



Darwin Initiative Extra Annual Report

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	DAREX006
Project title	Increasing ecological and socio-economic resilience of Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem
Country/ies	Kenya
Lead Partner	Fauna & Flora
Project partner(s)	Mount Kenya Trust (MKT), Mount Kenya Ewaso Water Partnership (MKEWP), Ol Pejeta Conservancy (OPC), Laikipia Conservancies Association (LCA), Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) and National Museums of Kenya (NMK)
Darwin Initiative grant value	Total Budget £4,453,503; Darwin Initiative contribution £4,010,817
Start/end dates of project	April 1, 2023- March 31, 2028
Reporting period	April 1, 2023- March 31, 2024. Annual report 1
Project Leader name	Serah [REDACTED]
Project website/blog/social media	
Report author(s) and date	Fauna & Flora: Serah [REDACTED], George [REDACTED], Josephine [REDACTED], Fidel [REDACTED], Ann [REDACTED], John [REDACTED], Daniel [REDACTED] and Pamellah [REDACTED]. Partners: Daisy [REDACTED] (MKT), Dennis [REDACTED] (MKEWP), Martha [REDACTED] (NRT), Moses [REDACTED] (LCA), Laban [REDACTED] (NMK). May 15, 2024.

1. Project summary

The project targets 5,800km² 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 (**Annex 5**). 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 encapsulating a total of 33 private and community conservancies and holding 60% of Kenya's Grevy zebras (EN); 22% of Kenya's African elephant population (EN) 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. At the head of the watershed, illegal activities increased over time including illegal water abstraction, logging, increased livestock presence within riparian and protected forest areas, increased incidences of forest fires are becoming frequent and degrade the Mount Kenya water tower.

About 90% of Mount Kenya's river water is diverted before leaving the forest reserve by community water projects, large-scale and smallholder farms, 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.

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.

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. The project aims to provide a nature-based solution to these diverse challenges by building capacities of local implementing institutions and communities for sustainable natural resource management, facilitating adoption of nature-based solutions to deliver economic benefits, and restoring habitat. These interventions are expected to increase water security, build resilience to climate change, and increase peaceful co-existence for people and wildlife.

The problems addressed were identified during the implementation of the previous Darwin Initiative Main project (24-002) and through consultations with diverse stakeholders including communities and partner institutions and as such, Darwin Extra project aims to scale-up lessons learnt previously as well as build on approaches and legacies of other initiatives in the watershed.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

Project management is led by Fauna & Flora while ground implementation is led by 6 partners/subgrantees (MKT, MKEWP, LCA, OPC, NRT and NMK). Following grant award, Fauna & Flora and partners, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Water Resources Authority (WRA), Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and County Government of Nyeri, Meru and Laikipia came together on project inception meetings to create awareness on the project and support synergy across the landscape. Representatives from the partner organisations, the national agencies and county governments were then nominated to sit on a project implementation committee which has been providing support in project planning, monitoring and evaluation and decision making throughout Y 1. A participatory stakeholder engagement plan was developed and used to ensure all key stakeholders are brought on board.

In May 2023, a meeting was held with the Environment and Biodiversity Lead at the British High Commission (overseeing biodiversity, blue/circular economy, UNEP engagement and the Blue Planet Fund); and the Darwin Initiative Lead, Biodiversity Challenge Funds at DEFRA, ahead of a Darwin Initiative workshop in June 2023, in

Nairobi, which 3 project staff attended. In March 2024, Fauna & Flora met the British High Commissioner in Nairobi and gave a briefing on the project (**Annex 6**).

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

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.

Activity 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).

Through computer-based mapping and ground truthing, Mount Kenya Trust (MKT) identified 370Ha of Mt Kenya forest land for direct tree planting and a further 7,700Ha to be managed under natural regeneration over the next five years (total 8,070ha) (**Annex 7a-7c**). The earmarked area has been agreed with Kenya Forest Service.

NRT conducted baseline vegetation surveys for Naibunga Conservancy which is dominated by the invasive *Opuntia stricta* to guide restoration activities and provide a basis for monitoring restoration progress. The required invasive species removal machinery has been purchased and grass seeds procured for restoration. A total of 250Ha is earmarked for restoration by EOP and will start in Y2. OPC will restore 320ha from Y2 (OPC's activity implementation starts in Y2 as per the approved change request CR23-138).

Activity 1.2: Support 2 CFAs (17,200 people) to establish native tree nurseries and plant seedlings in degraded forest land (Y1, Y2).

A total of 148 individuals (97F, 51M) from 5 CFAs have been trained on tree nursery establishment and management (**Annex 7**) and 81 of them (60M, 21F) who have tree nurseries provided with water harvesting infrastructure based on a needs assessment and beneficiary profiling (**Annex 8-9**). These efforts are expected to boost seedling production to upscale restoration activities. A total of 205,352 tree seedlings¹ were procured from 14 community nurseries and planted on 201.06 Ha, covering 54.34% of the overall 5-year target (**Annex 10**). Tree planting was done by 494 local people (336 M, 148F) who provided casual labour. Additional CFAs/community groups will be supported in Y2.

Activity 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).

5 CFAs, 81 people, (60M, 21F) were trained in fire prevention and management using the MKT fire training manual (**Annex 11**). Various firefighting equipment including personal protective equipment (PPEs), raincoats, gumboots among others equipment were procured and distributed to the trained CFA members and KFS officers (**Annex 12**).

Activity 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).

Baseline social surveys were conducted in 400HHs to measure energy use needs for households. The survey revealed that households had more than one source of cooking

¹ *Prunus africana* (VU-on CITES appendix II), *Ficus thonningii*, *Olea africana*, *Ficus sur*, *Podocarpus latifolius*, *Syzygium guineense*, *Hagenia abyssinica*, *Podocarpus falcatus* and *Dombeya rotundifolia*

energy with fuelwood forming the bulk of it at 91.3%; charcoal 32.9%; LPG 30.6%; biogas 4.1%; and electricity 1.8% (**Annex 13**). An energy saving stoves installation manual (**Annex 14**) was used to train 30 youth (0%F) to install stoves in 400 of the 1,050 targeted households (**Annex 15**). The remaining stoves will be constructed by OPC whose Y1 budget was moved to Y2 as per the approved change request CR23-138. Installation of 1 of the 4 targeted biogases is underway.

