

FFI has a mandatory Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy & Procedure which requires compliance from all FFI staff and associates and partners, including but not limited to, sub-grantees, service providers and any third parties who carry outwork on behalf of, in partnership with or in conjunction with FFI. All FFI staff are required to complete training.

The Policy adopts clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and has clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made. A grievance mechanism for the project will be implemented and annual training will be conducted.

### **Q31. Ethics**

**Outline your approach to meeting the key principles of good ethical practice, as outlined in the guidance.**

FFI seeks to ensure our activities do not disadvantage poor, vulnerable or marginalised, natural resource-dependent women and men, and wherever possible to conserve biodiversity in ways that enhance human wellbeing and social equity. FFI has committed to respecting human rights, promoting their protection and realisation within our conservation programmes, and supporting the governance systems that can secure those rights.

Community stakeholder engagement will follow FPIC principles including comprehensive documentation to evidence how the concerns, knowledge, rights and needs, particularly of vulnerable people, are addressed. We will support appropriate law enforcement agencies to manage conflict and apply legitimate regulations fairly. We will implement a locally appropriate, accessible and transparent Grievance Mechanism.

FFI has a suite of policies and procedures concerning core values and ethical behaviour, including safeguarding, anti-harassment and whistle blowing, as well as an employee handbook. As appropriate, these will be shared downstream to consultants and partners as contractual obligations in subgrant and consultancy contracts. All staff and partners sign and adhere to the Code of Conduct to ensure that they understand what is deemed a violation of rules and values of FFI.

## **Section 14 - FCDO Notifications**

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### **Q32. FCDO Notifications**

**Please state whether there are sensitivities that the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin Initiative in any country.**

No

**Please indicate whether you have contacted FCDO Embassy or High Commission to discuss the project and attach details of any advice you have received from them.**

Yes (no written advice)

## **Section 15 - Project Staff**

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### **Q33. Project staff**

**Please identify the core staff (identified in the budget), their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.**

**Please provide 1-page CVs or job description, further information on who is considered core staff can be found in the**

Finance Guidance.

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Serah Munguti	Project Leader	30	Checked
Josephine Nzilani	Fund Manager, Terrestrial Programme Manager, FFI Kenya	30	Checked
TBC	Project Manager – Darwin Extra, FFI Kenya	100	Checked
Ann Komen	Livelihoods and Governance Technical Specialist, FFI Kenya	30	Checked

**Do you require more fields?**


Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Patrick Lelei	Finance and Administration Manager, FFI Kenya	20	Checked
TBC	Enterprise Development Specialist, FFI Kenya	10	Checked
Emma Scott	Technical Specialist, Agriculture, FFI UK	5	Checked
Hafren Williams	Technical Specialist, Ecosystem Services and Corporate Sustainability, FFI UK	30	Checked
Stanley Kirimi	MKEWP Coordinator	40	Checked
Susie Weeks	MKT Executive Director	2	Checked
Antony Wandera	NRT Senior Officer	15	Checked
Moses Muthoki	Ol Pejeta, Senior Management	7	Checked

**Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the project staff listed above as a combined PDF.**

**Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.**

 [Kenya CVs Compiled](#)

 03/10/2022

 13:38:57

 pdf 1.7 MB

**Have you attached all project staff CVs?**

## Section 16 - Project Partners

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### Q34. Project Partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far and planned.

This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included.

The partners listed here should correspond to the Delivery Chain Risk Map (within the Risk Register template) you should upload alongside Q22.

<b>Lead partner name:</b>	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
<b>Website address:</b>	<a href="https://www.fauna-flora.org/">https://www.fauna-flora.org/</a>
<b>Why is this organisation the Lead Partner, and what value do they bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):</b>	<p>Operating in more than 40 countries, FFI works to conserve threatened species and ecosystems, seeking sustainable solutions based on sound science that contribute to human needs.</p> <p>FFI opened an office in Kenya in 2005 and has been a board member of Ol Pejeta Conservancy (OPC) and Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) since foundation in 2005. FFI works closely with OPC and NRT supporting technical delivery and development of species and community development projects.</p> <p>FFI's Africa, Livelihoods and Governance, Analytics, Agriculture, and Corporate Sustainability teams have the technical capacity and experience to support this project, including GIS, species conservation, policy and advocacy, wellbeing, equitable governance, gender equity and participatory approaches.</p> <p>FFI Kenya will co-ordinate the daily implementation of activities with two staff members located at Laikipia, supported by Nairobi-based technical, financial and administrative staff. Kenya-based staff will lead on the design and implementation of participatory approaches, social and ecological monitoring frameworks, data analysis, species protection, and monitoring activities.</p> <p>FFI's UK-based headquarters provides the necessary financial, administrative and technical support to ensure the delivery of i) high-quality technical guidance and quality control (including monitoring and evaluation) and ii) sound financial management that is fully consistent with donor standards and international accredited auditing standards.</p>
<b>International/In-country Partner</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> International
<b>Allocated budget (proportion or value):</b>	£ <span style="background-color: black; color: black;">██████████</span>

**Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure)**  Yes

---

**Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?**  Yes

---

**Have you provided a cover letter?**  Yes

---

**Do you have partners involved in the Project?**

Yes

**1. Partner Name:** Ol Pejeta Conservancy (OPC)

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**Website address:** <https://www.olpejetaconservancy.org/>

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**What value does this Partner bring to the project?**

**(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**

OPC is the largest black rhino sanctuary in East Africa and manages a very successful wildlife-livestock integration programme. OPC has a dedicated Community Development Programme that works with 21 communities adjacent to the conservancy, to ensure wildlife conservation translates to improved livelihoods.

OPC co-designed this project and will support wider landscape work particularly in water flows and quality monitoring across the project area, through its conservation technology lab. OPC will support and train WRUAs across the project area to set up digital river-water monitoring stations, and a hub for water data monitoring and dissemination. OPC will collect samples for water quality testing, completed at government facilities.

OPC will work with 5 communities neighbouring the conservancy to support sustainable agriculture and livestock schemes based on its Community Development Programme. OPC will operate its existing cattle scheme to enable 100 pastoralist households to benefit through a revolving fund set up by the project.

OPC commits in-kind staff time, transport and office space, to support: rangeland restoration within the conservancy; the development of ecological and socio-economic data management through their Ecological Monitoring Unit and conservation lab, and sustainable livelihoods and natural-resource use among communities.

**International/In-country Partner**  In-country

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**Allocated budget:** £ XXXXXXXXXX

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**Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure)**  Yes

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**Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?**  Yes

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**2. Partner Name:** Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT)

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**Website address:** <https://www.nrt-kenya.org/>

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**What value does this Partner bring to the project?**  
**(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**

NRT is a membership organisation owned and led by the 43 community conservancies it serves in northern and coastal Kenya. NRT was established as a shared resource to help build and develop community conservancies, who are positioned to conserve the natural environment, enhance people's lives and build peace.