Activity 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).

A joint team from Fauna & Flora and NRT visited Loisaba Conservancy on 15 Jan 2024 to learn from their project on opuntia removal and conversion to biogas (**Annex 16**). Following the visit, the project procured the required equipment for uprooting the invasive (**Annex 17**) and procured grass seeds for restoration of target sites. The preparatory steps have been completed and actual removal of the Opuntia will start in Y2.

Activity 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). All OPC activities were moved to Y2 as per the approved financial change request CR23-138.

Activity 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.

Baselines for Mt Kenya forest and rangelands have been established as indicated in 1.1. above. Dry season baseline survey for freshwater biodiversity was undertaken by NMK. A total of 7 fish species, 9 amphibian (3 endemic and one endangered), 5 reptile and diverse micro-invertebrate species were recorded (**Annex 18b**). Wet season freshwater biodiversity survey will be undertaken in Y2Q2. 5 motorcycles and 16 smart phones were procured through MKT and NRT respectively to facilitate mobility for tree monitors and support SMART² data collection by rangers.

Activity 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).

Based on a beneficiary selection criterion developed by MKEWP, 2 Water Resource User Associations (WRUAs) were selected to benefit from the 2 common water intakes along Teleswani and Ontulili rivers (**Annex 19**). Consequently, 5 consensus building meetings across the 2 WRUAs were held to agree on among other things the intake location and enforcement protocols (**Annex 20**). Terms of Reference (ToR) for a consultant to support the technical design of the intakes as well as carry out Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for the intakes were developed. Hydrological surveys were done which informed the designs of the two common intakes (**Annexes 21-24a-c**) the draft designs have been submitted to WRA for approval.

Activity 1.10 Support WRUAs/communities in the construction/desilting of 7 earth-pans/watering pools and collaboratively develop governance and access guidelines (Y1-3).

NRT conducted Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) meetings across 4 of the 7 target conservancies (**Annex 25**) to create awareness and build consensus on where the pans would be constructed. Designs for the pans were then developed (**Annexes 26-**

² Spatial Monitoring and Assessment Tool (SMART)

27) and EIA conducted (**Annexes 28-29**). Consequently, 2 water pans with capacity of approximately 19,500 and 32,640 cubic metres have been constructed (**Annex 30**). The 5 remaining water pans will be constructed in Y2.

Activity 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).

An Ecosystem Service Assessment (ESA) survey has been completed to support the planned development of a water sharing plan in Y2. The assessment was based on the Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Site-Based Assessment (TESSA) (**Annex 31**) and mobile based data collection questionnaire (**Annex 32**). Some of the ecosystem services identified include water (provision, regulation and quality control), climate regulation, soil erosion control, harvested wild and cultivated goods and recreation/tourism. It was reported that farmers use about 128million M³ of water annually for irrigation. The net value of water for domestic and livestock use was about Ksh 1.5 billion (£8,108,108) and is expected to continue increasing due to the increase in human population (**Annex 33**).

Activity 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).

12 scouts from 6 WRUAs (50%F) were recruited to undertake water monitoring in target tributaries (**Annex 34**). Fauna & Flora is collaborating with WRA to install 7 telemetric water monitoring stations and train the WRUA scouts to conduct SMART Monitoring in Y2. This activity was moved from OPC to Fauna & Flora in Q4 of Y1 following decision to move other OPC activities to Y2. Baselines for water flow and chemical composition were determined by WRA in Y1 (**Annex 34b**)

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)

Activity 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).

Participatory tools for beneficiary selection were developed (**Annexes 35-36**) and used to identify a total of 2,733 (1,038M, 1,695F) beneficiaries in Y1, with each beneficiary representing a household. The rest are OPC beneficiaries (1,850 HHs) and water intake households (ca. 1,930 HHs, ref activity 1.9) to be determined in Y2. 1,799 (626M,1,173F) of the Y1 beneficiaries received farm inputs; 400 (145M, 255F) energy saving stoves, 378 (180M, 198F) water harvesting infrastructure, and 102 (60M, 42F) underwent entrepreneurial training course and will receive microcredit to start businesses in Y2. 30 youth (50%F) were trained in energy saving cook stove installation and 24 (50%F) on soil sampling and testing (**Annex 37-38**).

Baselines for wellbeing, crop yields, income and climate vulnerability have been established with 13.1% of the respondents reporting to have benefitted from some climate related training, 33% of the respondents reported adopting climate smart agriculture practices, 9% having benefitted from farmer/pastoralist group support and 30.4% having accessed some form of microcredit for their economic activities (**Annexes 39-42**). Drought resulting into water scarcity was identified as the key contributor to vulnerability particularly across pastoral and agropastoral landscapes.

Activity 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).

Based on learning needs assessment, a total of 115 ToTs (67M and 35F) were trained in Y1. 61 of the 115 ToTs (39M and 22F) were trained on principles of crop and livestock production, nature positive livelihood diversification and enterprise development (**Annex 43**). 30 people were trained on installation of energy saving stoves and 24 in soil sampling. The ToTs will support training for communities from Y2. In addition, 37 staff (26M and 11F) from 5 partner institutions (MKT, MKEWP, LCA, OPC and NRT) and 4 staff (2M and 2F) from Fauna & Flora were trained on social safeguards (**Annex 44**).

Activity 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).

24 youth (50%F) were trained and supported to collect 661 soil samples for testing. All the 661 samples were analysed, and results shared with beneficiary households with most soils samplings indicating that the soils were generally suitable for growing potatoes, grains, vegetables and beans (**Annex 45**).

Activity 2.4: Develop training manuals (Y1) and facilitate Trainer of Trainers (TOTs) to train c.15,000 people on climate smart agriculture, land restoration, low-carbon stoves/biogas, and nature positive livelihood diversification (Y1–3).

A training manual was developed (**Annex 46**) and used to train 61 ToTs (39M, 22F) drawn from farming and pastoral communities on Nature-based Solutions (NBS) (refer to activity 2.2). The ToTs will train c.15,000 people NBS in Y2-3.

Activity 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).

In Y1, the micro credit scheme channeled through MKEWP supported 125 groups composed of 1,799 farmers and agropastoralists households. They were supported with various certified high value and drought resistant crops seeds and fertilizer. 378 (180M,198F) beneficiaries also benefited from microcredit for water harvesting infrastructure. The beneficiaries supported will repay the value of the seeds received in Y1 to their individual group owned account with the EMU SACCO as part of their savings and share capital. The funds will be used as seed money and will be available to the respective groups in the coming years. The capital/seed money obtained from the repayments of the value of the seeds received along with group investments are expected to earn 12% interests as the SACCO does business. Each group has committed to contributing 5% of the interest received to a water conservation fund to be managed by MKEWP. Repayments will start in Y2.

Activity 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). All OPC activities moved to Y2 as per CR23-138.

Activity 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). All OPC activities moved to Y2 as per CR23-138.

Activity 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).

102 (60M, 42F) youth and women from NRT-member community conservancies were trained in Y1 on tailored entrepreneurial skills (plumbing, electrical and solar installations, hairdressing and beauty therapy, tailoring and dressmaking, catering and pastry, and

motorcycle repair and maintenance (**Annex 47**). The trainees will graduate in June 2024 and be linked to a microfinance scheme to start businesses (refer to activity 2.1).

Activity 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).

Although planned for Y2, Fauna & Flora initiated discussions in Y1 to support feasibility study to identify suitable scale-up of NBS. The discussions were held across 3 counties of Laikipia, Nyeri and Meru and brought together diverse stakeholder working across the counties (**Annexes 48**). Activity will be progressed in Y2.

Output 3: Conservation CBOs (6 WRUAs and 5 CFAs) and local civic organizations (MKEWP, OPC, LCA, NRT, and MKT) have the capacity and capability to jointly, equitably, and sustainably manage natural resources.

Activity 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).

MKEWP completed capacity assessment using a tool developed by technical teams from Fauna & Flora (**Annex 49**), based on which a capacity development plan was developed to guide tailored training from Y2, including on project management, financial management and fundraising (**Annex 50**). Capacity of 7 WRUAs was assessed with support from Water Resources Authority (**Annexes 51-52**), following which 3 of the 7 WRUAs underwent a 3-day capacity building exercise (**Annexes 53-54**). The remaining WRUAs will be trained in Y2.

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

Refer to activity 2.2. The trained partner staff are expected to be ToTs to support future trainings within their individual institutions.

Activity 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).

Baselines for WRUAs, CFAs, farmers, pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and community conservancies on NBS and sustainable practices established through socioeconomic survey. Support for ToTs to monitor growth planned for Y3 and Y5.

Activity 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).

A beneficiary database together with monitoring tools for beneficiaries of farm inputs and water harvesting techniques, energy saving cook stoves, biogas among others were developed and customised by partners (**Annex 55-56**). These tools are to be used by ToTs for reporting and submission of data collected from Y2.

Activity 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).

Two target WRUAs started dialogues within their community water projects to develop joint MoU on construction of two common water intakes in the river channels falling within the WRUAs (Likii and Teleswani). The consensus building meetings in Likii WRUA were attended by 120 members (102M, 18F) (**Annex 57**). 9 community water projects from the WRUA agreed to be part of the common water intake. Teleswani WRUA held a

special general meeting followed by consultations which culminated into 13 water projects signing MoU to be part of the water intake (**Annex 58-59**).

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

A tool for assessment of existing micro credit facilities and governance structures among beneficiaries was developed (**Annex 60**) and used to engage 125 groups (2,368 people, 1851F, 684M) and support them with farm inputs and water harvesting infrastructure.

Activity 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).

11 (9M, 2F) board members of Ewaso Maji Users SACCO (a community-owned financial organization affiliated to MKEWP) were trained in financial management, good governance, leadership and strategies to enhance operational efficiency of the SACCO. (**Annex 61**). The SACCO collaborates with MKEWP in the administration of microcredit to beneficiaries.

Activity 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).

Refer to activity 2.6. An additional 102 youth and women from NRT member conservancies will receive microcredit in Y2. OPC cattle purchase scheme will start in Y2.

Activity 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).

To ensure sustainability, the beneficiaries supported in 3.10 will repay the value of the seeds received in Y1 to their individual group owned account with the EMU SACCO as part of their savings and share capital. The funds will be used as seed money and will be available to the respective groups in the coming years. The capital/seed money obtained from the repayments of the value of the seeds received along with group investments are expected to earn 12% interests as the SACCO does business. Each group has committed to contributing 5% of the interest received to a water conservation fund to be managed by MKEWP. Repayments will start in Y2.

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

12 WRUAs scouts from 6 WRUAs were identified in Y1 and will be trained in Y2 once installation of water monitoring equipment is completed. This activity was supposed to be done by OPC but was moved to Fauna & Flora in Q4 of Y1 following decision to move OPC budget/activities to Y2.

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

This activity is linked to 3.12 and will progressed in Y2. WRUA scouts have already been identified and will be trained by WRA.

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

The project supported MKEWP to implement an anti-pollution advocacy action plan (**Annex 62**), then engaged 70 (48M, 22F) duty bearers drawn from WRA, NEMA, Kenya

National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI), WRUAs and Directorates of water from Nyeri, Laikipia and Meru County Governments among others; to address pollution focusing on solid waste disposal close to river systems (**Annex 63**). The next steps will involve meeting relevant departments across the 3 counties to give commitments and timelines for moving dump sites situated close to water systems.

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.

Activity 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).

A multi-stakeholder project implementation committee (PIC) was constituted with membership of 13 (8M, 5F) drawn from representatives of National Governments (KWS, KFS and WRA); county government of Meru, Nyeri and Laikipia; Private sector (KNCCI), 6 project implementing partners, and Fauna & Flora as the Secretary. ToR for the PIC was developed and endorsed (**Annex 64**) during the inaugural PIC held on 13th September 2023, during which WRA was elected as the Chair of the PIC for Y1 (**Annex 65**). The second PIC meeting was held on 28th March 2024 (**Annex 66**) where Y1 project implementation was reviewed and Y2 project workplan and budget approved. Prior to the PIC meeting, courtesy calls were held with KWS, KFS, WRA and the three county governments of Meru, Nyeri and Laikipia to brief them on the meeting and their role (**Annex 67-69**)

Activity 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).

A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) was developed and validated by stakeholders (**Annex 70**). The SEP is a live document which will be updated throughout the project period and used to guide inclusive stakeholder engagement and awareness raising to increase support for conservation.

Activity 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).