The organisation has established long-term grassroots experience in rangeland restoration and community-led governance structures in the targeted landscape, which will be instrumental in ensuring local ownership of the project interventions by target communities and long-term sustainability of project impact.

Recent notable achievements by NRT in support of their capacity to deliver this project include: supporting pastoralists to earn KSh 90.7 million (USD 907,000) in 2020 from cattle sales, a 46% increase on 2019; installing 130 biogas units to support improved rangeland conservation; clearing 3,953ha of invasive Acacia reficiens, and reseeding 750ha to rehabilitate rangelands.

NRT co-designed this project and will lead in implementing activities on rangeland restoration, ground water harvesting, and livelihoods development through technical and vocational education and training for youth and women, and facilitation to start enterprises for diversifying income.

NRT commits in-kind staff time and field operations costs.

---

**International/In-country Partner**  In-country

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**Allocated budget:** £ ██████████

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**Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure)**  Yes

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**Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?**  Yes

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**3. Partner Name:** Mount Kenya Ewaso Water Partnership (MKEWP)

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**Website address:** <https://laikipia.org/mount-kenya-ewaso-water-partnership-mkewp/>

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**What value does this Partner bring to the project?**

**(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**

MKEWP was established in 2016 as a public-private consortium by a group of actors within the Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem catchment area, to engage constructively in water use, conservation and management and brings together water users to solve water problems through collective action. The MKEWP has already received commitment from 30 partners from rural WRUAs, CFAs, Laikipia, Meru, Isiolo, Nyandarua and Nyeri county governments, civil society, private sector commercial growers, parastatals, research institutions, conservancies and water service providers.

In 2018 MKEWP developed its Strategic Plan that would guide its operations for the next 5 years. MKEWP has partnered with the following donors: the World Bank's 2030 Water Resources Group (WRG), Cordaid, Stichting Nederlandse Vrijwilligers (SNV), Wetlands International, the Darwin Initiative, and FFI. MKEWP has secured a secretariat position in the 2030 WRG Governing group.

MKEWP has established networks to promote equitable water sharing, management and conservation across Isiolo, Laikipia, Meru, Nyeri, and Samburu counties. The organisation will lead implementation of climate-smart livelihoods interventions and water management to households through member-WRUAs and member-CFAs.

---

**International/In-country Partner**  In-country

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**Allocated budget:** £ [REDACTED]

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**Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure)**  Yes

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**Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?**  Yes

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**4. Partner Name:** Mount Kenya Trust (MKT)

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**Website address:** <https://mountkenyatrust.org/>

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**What value does this Partner bring to the project?**

**(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**

For two decades, Mount Kenya Trust (MKT) has been tackling environmental degradation on the mountain using a holistic and partnership-based approach to protect, conserve and restore forests, water, people and wildlife. Mt. Kenya's ecosystem services are vital to the Kenyan population and economy.

MKT will build capacity for catchment forest restoration, enhanced forest monitoring and security, and fire prevention.

MKT's organisational commitment, support, and prioritisation of the project and their deliverables is evidenced by the contribution of in-kind staff time and resources.

---

**International/In-country Partner**  In-country

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**Allocated budget:** £ [REDACTED]

---

**Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure)**  Yes

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**Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?**  Yes

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**5. Partner Name:** Laikipia Conservancies Association (LCA)

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**Website address:** <https://www.laikipiaconservancies.org/>

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**What value does this Partner bring to the project?**  
**(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**

LCA is a member-led organisation established in 2019 with the goal of bringing together community and private conservancies in Laikipia, to address common challenges and amplify individual impacts. Its member conservancies cover an area of >350,000 ha.

As one of the most important wildlife areas in Kenya, the future of Laikipia as a conservation landscape depends on conservancies. These institutions form a diverse mosaic, with different land tenure, governance, and management models, yet are aligned through recognition that a collaborative vision and management approach is critical to the future of conservancies as the core of a broader conservation landscape that supports people and wildlife.

LCA's vision is a connected and well-managed Laikipia landscape that conserves nature and improves people's lives. Its mission is to support and strengthen Laikipia conservancies.

In this project, LCA will lead scoping studies across its membership to inform development of a business case for generating income from ecosystem services, (under Output 4). LCA will also support the sharing of project learning with its member conservancies.

**International/In-country Partner**  In-country

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**Allocated budget:** £ XXXXXXXXXX

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**Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure)**  Yes

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**Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?**  Yes

---

**6. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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What value does this Partner bring to the project? *No Response*

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

International/In-country Partner  International  
 In-country

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure)  Yes  
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?  Yes  
 No


If you require more space to enter details regarding Partners involved in the project, please use the text field below.


*No Response*

Please provide a cover letter and a combined PDF of all letters of support.


 [FFI covering letter](#)


 03/10/2022

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 pdf 295.09 KB

 [Letters of support combined](#)

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 13:49:37

 pdf 5.96 MB

## Section 17 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q35. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q35a. Has your organisation been awarded Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund funding before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

Yes

If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
DARNV010	Kiran Mohanan	Scaling evidence-based Inclusive Conservation Finance models in Uganda and Tanzania
DARNV003	Josh Kempinski	Locally-owned enterprise development for resilient communities and sustainable primate conservation
DARNV001	Hazel Akester	Incentivising responsible fisheries in Central America: testing novel intermediary models
DAREX005	Frank Momberg	Ridge to Reef Conservation in West Papua, Indonesia
29-008	Gurveena Ghataure	Community-led conservation and fisheries development in North coast, Kenya



**Q35b. Provide details of 3 contracts/projects held by the Lead Partner that demonstrate your credibility as an organisation and provide track record relevant to the project proposed.**

**These contracts/awards should have been held in the last 5 years and be of a similar size to the grant requested in your application.**

<b>Contract/Project 1 Title</b>	USAID West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WABiCC), managed by Tetra Tech: Conserving and Connecting the Ziama-Wonegizi-Wologizi Transboundary Forest Landscape between Guinea and Liberia
<b>Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)</b>	\$ [REDACTED]
<b>Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)</b>	2 years (2018 - 2020)
<b>Role of organisation in project</b>	FFI led the project to support Conserving and Connecting the Ziama-Wonegizi-Wologizi Transboundary Forest Landscape between Guinea and Liberia, undertaking overall financial management, partner sub-granting and support, biomonitoring, and delivery of actions as below.
<b>Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project</b>	<p>Promote innovative collaborative management of the ZWWF Landscape that strengthens forest conservation, protects biodiversity, ensures connectivity between sites, enhances forest governance, and improves the livelihoods of the people in the landscape through 4 objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Strengthen forest and biodiversity conservation of Landscape.</li> <li>2) Support creation of an enabling environment that facilitates forest governance and related law enforcement.</li> <li>3) Promote sustainable livelihood activities that contribute to the improved wellbeing of people within the ZWWF landscape and reduce unsustainable forest dependency while striving to identify sustainable forest management approaches.</li> <li>4) Encourage learning and sharing of inspiring knowledge, responsible attitudes and best practices.</li> </ol>
<b>Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)</b>	Stephen Kelleher, WABiCC Chief of Party (former) [REDACTED]
<b>Contract/Project 2 Title</b>	Blue Action Fund - Strengthening Marine Protected Areas in Cambodia
<b>Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)</b>	€ [REDACTED]