The project supported international environment events celebrated at County level including World Wetlands Day, World Wildlife Day and World Water Day which attracted participation from diverse stakeholders (**Annexes 71-72**). The efforts of Fauna & Flora in these events have since been recognised and rewarded by County government and other National government agencies (**Annexes 73-74**). Additionally, Fauna & Flora has been identified as a critical partner in supporting climate resilience and been invited to support capacity building efforts in Nyeri County (Climate Change Unit, County Climate Change Planning Committee and County Climate Change steering committee) (**Annexes 75**).

Activity 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).

Fauna & Flora is part of a technical team led by Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry towards review the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) to align to Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (K-M GBF) as adopted in December 2022. Initial workshop was held on 7-11th August 2023 (**Annex 76**) with

outputs including developing NBSAP review road map. These efforts are expected to enhance biodiversity conservation efforts by contributing to shaping Kenya biodiversity goals and targets to be achieved by 2030.

KWS, KFS, WRA and county governments of Laikipia, Meru and Nyeri sit in the PIC where Y1 project implementation progress and Y2 plans were shared in March 2024.

Activity 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).

Fauna & Flora actively took part in the Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi (**Annex 77**) and took part in various side events.

Activity 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).

LCA conducted a scoping study to understand the initiatives that have been successful, under its member conservancies and as such can be scaled up to benefit the residents of the county, improve conservation efforts and support the livelihoods. The report proposes various actions for LCA to help community conservancies address challenges and recommends 6 thematic areas to be addressed as part of sustainability strategy: i) Economic diversification ii) Policy, legal and regulatory framework iii) Land use and Management iv) Development effectiveness, data sharing and performance v) Organisational development & strengthening the initiatives (**Annex 78-79**).

Initial scoping studies for market analysis of ecosystem services kick off and will be progressed in Y2 to identify potential investments and financial streams that can support and sustain conservation initiatives in the long-term.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

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

Indicator 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).

A total of 201.06Ha of the 370 Ha put under active management through direct seedling planting in Y1 representing 54.34% of the overall project target. A total 205,352 tree seedlings have been planted (**Annex 10**). Monitoring patrols were undertaken in the 7,700ha under natural regeneration by KFS rangers and community CFA scouts to deter illegal activities. The deterrence of illegal activities is expected to show positive results on natural regeneration areas after the rains and to be reported in Y2 (**Annex 7a**)

Indicator 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

400 of 1,050 energy saving stoves installed, 38.1% of the overall target (**Annex 15**). The remaining to be provided by OPC whose Y1 activities were moved to Y2. Energy needs surveys of the various schools have completed and consensus on the nature and size of biogas to be procured reached, procurement for 1 completed and construction underway (**Annex 15b**). Monitoring of impact to be done in Y3 and Y5.

Indicator 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, reseeding of cleared areas with indigenous species, and active management of restored sites.

Mapping of 250ha of rangeland identified for restoration completed, baselines determined, procurement of requisite machinery completed (**Annex 17**), and grass seeds procured. Opuntia removal and land rehabilitation to start in Y2 and monitoring of sites to be undertaken in Y3 and Y5 to monitor impact. Remaining 220ha are under OPC to be restored from Y2.

Indicator 1.1d) By EOY3, 2 or more climate-smart agricultural practices adopted on 280ha of cropland.

1799 people (626M, 1173F) supported to farm fast maturing, drought resistant crop seed varieties and water harvesting infrastructure on 528.3 Ha of cropland, that's over 200% more than what was anticipated in the project (**Annex 36-37**). The increased acreage is attributed to increased beneficiaries supported in Y1. Monitoring of yields to be done in Y2.

Indicator 1.1e) By EOP, there is observed improvement in soil structure and cropland biodiversity in 280ha of cropland compared to Y1 baseline.

Baseline soil tests conducted for 661 beneficiaries up from initial 300 planned for Y1 covering 267.5Ha of the 280Ha targeted (**Annex 37**). Additional cropland to be covered by OPC in Y2. Soil structure analysis will be done in Y2 Q1 and will form the baselines against which subsequent comparisons will be made.

Indicator 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.

Community consensus building meetings have been held, sites for construction of the 2 water intakes identified (**Annex 57**) and designs and hydrological surveys completed (**Annexes 21-24a-c**). The construction of the intakes is planned for Y2. Actual number of households benefiting from the water intakes will be determined in Y2. Two of the 7 earth pans have been constructed (**Annexes 27-30**), designs for the remaining 5 pans ready and will be constructed in Y2.

Indicator 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.

Ecosystem Service Assessment report completed (**Annex 33**) and discussions on water sharing development initiated with WRA and County governments of Nyeri, Laikipia and Meru (**Annex 48**)

Indicator 1.4 By EOP, quantity and quality of dry-season Ewaso river flows in target tributaries increases compared to Y1 baseline

Baseline water flow rates and levels in 7 tributaries have been determined by WRA in Y1 (**Annex 34b**). Monitoring to be conducted in Y2-5 to determine impact.

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)

Indicator 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.

Following inception meetings creating awareness of the project and interventions, 2,733 beneficiary households were identified in Y1: 1,799 beneficiaries (626M, 1173F) (farmers and agro-pastoralists) identified and provided with various inputs for climate smart agriculture, 378 (180M,198F) water harvesting, 400 households (145M, 255F) provided with energy saving stoves and 102 (60M, 42F) trained in entrepreneurship, 30 youth (15M,15F) trained on installation of energy saving cook stoves, and 24 (12M, 12F) soil monitors trained on soils sampling (**Annex 56**). Additional beneficiaries will benefit in Y2.

Output 3: Conservation CBOs (6 WRUAs and 5 CFAs) and local civic organizations (MKEWP, OPC, LCA, NRT, and MKT) have the capacity and capability to jointly, equitably, and sustainably manage natural resources.

Indicator 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.

A total of 115 ToTs have been trained: 61 (39M, 22F) to support beneficiaries in Y2 on Nature-based approaches (**Annex 43**), 24 (50%F) to support soil testing for correct decisions around the choice of crops to improve yields (**Annex 37**), and 30 (50%F) to support installation of energy saving stoves (**Annexes 14-15**)

Indicator 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.

378 (180M,198F) households accessed conservation microcredit in Y1 through seed funding, and numbers are expected to increase by 40% by the end of the project.

Indicator 3.5: By EOY1, the capacity of 12 monitors (50%W, 50%M) drawn from 6 WRUAs, is built to collect and manage data (water flows, abstraction, pollution, biodiversity, crop production, fuel consumption and micro-credit utilisation), and from Y2 to EOP data management is carried out by these monitors in collaboration with project partners.

Recruitment of the 12 (50%W, 50%M) monitors was completed (**Annex 34**), Installation of the 7 water telemetric stations (**Annex 34b**) and development of training manuals for WRUAs scouts and other WRUA officials is underway and will capture all relevant data to be submitted. Actual training planned for Y2.

Indicator 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.

MKEWP and 7 WRUAs underwent Capacity Assessments and gaps identified (**Annexes 49, 50-52**). MKEWP's capacity development plan put in place (**Annex 50**) to be

implemented from Y2. 3 of the 7 WRUAs trained by WRA in Y1 (**Annexes 53-54**) and the rest to be trained in Y2. In addition, 37 staff (26M and 11F) from 5 partner institutions (MKT, MKEWP, LCA, OPC and NRT) and 4 staff (2M and 2F) from Fauna & Flora were trained on social safeguards (**Annex 44**)

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.

Indicator 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.

A stakeholder engagement plan developed to galvanize partners and other stakeholders to support conservation initiatives (**Annex 70**). Inception meetings have been held with target local communities and 2,733 households enlisted as beneficiaries in Y1 (**Annex 56**), courtesy calls have been held with 3 target counties and representatives sit in PIC together with representatives from 3 key national agencies (KWS, KFS and WRA) (**Annexes 67-69**), awareness on the project has been raised in 7 WRUAs targeted for capacity development with expectation for increase in membership (**Annexes 50-54**), 5 CFA are involved in conservation activities under the project.

Indicator 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).

Scoping study for LCA completed in Y1 and key focal programs identified (**Annex 79**). Discussions on market analysis already initiated within the three counties of Nyeri, Laikipia and Meru, to be completed in Y2 (**Annex 48**).

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

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.

Indicator 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: *Prunus africana* (VU-on CITES appendix II), *Ficus thonningii*, *Olea africana*, *Ficus sur*, *Podocarpus latifolius*, *Syzygium guineense*, *Hagenia abyssinica*, *Podocarpus falcatus* and *Dombeya rotundifolia*.)

Refer to output indicator 1.1a.

Indicator 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: *Themeda triandra*, *Setaria sphacellata*. Invasive species to be monitored/eradicated, include: *Opuntia Stricta*.)

Refer to output indicator 1.1c.

Indicator 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.

Refer to output indicator 1.4.

Indicator 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).

Baseline survey data for freshwater aquatic species completed by NMK together with water quality at the time of survey. Monitoring surveys to continue in Y2-5 to determine impact of reduced pollution and sustained river flows. Refer to activity 3.16 for actions to reduce pollution.

Indicator 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.

Wildlife baselines established for NRT conservancies and report is being compiled. OPC activities to start in Y2. Baselines to be compared with data collected in Y3 and Y5.

Indicator 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.

Baseline socio-economic surveys completed. 2,733 households (13,665 people) benefiting Y1. Additional households to benefit in Y2. Monitoring to be reported through Y3 and Y5 household wellbeing survey and CVCA reports.

Indicator 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.

Refer to outcome indicator 0.5 above.

Indicator 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.

On course: 5 CFAs trained in fire prevention and management. Capacity development plans for MKEWP and 7 WRUAs on course, partner and Fauna & Flora staff trained in social safeguards (indicator 3.6), Ecosystem Services Assessment completed and results to inform the development of a water sharing plan in Y2 which will inform county policies.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

All the outcome and output assumptions still hold true.

Outcome assumptions

Assumption 1: County and national governments remain supportive of a balanced approach to natural resource management in the landscape.

- This assumption has remained true, with the three counties being actively involved in project monitoring and participating in PIC.

Assumption 2: Continued support and cooperation from targeted communities.

- Communities are supportive, and relations remain conducive for the project to meet its targeted impacts.

Assumption 3: Kenya remains politically stable throughout and beyond the project period

- The political environment in Kenya has remained stable.

Assumption 4: Reduced water abstraction upstream, through equitable allocation and sustainable water would increase water flows downstream, where wildlife conservancies and pastoralists are located, resulting in reduced water-access conflict and human-wildlife conflict.

- This assumption remains and project interventions to reduce abstraction upstream continue to be rolled out. A water sharing plan informed by hydrological models and Ecosystem Service Assessment will be developed in Y2.

Assumption 5: 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.

- All restrictions were removed before to the start of the project, and we have not had new incidents.

Refer to **Annex 80** for output level assumptions monitoring.

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

The project is supporting poverty reduction through nature-based solutions, to increase food security, job creation, and income. In Y1, 2,679 households benefitted directly from this poverty reduction activity. Of the direct beneficiaries, 102 pastoralist youth and women from community conservancies were supported to undertake technical and vocational training to diversify livelihoods, 1,799 households provided with seed funding for fast maturing, drought resilient crop varieties, 378 benefited from water harvesting infrastructure and 400 provided with energy saving stoves. Additionally, the project has directly restored total of 201.06Ha catchment forest with 205,352 native tree seedlings and provided increased access to water for wildlife through construction of 2 water pans in the lower catchment. Freshwater biodiversity (amphibians, reptiles, fish and macro-invertebrates) have been accessed in the target project tributaries and project interventions to sustain water flows and improve water quality with support their conservation.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

Convention on Biological Diversity: The project supported Fauna & Flora engagement in Kenya's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) alignment with Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) processes as part of technical working group (**Annex 76**). The process is ongoing and has seen draft targets developed and is envisioned to conclude during Y2 of the project. The biodiversity targeted by the project includes freshwater biodiversity (amphibians, reptiles, fish and macro-invertebrates), savanna elephant, reticulated giraffe, black rhino, white rhino, common zebra, grevy's zebra, lion and wild dog.

Ramsar Convention: The project supported Fauna & Flora staff participation and produced publicity materials (T-shirts and banners) for World Wetland Day at national level and 2 county (Nyeri and Laikipia) events as part Ramsar Convention requirement to raise awareness on value of wetlands (**Annex 71**). The events provided opportunities for awareness creation on the project targets, achievements and lessons learnt sharing to stakeholders. The project is contributing to the conservation of 7 target tributaries in the Ewaso Ngiro basin and their catchment forest in Mt Kenya.