<b>Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)</b>	5 years (2020 - 2025)
<b>Role of organisation in project</b>	FFI is leading the consortium, which includes several Cambodian partners, and is responsible for the overall strategic and technical direction; project, operational and financial management; data collection and analysis and partner capacity building.
<b>Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project</b>	<p>To protect Cambodia's significant but highly threatened coastal ecosystems, this five-year project brings together a consortium to strengthen marine resource governance and management, empower community-led conservation and women's leadership, and support sustainable livelihoods in coastal Cambodia.</p> <p>This project aims to newly protect 685 km<sup>2</sup> of Cambodian waters, improve management of 729 km<sup>2</sup> of existing MPAs, and strengthen the livelihoods of approximately 20,000 coastal community members. The project is underpinned by participatory approaches and capacity building throughout and will adopt a collaborative approach involving government, communities, NGOs, businesses and academic institutions.</p>
<b>Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Contract/Project 3 Title</b>	Darwin Extra: Ridge to Reef Conservation in West Papua, Indonesia
<b>Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)</b>	£ [REDACTED]
<b>Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)</b>	5 years (2022 - 2027)
<b>Role of organisation in project</b>	As project lead, FFI is responsible for: overall strategic and technical direction; project, operational and financial management; data collection and analysis; impact monitoring that supports adaptive management; technical reporting; and community engagement.
<b>Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project</b>	<p>This project aims for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The long-term protection of the Raja Ampat and Tambrau land and seascapes by regional policies, development and spatial plans, and sustainable financing mechanisms.</li> <li>2) Improved management effectiveness of 7 terrestrial and 3 marine protected areas, and the creation of other effective area-based conservation (OECMs) designations, enabled by evidence-based planning, community engagement, and increased technical and operational capacity.</li> <li>3) Improved livelihoods of local people through secure tenure and legal access to natural resources, improved community capacity for sustainable natural resource management and ecotourism, and improved value chains and market access for forestry, agriculture and fisheries products.</li> </ol>
<b>Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)</b>	[REDACTED]

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?

If yes, please upload these on the certification page. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

Yes

## Section 18 - Certification

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### Certification

**On behalf of the**

Trustees

**of**

Fauna & Flora International

**I apply for a grant of**

£4,010,817.00

**I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.**

(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

- I have enclosed CVs for project key project personnel, letters of support, a budget, risk register (inclusive of delivery chain risk map), logframe, theory of change, Safeguarding Policy and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application)
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed.





Checked

**Name** Paul Hotham

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**Position in the organisation** Senior Conservation Director

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**Signature (please upload e-signature)**  [PH signature \(2\)](#)  
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**Date** 03 October 2022





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**Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.**

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 [FFI 2020 Accounts](#)  
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 pdf 526.24 KB

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 [FFI Annual Report & Accounts 2021](#)  
 03/10/2022  
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 pdf 3.82 MB

**Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF**

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 [FFI Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policy + Procedure](#)  
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## Section 19 - Submission Checklist

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### Checklist for submission

	Check
<b>I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Risk Guidance", and "Financial Guidance".</b>	Checked
<b>I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April - 31 March and in GBP.</b>	Checked
<b>I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.</b>	Checked
<b>The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).</b>	Checked
<b>I have attached the below documents to my application:</b>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>my completed <b>logframe</b> as a PDF using the template provided</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>my <b>budget</b> (which meets the requirements above)</li></ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>my completed <b>implementation timetable</b> as a PDF using the template provided</li></ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>my <b>risk register</b>, including <b>delivery chain risk map</b>, as an Excel file using the template provided</li></ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>my 1 page <b>Theory of Change</b> as a PDF which includes the key elements listed in the guidance</li></ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff</b> identified at Question 32, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.</li></ul>	Checked

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a <b>letter of support</b> from the Lead Partner and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 33, or an explanation of why not.</li> </ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a <b>cover letter from the Lead Partner.</b></li> </ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a <b>copy of the Lead Partner's safeguarding policy</b>, which covers the criteria listed in Question 29.</li> </ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a signed <b>copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts</b> for the Lead Partner, or provided an explanation if not.</li> </ul>	Checked
<b>(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.</b>	Checked
<b>I have been in contact with the FCDO in the project country(ies) and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.</b>	Checked
<b>I have checked the Darwin Initiative website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.</b>	Checked
<b>I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website.</b>	Checked

**We would like to keep in touch!**

**Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Darwin Initiative and our sister grant scheme, the IWT Challenge Fund. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our quarterly project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.**

Unchecked

**Data protection and use of personal data**

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This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).

**Project Implementation Timetable**

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Output 1</b>	<b>Habitat restoration, reduced fuelwood use, equitable water-demand regulation and sharing, and climate-resilient cropland management increase quantity and quality of dry-season river flows and improves soil, rangeland, and forest habitat health.</b>																					
1.1	Produce wet and dry season land-use and landcover maps for Mt. Kenya catchment and rangeland, to identify and monitor areas that require restoration (Y1).	4																				
1.2	Support 2 CFAs (17,200 people) to establish native tree nurseries and plant seedlings in degraded forest land (Y1, Y2).	9																				
1.3	Train 5 CFAs on fire prevention and management (Y1), provide equipment (Y1,Y4) and support ongoing patrols and monitoring of forest areas under natural regeneration (Y1-5).	54																				
1.4	Identify energy use/needs of households and schools. Train 30 youths (50%W, 50%M) to install energy-saving stoves in 1,050HH (Y1) and biogas in 4 schools (Y2).	15																				
1.5	Monitor the uptake and impact of energy-saving stoves and	8																				

Project Title: Increasing ecological and socio-economic resilience of Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem (DIR29EX\1071)

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	biogas, and disseminate results (Y3, Y5).																					
1.6	Restore c.570ha of degraded rangeland through active interventions and natural regeneration, including erosion control, responsible removal of invasive species, reseedling with adaptable/indigenous grass species (Y1-5).	30																				
1.7	Conduct annual Ecological Outcome Verifications at OPC (baseline Y1) to monitor soil, biodiversity and ecosystem health, including training 10 OPC staff(Y1-2).	9																				
1.8	Annually monitor the impact of restoration interventions on forest cover, rangeland health, indicator species, and wildlife (including freshwater), against Y1 baselines, and share lessons learned.	15																				
1.9	Support WRUAs/communities in the construction and operation of 2 approved water intakes based on collaborative site selection, expert input, and environmental impact assessments (Y1-5).	57																				