United Nations Environment Assembly 6: The project supported 2 Fauna & Flora staff participation in UNEA 6 held on 26 February to 1 March 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya to track discussions and lobby for positions on resolutions relevant to project initiatives (**Annex 77**). The assembly also provided an opportunity for learning, experience sharing and networking as part of a strategy on dissemination of project results and lessons to non-specialist audience.

Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on plastic pollution (INC 3): The project supported Fauna & Flora staff engagement on Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee 3 on development of global plastic pollution treaty held on 13 to 19 November 2023 in Nairobi to track progress on discussions and lobby for text consideration by parties to include biodiversity related aspects in the text (**Annex 81**).

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): The project is supporting improved crop productivity through climate smart agriculture including provision of drought resistant fast maturing crops and increasing forest/tree cover through direct tree planting and natural regeneration (205,352 tree native seedlings planted in Y1) (**Annexes 7, 46**)

Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs): The project is promoting equitable access to water resources and building the resilience of vulnerable households including provision of microcredit.

5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

This project contributes directly and indirectly towards poverty reduction. The project aims to work with 2,906 farming, agropastoral and pastoral households to develop or diversify sustainable livelihoods in line with ecosystem-based adaptation and 2,679 were supported in Y1 as reported in 3.5 above. The support is expected to boost their yield and improve on their food security, increase incomes and reduce poverty. The project also developed a training manual targeting both farmers and pastoralists to be utilised by TOTs to provide technical assistance in ensuring that good agricultural practices are maintained (**Annexes 7, 43 and 46**)

The project targeted 56 pastoralist youth and women from community conservancies to undertake technical and vocational training to diversify livelihoods, based on NRT's successful approach "*ujuzi manyatani*. As at EOY1, a total of 102 (60M and 42 F) youth were trained on various skills in partnership with a local Technical Training Institute and will receive microcredit to start businesses in Y2 (**Annex 47**)

The project will also work directly with its partner OPC to develop livestock markets. To this end, the project will support OPC and 22 surrounding communities to expand its existing commercially tested, successful livestock-to-market model. 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. The direct income to households is expected to improve the economic conditions of the households and thus reduce poverty. This activity is however planned for Y2.

The exercise is expected to 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, thus reducing poverty.

6. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ³ .	PIC membership: 5 female (38%) out of a total of 13 membership. This is above the constitutional requirement of a third (33%) gender rule. Fauna & Flora Senior Leadership Team- 3M/4F (57%)
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women ⁴ .	3/7 (Fauna & Flora, MKT & NMK)

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

GESI context has been integrated in all project activities and operations intentionally in order to meet the needs of disadvantaged groups (women and other vulnerable groups) as evidenced in the gender disaggregated metrics reported under output 2 and 3, section 3.1. We have ensured that women, youth and other vulnerable groups participate actively

³ A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

⁴ Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

in the project through forming part of the beneficiaries, active communication, sensitization meetings and community campaigns.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

At inception, Fauna & Flora together with the implementing partners developed a detailed M&E plan (**Annex 82**) to capture evidence of change at key stages along the project's impact pathway. The M&E plan outlines key project indicators to monitor (as per the logframe), roles and responsibilities, schedule, budget, M&E tools, project findings, and communication plan. The M&E plan gave guidance on establishment of project-specific baselines in Y1 and supports continuous tracking of project impacts; risk mitigation to enable adaptive management.

The project activities are evaluated against the Smart indicators and Means of Verification (MoV) as indicated in the log frame. All tools including survey questionnaires, data sheets are done to respond to the changes being tracked during project implementation.

The project also initiated a multistakeholder PIC to oversee project M&E and adaptive management. In Y1, two PIC meetings were held to review workplans and activities, and adjust plans based on lessons learned.

Fauna & Flora as the lead organisation held weekly project management meetings involving project team members leading on different components of the project including fund management, finance, operations, technical specialists, programme and country manager to plan and review progress, to ensure implementation remains on track. Regular M&E meetings were held with partners and the dedicated Fauna & Flora project manager, who is based in the landscape, maintained contact with partners, supporting them where needed.

8. Lessons learnt

Project communication and awareness creation through courtesy calls and inclusion of national agencies and county government in the PIC increased project support, with Fauna & Flora being invited to collaborate in World Environment Celebrations and to share lessons on locally led climate action. We expect this collaboration to enable national and county government support, endorsement and adoption of recommendations from the project.

Partnerships with organisations with longstanding presence in the landscape and with government agencies mandated with natural resource management have enabled for leveraging of technical capacities, experiences, data/information sharing and policy guidance.

As cost of commodities and labour increased in 2023 and 2024, some of the activities had to be co-financed, these included procurement costs for machinery required for invasive species removal and the construction of water pans. The decision making around this was time-consuming as it often entailed prolonged deliberations than anticipated.

Engagement of beneficiaries through community groups enabled the project to engage and support 2,177 households with conservation and livelihood microcredit surpassing the targeted 1,012 under activity 2.6 and 3.3. This approach is expected to provide long-term financing as a revolving fund, providing access to additional beneficiaries.

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

Response to recommendations shared in the letter received from Darwin on March 14, 2023, confirming the outcome of the application:

- i. **Consider reducing the range and level of ambition of interventions to be more focused on watershed management:** The bulk of project activities are focused on watershed management at the upper catchment of the Ewaso Ng'iro North River so the range and ambition of the project has not been reduced. These include direct and indirect restoration of catchment forest at Mt Kenya (8,070ha); training support for Community Forest Associations living close to the catchment to prevent fires and also establish and produce tree seedlings; support for Water Resource User Associations managing 7 target tributaries to lobby against pollution, efficiently deter, detect and act against illegal abstractions of river water and other illegal activities in the upper catchment; and support for 2 Water Resource User Associations to construct 2 common water intakes at the upper catchment to support equitable water access that allows and sustains environmental flows for communities and wildlife downstream. MKT and MKEWPs activities are mostly on the upper catchment, including the poverty alleviation and capacity development interventions supported by MKEWP.
- ii. **Ensure you develop generalisable lessons which can be applied in the broader landscape:** project partners work in a broader landscape than the project area. Lessons will be documented for application in the broader landscape to upscale impact.

10. Risk Management

Project implementation by OPC was delayed for a year following allegations which were communicated to Darwin, investigated and reports shared. Darwin approved the transfer of funds to the partner in March 2024. Actions agreed with the donor to manage the risk that manifested through OPC include: review of OPC due diligence process, update OPC risk reduction plan, roll out Fauna & Flora's 4-part online safeguarding training course with OPC and other partners, carry out more regular site visits including monthly finance visit to ensure close financial monitoring and financial compliance, and update project risk framework with appropriate fiduciary mitigation and assurance activities as per Grant Thornton report. Revised project risk framework will be shared separately once this component is addressed.

11. Sustainability and legacy

Sustainability is at the core of project. Training in Y1 were delivered at group level, so that the departure of specific individuals will not be detrimental to capacity levels. The use of TOTs was adopted, to enable Fauna & Flora and partners to progressively step back and adopt a more oversight-focused role, catalysing community ownership of implementing project approaches. The water components of the project are being coordinated by MKEWP, Water Resources Authority and community water associations which is anticipated to ensure ongoing support and sustainability. Government institutions legally mandated to managed natural resources are at the core of project implementation with the Water Resources Authority chairing the project implementation committee in Y1. Livelihood interventions will be financed post-project through the community-led micro-credit scheme and underpinned by increased capacity of governance structures initiated in Y1. The intended post-project benefits remain valid.

The project invests heavily on increased awareness of, and greater support for, conservation, with project approaches mainstreamed into county plans, policy, and legislative processes as part of the sustainability strategy. 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.

Moving into Y2 of the project, Farmer/pastoralist-producer groups will be established 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.

12. Darwin Initiative identity

A project communication plan (**Annex 83**) was developed to guide branding and donor visibility. All project items are branded in line with Darwin guidelines including, project banners (straight, telescopic and broad based), project visibility T-Shirts and project stickers (for vehicle, printer, laptops, phones, a camping box, a tractor and water tanks). All were branded with the project title and DI-UK Government logo alongside the phrase, “funded by the UK government through Darwin Initiative”.

UK government contribution was recognised by always acknowledging that the project was funded by the UK government through Darwin Initiative either through materials that refer to the project and in any written or spoken public presentations about the project. All forms of document, certification, merchandise or presentation, including both online and offline / printed materials. This includes all branded materials mentioned above, in all project inception or implementation meetings, meetings with government officials including county governments, Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, Water Resources Authority, National Museums of Kenya, all trainings held for project beneficiaries, world wetlands day celebrations and social media posts.

13. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	Yes
Have any concerns been reported in the past 12 months	Yes
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes <i>Helen</i> [redacted]
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	Yes Safeguarding essentials - Online Code of conduct - Online Fauna & Flora’s safeguarding children & vulnerable adults policy training - Online
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: Safeguarding essentials – 89% (17/19) Code of conduct – 47% (9/19). This is in the initial rollout stages Fauna & Flora’s safeguarding children & vulnerable adults policy training – 95% (18/19)

Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.

Absence of clear guidelines to report safeguarding issues within some of the partner organisations, and between support partners and the lead partner could lead to delayed communication of safeguarding issues when they emerge. Working with partners on improving safeguarding policy and procedures has been prioritised.

Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify.

- Plans to roll out the code of conduct training to all staff.
- Plans to work with partners to improve safeguarding policy and procedures.
- Partner Due Diligence process review for OPC.
- Encourage all partners to undertake the 4-part online safeguarding training course developed by Fauna & Flora, and resulting actions as necessary.

Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and number of participants.

An NRT funded (not by the project) sensitization meetings for all supported conservancies including for 7 targeted by the project on existing NRT social safeguards policies(<https://www.nrt-kenya.org/human-rights>). MKEWP developed and applied criteria for selecting WRUAs to benefit from the 2 common water intakes; 5 consensus building meetings across the 2 WRUAs were held to agree on the location and enforcement protocols (see activity 1.9). NRT conducted Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) meetings across 4 targeted conservancies using their FPIC guidelines (<https://www.nrt-kenya.org/human-rights>) to create awareness and build consensus on where the pans would be constructed (see Activity 1.10).

Have there been any concerns around Health, Safety and Security of your project over the past year? If yes, please outline how this was resolved. No

14. Project expenditure

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

Draft indicative figures

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24 Total Darwin Initiative Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	£1,152,066.00	£ 1,152,066.00		

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			Fauna & Flora-Halcyon and Individual donors, NRT and OPC.
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			

15. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

16. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

In Y1, the project supported 2,177 households with conservation and livelihood microcredit surpassing the targeted 1,012 under activity 2.6 and 3.3. This approach is expected to provide long-term financing as a revolving fund, providing access to additional beneficiaries over the project period and beyond.

A total of 201.06Ha of the 370 Ha of catchment forest targeted for restoration over the project period restored in Y1 representing 54.34% of the overall target. A total 205,352 native tree seedlings have been planted.

Dry season baseline survey for freshwater biodiversity recorded a total of 7 fish species, 9 amphibian (3 endemic and one endangered), 5 reptile and diverse micro-invertebrate species were recorded (**Annex 18b**).

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption including description, country and credit	Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
				Yes / No
				Yes / No

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2022-2023

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>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.</p>	<p>On course, Y1 actions to increase water security, promote biodiversity conservation, and reduce poverty implemented as outlined in the sections below.</p>	
<p>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</p>		
<p>Outcome indicator 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>370ha of the 8,070 is being restored through direct restoration while the rest (7,700ha) is under natural regeneration. A total of 201.06Ha of the 370 Ha restored in Y1 representing 54.34% of the overall project target. Monitoring patrols were undertaken in the 7,700ha under natural regeneration by KFS rangers and community CFA scouts to deter illegal activities. The deterrence of illegal activities is expected to show positive results on natural regeneration areas after the rains and to be reported in Y2.</p> <p>A total 205,352 native tree seedlings have been planted (<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</i></p>	<p>Targeted restoration by direct planting (169Ha) and monitoring of the 7,700 natural regeneration areas to continue</p> <p>Capacity building and support for CFAs and community nurseries</p> <p>Monitoring of impacts of restoration actions to start in Y2.</p>