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	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1.10	Support WRUAs/communities in the construction/desilting of 7 earth-pans/watering pools and collaboratively develop governance and access guidelines (Y1-3).	21																				
1.11	Based on an Ecosystem Services Assessment (Y1), produce a catchment water-sharing plan (Y2). Advocate for formal adoption by County governments (Laikipia, Meru and Nyeri) (Y2-3).	30																				
1.12	Support MKEWP and 12 WRUA scouts to monitor water offtake, quantity, quality, and water-use compliance, within targeted catchment tributaries, with OPC Technology Lab (baselines Y1).	54																				
<b>Output 2</b>	<b>Climate-resilient, nature-based solutions, sustainable land, pasture and water management practices, and improved market linkages, increase wellbeing for 2,906 farming, agropastoral and pastoral households / c.14,530 people (at least 40% women) (Y1-5).</b>																					
2.1	Identify 6,506 households (WRUAs, CFAs, farmers, pastoralists, agropastoralists) to benefit from sustainable livelihoods support and establish baselines for wellbeing, yields, income and climate vulnerability (Y1).	4																				



Project Title: Increasing ecological and socio-economic resilience of Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem (DIR29EX\1071)

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2.2	Based on learning needs assessments (Activity 3.3), conduct training-of-trainers (TOTs) for 90 individuals from partner institutions and community groups (Y1, Y3).	1																				
2.3	Facilitate TOTs to conduct soil test assessments to inform crop selection and climate-smart agriculture and livestock practices, (baseline Y1, repeat Y3 and Y5).	3																				
2.4	Develop training manuals (Y1) and facilitate TOTs to train c.15,000 people on climate-smart agriculture, land restoration, low-carbon stoves/biogas, and nature-positive livelihood diversification (Y1–3).	14																				
2.5	Facilitate 700 households to form, and strengthen, farmer-producer groups, for production, bulking and marketing (Y3-5).	15																				
2.6	Facilitate approx. 656 households (subset of 2.1) to access the microfinance scheme (see Activity 3.10), including youth and women (Y2-4).	26																				

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	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2.7	Conduct training for 5 pastoralist community groups neighbouring OPC (2,400 households: c.12,000 people, 30% W, 70%M) on the livestock-to-market scheme (Y1-2).	5																				
2.8	Facilitate 5 pastoralist community groups (see 2.7) to establish 5 producer groups, with governance structures, to facilitate buying/selling of cattle, and to access inputs (Y2-3).	13																				
2.9	Support OPC to establish a revolving fund to purchase, fatten and sell c.1,670 steers from the 5 communities, benefiting c.100 pastoralist households (Y1).	3																				
2.10	Facilitate 56 pastoralist youth and women to select business opportunities (e.g., welding, masonry, tailoring) and conduct tailored vocational and entrepreneurial training (Y2).	12																				
2.11	Conduct a feasibility study to identify suitable scale-up of NBS, (e.g., agroforestry/fruit trees, hydroponics, fodder production), and prepare an	20																				

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	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	NBS-business plan and financial model (Y2-3).																					
2.12	Informed by the 2.11 study and plan, conduct market analysis for NBS products from beneficiary households (Y3), and develop marketing strategies targeting bulk buyers (Y4).	12																				
2.13	Identify and engage external buyers for each NBS product, establishing links with farmers, agropastoralists, and pastoralists, through identified market hubs (Y4).	6																				
2.14	Monitor the impact of livelihoods interventions (Y3, Y5), including carrying out socio-economic surveys, and a Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis.	8																				
<b>Output 3</b>	<b>Conservation CBOs (6 WRUAs and 5 CFAs) and local civic organisations (MKEWP, OPC, LCA, NRT, MKT) have the capacity and capability to jointly, equitably, and sustainably manage natural resources.</b>																					
3.1	Undertake organisational capacity assessment for WRUAs and MKEWP and develop institutional capacity development plans to guide tailored trainings, including on	9																				

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	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	governance and fundraising (Y1-2).																					
3.2	Map existing safeguarding approaches among all 5 project partners and deliver training for TOTs to address identified gaps (Y1).	5																				
3.3	Support TOTs to conduct capacity assessments of WRUAs, CFAs, farmers, pastoralists, agropastoralists and community conservancies on NBS and sustainable practices (baseline Y1, monitor growth Y3).	4																				
3.4	Support TOTs to use capacity assessments to prepare capacity building plans and revise training materials for project beneficiaries (Y2, Y3).	6																				
3.5	Develop monitoring tools for livelihoods interventions, and train TOTs to use them to submit data to MKEWP, OPC and NRT, for analysis/reporting (from Y2).	5																				
3.6	Organise exchange visits between identified WRUA representatives and more established/successful WRUAs	4																				

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	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	in the landscape (or beyond) for peer-to-peer learning and mentorship (Y2).																					
3.7	Facilitate biannual dialogue meetings for water users and managers, led by MKEWP, and agree on water-use allocation and adoption and management of common waters intake (Y1-5).	10																				
3.8	Assess existing microcredit facilities among beneficiaries, and develop guidelines for targeted promotion of conservation microcredit uptake among communities (Y1).	9																				
3.9	Support beneficiaries to develop and strengthen governance structures for conservation microcredit facilities, including training in financial management, leadership, governance, monitoring, evaluation and learning (Y1-Y4).	30																				
3.10	Support targeted microcredit facilities through seed funding (supporting affordable water-harvesting infrastructure, enterprise development for	30																				

Project Title: Increasing ecological and socio-economic resilience of Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem (DIR29EX\1071)

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	pastoralist youth and women, and cattle purchase scheme by OPC) (Y1-Y4).																					
3.11	Support farmer-producer groups, CFAs and WRUAs to create a conservation fund (Y1) with governance. Monitor the performance of the fund regarding WRUA/CFA operations (Y3).	8																				
3.12	Train 12 WRUA and MKEWP staff in SMART water data collection, analysis and dissemination (see Activity 1.14) (Y1-3).	3																				
3.13	Based on the landscape-level water-sharing plan, facilitate 3 WRUAs to review, develop and implement sub-catchment management plans (Y3-5).	33																				
3.14	Train and facilitate WRUAs to efficiently deter, detect and take action against, illegal abstractions of river water and illegal activities in Mt Kenya Forest (Y1-2).	15																				
3.15	In collaboration with the OPC technology lab/hub, build the capacity of MKEWP and WRUAs in the collection and	9																				

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	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	dissemination of biodiversity data (Y2).																					
3.16	Support WRUA communities to lobby against point and non-point pollution within the 3 sub-catchments targeted by the project (Y1-5).	54																				
<b>Output 4</b>	<b>The value of project outcomes, (biodiversity conservation, human-wildlife co-existence, economic productivity, water security, climate resilience), is evidenced and ready to be scaled up, through local stakeholder commitment and larger-scale investment.</b>																					
4.1	Hold biannual project implementation committee meetings, comprising of key staff from all partners, to evaluate progress and guide implementation and adaptive management (Y1-5).	10																				
4.2	Consultative development of a stakeholder engagement plan to guide inclusive awareness-raising to increase support for conservation, (e.g., Farmer Field Days, radio, World Environment Day) (Y1).	2																				
4.3	Facilitate ongoing dialogue processes at County level on conservation, to allow those with different perspectives on land management to have their voices heard (Y1-5).	17																				

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	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
4.4	Annually, disseminate project findings and recommendations to County governments, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, KFS, KWS (including CBD contact), WRA and other relevant agencies (Y1-5).	5																				
4.5	Disseminate project results and lessons learned at national and regional conferences, meetings and workshops, and submit an article to an open-access, peer-reviewed journal (Y1-5).	3																				
4.6	Conduct scoping studies, market-analysis, assessment of income benefits of ecosystem services and financial mechanisms (e.g., carbon credits, biodiversity offsets), and engage private sector (Y1-2).	15																				
4.7	Based on 4.6, identify sustainable finance options and target stakeholders locally, nationally and internationally, to promote scale-up of project approaches. Develop a business case (Y2-3).	15																				
4.8	Informed by 4.7, co-create a proposal for a multilateral funding opportunity (e.g., GCF,	10																				



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	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	GEF) with other international NGOs (e.g., Conservation International) and national NGOs (Y4-5).																					

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Impact:</b> A water-secure Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem supports thriving biodiversity and people, providing a scalable model for human-wildlife co-existence, climate-resilient livelihoods, nature-based solutions and sustainable economic development for other water-stressed landscapes.</p>			
<p><b>Outcome:</b> Sustainable natural resource management increases water security and ecosystem functioning in the Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem, supporting key species, reducing conflict, increasing human wellbeing, and adaptation to climate change.</p>	<p>0.1a By end of project (EOP), vegetation cover on 8,070ha of Mt. Kenya catchment forest has increased by at least 50% against Y1 baselines as a result of active restoration, natural regeneration and increased protection (native tree species to be planted include: <i>Prunus africana</i> (VU-on CITES appendix II), <i>Ficus thonningii</i>, <i>Olea africana</i>, <i>Ficus sur</i>, <i>Podocarpus latifolius</i>, <i>Syzygium guineense</i>, <i>Hagenia abyssinica</i>, <i>Podocarpus falcatus</i> and <i>Dombeya rotundifolia</i>.)</p> <p>0.1b By EOP, vegetation cover on 570ha of rangelands (plant species composition, diversity and groundcover) has increased by 30% against baseline in 4 target conservancies as a result of direct rehabilitation. (Decreaser grass species to be monitored, include: <i>Themeda triandra</i>, <i>Setaria sphacellata</i>. Invasive species to be monitored/eradicated, include: <i>Opuntia Stricta</i>.)</p> <p>0.2 By EOP, the quantity and quality of dry-season water (quantity of nitrates, phosphates and sediments) flowing in and out of Mt Kenya forest, into and out of OPC community areas, and exiting Laikipia County, increases measurably compared to Y1 baseline, as a result of catchment restoration, soil and water conservation practices, pollution control, and equitable water-demand regulation.</p>	<p>0.1a Vegetation survey data, land cover maps and dated photographs.</p> <p>0.1b Vegetation survey reports, land cover maps and fixed-point photography (dated).</p> <p>0.2 River gauge data, smart meter records and reports, based on measuring points at Mt Kenya forest and upper catchment.</p>	<p>County and national governments remain supportive of a balanced approach to natural resource management in the landscape.</p> <p>Continued support and cooperation from targeted communities. Communities are already supportive, targeted engagement will be done to ensure communities remain willing to participate.</p> <p>Kenya remains politically stable throughout and beyond the project period.</p> <p>Reduced water abstraction upstream, through equitable allocation and sustainable water use,</p>

	<p>0.3 By EOP, population and diversity of fresh water species in target tributaries increases against baseline as a result of reduced water pollution and sustained river flows, (freshwater species to be monitored, include: frogs, beetles, invertebrates).</p> <p>0.4 By EOP, populations of key wildlife species in benefiting conservancies are stable or increasing and their distribution/habitat utilisation improves against baseline as a result of habitat restoration and increased water availability. Wildlife species to be monitored, include: savanna elephant, reticulated giraffe, black rhino, white rhino, common zebra, grevy's zebra, lion and wild dog.</p> <p>0.5 By EOP 6,506 vulnerable households / c.32,530 people (approx. 50%W, 50%M) from farming, agropastoral and pastoralists communities are reporting improved wellbeing from diversified climate-smart livelihoods, sustainable agricultural and livestock production, access to market, and improved water security, against baselines.</p> <p>0.6. By EOP, 300 farming households / c.1,500 people report significant reduction in incidents of conflict and kilos of farm produce lost through livestock raiding as a result of equitable access to 2 common water intakes, implementation of an endorsed water-sharing plan, and improved dialogue between water users.</p> <p>0.7 By EOP, the capacities and leadership for local natural resources management institutions is enhanced, and County and institutional policy and financial plans are informed by ecosystem services assessment and water-sharing plan.</p>	<p>0.3 and 0.4 Wildlife survey data and reports, aquatic species surveys reports, photographs.</p> <p>0.5-0.6 Baseline, mid-term and end of project representative household wellbeing survey reports and Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA) report.</p> <p>0.7 Institutional capacity and technical/skills assessments, County Annual Development and sectoral Plans, County/institutional annual</p>	<p>would increase water flows downstream, where wildlife conservancies and pastoralists are located, resulting in reduced water-access conflict and human-wildlife conflict.</p> <p>COVID-19 restrictions do not affect project activities, e.g. socioeconomic surveys, in-person training of partners and beneficiaries, markets and demand for agricultural, fodder and livestock products. We are confident that the trainings and other in-person activities will happen because the Kenya government has made great strides in containing COVID-19 infections including mass vaccination. All COVID-19 protocols will be observed during such meetings.</p>
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		budget, ecosystems services assessment report, sustainable financing plan, business case/proposal for upscaling targeting UK ODA portfolio and multilateral donors.	
<p><b>Output 1</b> Habitat restoration, reduced fuelwood use, equitable water-demand regulation and sharing, and climate-resilient cropland management, increases quantity and quality of dry-season river flows, and improves soil, rangeland, and forest habitat health.</p>	<p>1.1a By EOY5, 8,070ha of Mt Kenya catchment forest are under active management for restoration (370ha for direct tree planting and 7,700ha for natural regeneration).</p> <p>1.1b By EOY3 fuelwood utilization by 1,050 households (c.5,250 people) and 4 schools is reduced by 40% as a result of adoption of energy-saving, low-carbon stoves and bio-gas.</p> <p>1.1c By EOY5, grass and forb cover in 570ha of rangeland in benefiting conservancies increases by 30% as a result of active land rehabilitation, (erosion control, responsible removal of damaging invasive species and use in biogas production, reseedling of cleared areas with indigenous species, and active management of restored sites).</p> <p>1.1d By EOY3, 2 or more climate-smart agricultural practices adopted on 280ha of cropland.</p>	<p>1.1a Reports from Y1, Y3 and Y5 vegetation surveys, land cover maps and fixed-point photographs (dated).</p> <p>1.1b Reports from Y1, Y3 and Y5 household and institutional surveys on energy use.</p> <p>1.1c Reports from Y1, Y3 and Y5 vegetation assessment reports, land cover maps and fixed-point photographs (dated).</p> <p>1.1d Baseline and annual monitoring reports and reports from soil tests.</p>	<p>County and national governments remain supportive of a balanced and sustainable approach to water, forest, riparian, rangeland and cropland management in the landscape. We are confident that county and national governments will collaborate because FFI and partners are already cooperating with government in ongoing programmes.</p> <p>Continued support and cooperation from targeted communities. MKEWP, MKT, OPC, and NRT have ongoing programmes with</p>

	<p>1.1e By EOP, there is observed improvement in soil structure and cropland biodiversity in 280ha of cropland compared to Y1 baseline.</p> <p>1.2. By EOY5, 2 water intakes are operational upstream and regulating water demand in all the seasons of the year, benefiting 3,600 households / c.18,000 people, and 7 earth-pans/watering pools in 5 conservancies promote groundwater harvesting, providing new dry-season water supply for wildlife.</p> <p>1.3. By EOY1 an ecosystem services assessment is completed, and by EOY3 the assessment has informed the collaborative development and implementation of an equitable water-sharing plan across the landscape.</p> <p>1.4 By EOP, quantity and quality of dry-season Ewaso river flows in target tributaries increases compared to Y1 baseline.</p>	<p>1.1e Soil structure photos and soil assessment reports.</p> <p>1.2 Photos of water intakes, earth-pans/watering pools, and regulations on water access/use and water supply.</p> <p>1.3 Ecosystem Services Assessment report, endorsed water sharing plan.</p> <p>1.4 Water flows and quality monitoring reports.</p>	<p>communities and we are confident that this will continue.</p>
<p><b>Output 2</b> Climate-resilient, nature-based solutions, sustainable land, pasture and water management practices, and improved market linkages, increase wellbeing for 2,906 farming, agropastoral and pastoral households / c.14,530 people (at least 40% women).</p>	<p>2.1 By EOY2, giving priority to the most vulnerable households, 2,906 households / c.14,530 people: 34% farmers (60%W, 40%M); 33% agropastoral (50%W, 50%M), and 33% pastoralists (30%W, 70%M), are trained in activities to become more resilient to climate change: locally-led ecosystem-based adaptation; climate-resilient agriculture; soil and water conservation; land restoration; rainwater harvesting; installation of energy saving/low carbon stoves, and enterprise development, using gender-responsive approaches.</p> <p>2.2. By EOY3, 80% of households participating in the trainings in 2.1 have applied knowledge acquired and are reporting improved benefits, (i.e., yields, income), from either improved climate-resilience or diversified livelihoods.</p>	<p>2.1 Training reports, training manuals, demonstration plots/sites, and dated photographs of training events.</p> <p>2.2 Socio-economic and household wellbeing survey reports.</p>	<p>Communities continue to take up offers for training, livelihoods etc.</p> <p>Sustainable practices increase income through increased productivity and/or increased market access and market price.</p> <p>MKEWP, MKT, OPC, NRT, SFG have ongoing programmes with communities and</p>

	<p>2.3 BY EOY4, 700 households (c.300 farming HH, c.300 agropastoralist HH, and 100 pastoralist HH), (a subset of the 2,906 households in indicator 2.1), have been supported to form and strengthen farmer/pastoralist-producer groups, including training and support to purchase inputs in bulk and bulk marketing of produce.</p> <p>2.4 By EOY5, 400 HH, (a subset of the 700 in indicator 2.3), are marketing 50% of their produce through producer groups.</p> <p>2.5 By EOY5 2,906 households / c.14,530 people (50%W, 50%M), benefiting from nature-based, climate-resilient solutions, report a 40% increase in produce (crop or milk), improved food security, and 30% increase in income from baseline to EOP. (Nature-based solutions (NBS) include: hydroponics, agroforestry/fruit trees, drought-resistant/fast-maturing crops, soil and water conservation approaches, fodder production, ground/rainwater harvesting.)</p> <p>2.6 By EOP members of 656 HH have developed small enterprises as a result of access to microfinance (as outlined in Output 3) and are paying taxes/levies to county governments of Laikipia.</p>	<p>2.3 Training reports, farmer-producer groups meeting minutes.</p> <p>2.4 Producer groups' transactions, records of farm yields and sales.</p> <p>2.5 Value chain analysis, socio-economic surveys.</p> <p>2.6 Microfinance records, socio-economic surveys reports.</p>	<p>we are confident that this will continue.</p> <p>Pastoralist households and community conservancies in focal community areas are willing to engage with OPC on community cattle fund. Communities are already supportive, and FPIC and targeted engagement will be carried out to ensure communities are willing to participate The project proposes to increase returns to communities through better access to markets.</p> <p>COVID-19 restrictions will not affect in-person training of partners and beneficiaries, markets and demand for agricultural, fodder and livestock products.</p>
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<p><b>Output 3</b> Conservation CBOs (6 WRUAs and 5 CFAs) and local civic organisations (MKEWP, OPC, LCA, NRT, MKT) have the capacity and capability to jointly, equitably, and sustainably manage natural resources.</p>	<p>3.1 By EOY1, 90 staff and community members from MKEWP, OPC, and MKT (30 from each, 50%W, 50%M) are trained to provide training on nature-based approaches for addressing water and livelihood challenges, marketing, microfinance, safeguarding and governance, and represent their organisations in county decision making processes. (NBS include: agroforestry/fruit trees, hydroponics, drought resistant/fast maturing crops, soil and water conservation approaches, fodder production, ground/rainwater harvesting, and land restoration.)</p> <p>3.2 From Y2 to EOP, 1,100 farmer, 600 agropastoralist, and 100 pastoralist households (c.1,800 HH, 50%W, 50%M) are trained in the topics listed under 3.1a, by the trained trainers.</p> <p>3.3 By EOY2 at least 356 HH (included in 2.3 above) are accessing conservation microcredit (60%W), and there is a 40% increase in households benefiting from a revolving fund, for long-term financing to support NBS, from baseline to EOP.</p> <p>3.4 By EOY4 the community producer groups are allocating at least 5% of all proceeds from NBS towards a community-managed conservation fund that supports natural resource management.</p> <p>3.5 By EOY1, the capacity of 12 monitors (50%W, 50%M) drawn from 6 WRUAs, is built to collect and</p>	<p>3.1 Baseline and repeat capacity assessment reports, training manuals, capacity building plans and training reports, dated photographs.</p> <p>3.2 Reports by ToTs, community surveys.</p> <p>3.3 Reports from microfinance facility on borrowing and repayment (baseline and annual), reports from socioeconomic surveys (Y1, Y3 and Y5).</p> <p>3.4 Records of deposits in revolving funds, minutes/reports from meetings of revolving funds governance structure.</p> <p>3.5 Training manuals/tools, training</p>	<p>COVID-19 restrictions will not affect in-person training of partners and beneficiaries, markets and demand for agricultural, fodder and livestock products.</p> <p>Communities continue to take up offers for training, livelihoods etc. Access to conservation microcredit would help beneficiaries develop NBS to generate income to meet both household needs and repay loans to sustain a revolving fund for long-term financing.</p> <p>Community producer groups [continue to] support allocating at least 5% proceeds into conservation fund.</p> <p>Socio-political context remains conducive to</p>
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	<p>manage data (water flows, abstraction, pollution, biodiversity, crop production, fuel consumption and micro-credit utilisation), and from year 2 to EOP data management is carried out by these monitors in collaboration with project partners.</p> <p>3.6 By EOY4, the institutional capacity of local partners is increased, including proposal development and accessing funding opportunities, (e.g., the water sector fund), safeguarding, and governance.</p>	<p>reports, records of monitoring data collected and submitted by community monitors, dated photographs.</p> <p>3.6 Institutional capacity assessments reports.</p>	<p>sustained, effective collaboration.</p> <p>Sustained motivation and high retention of trained trainers (staff and community) and monitors.</p>
<p><b>Output 4</b> The value of project outcomes, (biodiversity conservation, human-wildlife co-existence, economic productivity, water security, climate resilience), is evidenced and ready to be scaled up, through local stakeholder commitment and larger-scale investment.</p>	<p>4.1 By EOP, local community members (including members of WRUAs, CFAs, farmer/pastoralist producer groups and conservancy members), and target county officials have improved awareness and greater support of conservation activities in the area, including evidence of increased membership (of WRUAs and CFAs) and participation in conservation activities.</p> <p>4.2 From Y3 onwards, through project engagement with county environment executives, KFS and KWS (including with CBD point of contact), project lessons and recommendations are mainstreamed into county plans, policy and legislative processes, including national reports (e.g., NDC, NAP) to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (e.g., CBD, UNFCCC) policies and programmes.</p> <p>4.3 By EOP, the benefits of sustainable land management and biodiversity are promoted to specialist audiences and general audiences to encourage further replication of project approaches, including through MKEWP, NRT and LCA, whose work covers a wider landscape beyond this project's</p>	<p>4.1 Stakeholder map, stakeholder engagement plan, minutes of awareness meetings with stakeholders, training reports, survey reports.</p> <p>4.2 County and national plans, policy documents and programmes, correspondence and reports.</p> <p>4.3 Presentations, awareness raising materials, correspondence, reports, article submitted</p>	<p>Conservation and sustainable practices create economic benefits that motivate communities and other stakeholders to continue contributing time/funds.</p> <p>We assume that government bodies at different levels remain committed to evidence-based policies and engaged with this project. This assumption is supported by the significant Letters of Support from government stakeholders.</p>



	<p>geographical area, and presentations at national (Natural Resource Forum, Kenya Forest Working Group, County Devolution Conference) and regional (UNEA 2024 and UNCCF 2023) levels.</p> <p>4.4 Scoping studies, market analysis and recommendations on using ecosystem services to generate income for conservation are complete (EOY1-2); a sustainable financing plan is developed (EOY3), and business cases and/or funding proposals co-created with key partners are shared with the government of Kenya, international bodies, and/or potential private sector investors (EO4), with at least one funder/investor secured to progress implementation of the sustainable financing plan (EOP).</p>	<p>to a peer-reviewed journal for publication.</p> <p>4.4 Scoping study reports, written business case and/or funding proposal, contract with donor for secured funds.</p>	<p>We assume that new local enterprise owners abide by local laws and pay taxes as required.</p> <p>We assume no shocks to the international market that reduce business interest in the landscape produce and services, and ongoing international donor commitment to safeguarding biodiversity and international development.</p>
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**Activities**

**Output 1**

- 1.1 Produce wet and dry season land-use and landcover maps for Mt. Kenya catchment and rangeland, to identify and monitor areas that require restoration (Y1).
- 1.2 Support 2 CFAs (17,200 people) to establish native tree nurseries (Y1, Y2) and plant seedlings in degraded forest land.
- 1.3 Train 5 CFAs on fire prevention and management (Y1), provide equipment (Y1, Y4), and support ongoing patrols and monitoring of forest areas under natural regeneration.
- 1.4 Identify energy use/needs of households and schools. Train 30 youths (50%W, 50%M) to install energy-saving stoves in 1,050HH (Y1) and biogas in 4 schools (Y2).
- 1.5 Monitor the uptake and impact of energy saving stoves and biogas, and disseminate results (Y3, Y5).
- 1.6 Restore c.570ha of degraded rangeland through active interventions and natural regeneration, including erosion control, responsible removal of invasive species, reseeding with adaptable/indigenous grass species (Y1-5).
- 1.7 Conduct annual Ecological Outcome Verifications at OPC (baseline Y1) to monitor soil, biodiversity and ecosystem health, including training 10 OPC staff (Y1-2).

- 1.8 Annually monitor the impact of restoration interventions on forest cover, rangeland health, indicator species, and wildlife (including freshwater), against Y1 baselines, and share lessons learned.
- 1.9 Support WRUAs/communities in the construction and operation of 2 approved water intakes, based on collaborative site selection, expert input, and environmental impact assessments (Y1-5).
- 1.10 Support WRUAs/communities in the construction/desilting of 7 earth-pans/watering pools and collaboratively develop governance and access guidelines (Y1-3).
- 1.11 Based on an Ecosystem Services Assessment (Y1), produce a catchment water-sharing plan (Y2). Advocate for formal adoption by County governments (Laikipia, Meru and Nyeri) (Y2-3).
- 1.12 Support MKEWP and 12 WRUA scouts to monitor water offtake, quantity, quality, and water-use compliance, within targeted catchment tributaries, with OPC Technology Lab, (baselines Y1).

## **Output 2**

- 2.1 Identify 6,506 households (WRUAs, CFAs, farmers, pastoralists, agropastoralists) to benefit from sustainable livelihoods support and establish baselines for wellbeing, yields, income and climate vulnerability (Y1).
- 2.2 Based on learning needs assessments (Activity 3.3), conduct training-of-trainers (TOTs) for 90 individuals from partner institutions and community groups (Y1, Y3).
- 2.3 Facilitate TOTs to conduct soil test assessments to inform crop selection and climate-smart agriculture and livestock practices, (baseline Y1, repeat Y3 and Y5).
- 2.4 Develop training manuals (Y1) and facilitate TOTs to train c.15,000 people on climate-smart agriculture, land restoration, low-carbon stoves/biogas, and nature-positive livelihood diversification (Y1-3).
- 2.5 Facilitate 700 households to form, and strengthen, farmer-producer groups, for production, bulking and marketing (Y3-5).
- 2.6 Facilitate approx. 656 households (subset of 2.1) to access the microfinance scheme, (see Activity 3.10), including youth and women (Y2-4).
- 2.7 Conduct training for 5 pastoralist community groups neighbouring OPC (2,400 households: c.12,000 people, 30% W, 70%M) on the livestock-to-market scheme (Y1-2).
- 2.8 Facilitate 5 pastoralist community groups (see 2.7) to establish 5 producer groups, with governance structures, to facilitate buying/selling of cattle, and to access inputs (Y2-3).
- 2.9 Support OPC to establish a revolving fund to purchase, fatten and sell c.1,670 steers from the 5 communities, benefiting c.100 pastoralist households (Y1).
- 2.10 Facilitate 56 pastoralist youth and women to select business opportunities (e.g., welding, masonry, tailoring) and conduct tailored vocational and entrepreneurial training (Y2).
- 2.11 Conduct a feasibility study to identify suitable scale-up of NBS, (e.g., agroforestry/fruit trees, hydroponics, fodder production), and prepare an NBS-business plan and financial model (Y2-3).
- 2.12 Informed by the 2.11 study and plan, conduct market analysis for NBS products from beneficiary households (Y3), and develop marketing strategies targeting bulk buyers (Y4).

- 2.13 Identify and engage external buyers for each NBS product, establishing links with farmers, agropastoralists, and pastoralists, through identified market hubs (Y4).
- 2.14 Monitor the impact of livelihoods interventions (Y3, Y5), including carrying out socio-economic surveys, and a Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis.

### **Output 3**

- 3.1 Undertake organisational capacity assessment for WRUAs and MKEWP and develop institutional capacity development plans to guide tailored trainings, including on governance and fundraising (Y1-2).
- 3.2 Map existing safeguarding approaches among all 5 project partners and deliver training for TOTs to address identified gaps (Y1).
- 3.3 Support TOTs to conduct capacity assessments of WRUAs, CFAs, farmers, pastoralists, agropastoralists, and community conservancies, on NBS and sustainable practices, (baseline Y1, monitor growth Y3).
- 3.4 Support TOTs to use capacity assessments to prepare capacity building plans and revise training materials for project beneficiaries (Y2, Y3).
- 3.5 Develop monitoring tools for livelihoods interventions, and train TOTs to use them to submit data to MKEWP, OPC and NRT, for analysis/reporting (from Y2).
- 3.6 Organise exchange visits between identified WRUA representatives and more established/successful WRUAs in the landscape (or beyond) for peer-to-peer learning and mentorship (Y2).
- 3.7 Facilitate biannual dialogue meetings for water users and managers, led by MKEWP, and agree water-use allocation, and adoption and management of common waters intake (Y1-5).
- 3.8 Assess existing microcredit facilities among beneficiaries, and develop guidelines for targeted promotion of conservation microcredit uptake among communities (Y1).
- 3.9 Support beneficiaries to develop and strengthen governance structures for conservation microcredit facilities, including training in financial management, leadership, governance, and monitoring, evaluation and learning (Y1-Y4).
- 3.10 Support targeted microcredit facilities through seed funding (supporting affordable water-harvesting infrastructure, enterprise development for pastoralist youth and women, and cattle purchase scheme by OPC) (Y1-Y4).
- 3.11 Support farmer-producer groups, CFAs and WRUAs to create a conservation fund (Y1), with governance. Monitor the performance of the fund regarding WRUA/CFA operations (Y3).
- 3.12 Train 12 WRUA and MKEWP staff in SMART water data collection, analysis and dissemination (see Activity 1.14) (Y1-3).
- 3.13 Based on the landscape-level water-sharing plan, facilitate 3 WRUAs to review, develop and implement sub-catchment management plans (Y3-5).
- 3.14 Train and facilitate WRUAs to efficiently deter, detect, and take action against, illegal abstractions of river water and illegal activities in Mt Kenya Forest (Y1-2).
- 3.15 In collaboration with the OPC technology lab/hub, build the capacity of MKEWP and WRUAs in the collection and dissemination of biodiversity data (Y2).
- 3.16 Support WRUA communities to lobby against point and non-point pollution within the 3 sub-catchments targeted by the project (Y1-5).

**Output 4**

4.1 Hold biannual project implementation committee meetings, comprising of key staff from all partners, to evaluate progress and guide implementation and adaptive management (Y-5).

4.2 Consultatively develop a stakeholder engagement plan, to guide inclusive awareness raising to increase support for conservation, (e.g., Farmer Field Days, radio, World Environment Day) (Y1).

4.3 Facilitate ongoing dialogue processes at County level on conservation, to allow those with different perspectives on land management to have their voices heard (Y1-5).

4.4 Annually, disseminate project findings and recommendations to County governments, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, KFS, KWS (including CBD contact point), WRA and other relevant agencies (Y1-5).

4.5 Disseminate project results and lessons learned at national and regional conferences, meetings and workshops, and submit an article to an open-access, peer-reviewed journal (Y1-5).

4.6 Conduct scoping studies, market-analysis, assessment of income benefits of ecosystem services, and financial mechanisms, (e.g., carbon credits, biodiversity offsets), and engage private sector (Y1-2).

4.7 Based on 4.6, identify sustainable finance options and target stakeholders locally, nationally and internationally, to promote scale-up of project approaches. Develop a business case (Y2-3).

4.8 Informed by 4.7, co-create a proposal to a multilateral funding opportunity, (e.g., GCF, GEF), with other international NGOs (e.g., Conservation International) and national NGOs (Y4-5).