	<i>guineense, Hagenia abyssinica, Podocarpus falcatus and Dombeya rotundifolia</i>).	
Indicator 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, Setaria sphacellata</i> . Invasive species to be monitored/eradicated, include: <i>Opuntia Stricta</i> .)	Baseline completed and 250ha rangeland areas for restoration under NRT identified and reports being compiled. Equipment for the removal of invasive species and grass seeds to be used in restoration procured. Actual invasive removal to start in Y2. 320ha to be restored by OPC in Y2.	Restoration actions to be done in early parts of Y2Q1 to allow the start of monitoring of impact by Y2Q4.
Indicator 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	Baseline data for water quality and quantity have been collected through river gauge station data and report is being compiled. Catchment restoration on course with a total 205,352 native tree seedlings been planted in Y1. 378 households provided with water harvesting infrastructure and actions to lobby against pollution initiated. Technical designs for water intakes, Environmental Impact Assessments and hydrological surveys done to inform construction of the intakes in Y2.	Monitoring of impact of catchment restoration, soil and water conservation practices, pollution control and equitable water regulation interventions on quantity and quality of dry season water flows to be availed in Y3 and Y5
Indicator 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).	Baseline dry season freshwater biodiversity assessment completed. A total of 7 fish species, 9 amphibians (3 endemic and one endangered), 5 reptile and diverse micro-invertebrate species were recorded. Wet season freshwater biodiversity survey will be undertaken in Y2Q2.	Impact of interventions on populations and diversity of freshwater species in target tributaries to be monitored in Y3 and Y5 and compared with the baselines.

<p>Indicator 0.4: By EOP, populations of key wildlife species in benefiting conservancies are stable or increasing and their distribution/habitat utilization 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>Baseline surveys of wildlife collected for NRT conservancies and report being compiled. Dry season freshwater biodiversity survey for Y1 done. A total of 7 fish species, 9 amphibians (3 endemic and one endangered), 5 reptile and diverse micro-invertebrate species were recorded. Wet season freshwater biodiversity survey will be undertaken in Y2Q2.</p>	<p>Wildlife and aquatic species surveys including photographs expected to be collected in Y3 and Y5 for comparisons against the baselines</p>
<p>Indicator 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>A total of 2,733 (1,038M, 1,695F) beneficiary households supported in Y1. The rest are OPC beneficiaries (1,850 HHs) and water intake households (ca. 1,930 HHs, ref activity 1.9) to be determined in Y2. 1,799 (626M,1,173F) of the Y1 beneficiaries received farm inputs; 400 (145M, 255F) energy saving stoves, 378 (180M, 198F) water harvesting infrastructure, and 102 (60M, 42F) underwent entrepreneurial training course and will receive microcredit to start businesses in Y2. 30 youth (50%F) were trained in energy saving cook stove installation and 24 (50%F) on soil sampling and testing. Monitoring of wellbeing to be done in Y3 and Y5 and assessed against Y1 baselines.</p>	<p>Mid-term (Y3) and end of project (Y5) representative household wellbeing survey reports and Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA) reports will be collected to determine progress towards this indicator</p>
<p>Indicator 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,</p>	<p>Baseline socio-economic surveys completed to be compared with Y3 and Y5 results. In Y1, 28% of the residents' surveyed reported that they experience human-wildlife conflicts attributed to water scarcity, with most</p>	<p>Household wellbeing and Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA) surveys planned for Y3 & Y5 to determine progress</p>

implementation of an endorsed water-sharing plan, and improved dialogue between water users.	incidences reported in lower zones. Elephant was cited as the main problem animal. Water intakes to be constructed in Y2, water sharing plan to be developed in Y2.	
Indicator 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.	5 CFAs trained in fire prevention and management. Capacity assessment and development of capacity building plans for MKEWP and 7 WRUAs done. 3 of the 7 WRUAs trained on by WRA in Y1 with the rest scheduled to be trained in Y2. 37 partner staff and 4 Fauna & Flora staff trained in social safeguards (indicator 3.6), Ecosystem Services Assessment completed and results to inform the development of a water sharing plan in Y2, which will inform county policies.	Trainings of the remaining WRUAs and MKEWP planned for Y2Q1
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		
Output Indicator 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).	By EOY1, 8,070ha mapped (370 Ha for direct tree planting and 7,700 Ha for natural regeneration). 201.06Ha of the 370 Ha directly planted with 205,352 native seedlings representing 54.34% of the overall target area. Monitoring of the natural regeneration areas continues with various patrol teams supported by KFS rangers and community CFA scouts.	169 Ha for direct planting targeted in planned for Y2 with monitoring and surveillance of natural regeneration plots to continue Further training and support to CFAs and community nurseries to be done in Y2

<p>Output Indicator 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>400 energy saving stoves out of the 1,050 planned have been constructed, representing 38.1% of the overall target just by EOY1. One of the four targeted biogas constructed. The rest of the stoves and biogases to be constructed in Y2. Tools for measuring impact of the stoves and biogas with energy needs surveys of the various schools for biogas construction completed.</p>	<p>The actual measurement of the impact of the energy saving cookstoves and biogas will be done in Y3. Remaining 650 energy saving stoves and 3 biogases to be constructed in Y2.</p>
<p>Output Indicator 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, reseeded of cleared areas with indigenous species, and active management of restored sites</p>	<p>250 Ha of rangeland mapped by NRT for restoration in Y1. The rest (320Ha) to be restored by OPC. Procurement of requisite machinery by NRT including backhoe loader, tractor with self-tipping trailer finalized and delivered with requisite grass seeds for restoration also procured. Preparatory stage finalised and actual removal of invasives and restoration to start in Y2.</p>	<p>NRT's actual restoration work on removal of invasive species and reseeded, use of the invasives to produce biogas are planned to start in Y2Q1. OPC habitat restoration planned for Y2. Monitoring of impact of invasive species removal to be monitored from EOY2</p>
<p>Output Indicator 1.1d) By EOY3, 2 or more climate-smart agricultural practices adopted on 280ha of cropland</p>	<p>Drought resistant fast maturing seed varieties have been adopted by 1,799 households and water harvesting infrastructure by 378 households in 528.3 Ha of cropland.</p>	<p>Monitoring of adoption of Climate Smart agricultural practices to be done in Y2</p>
<p>Output Indicator 1.1e) By EOP, there is observed improvement in soil structure and cropland biodiversity in 280ha of cropland compared to Y1 baseline</p>	<p>Baseline soil tests conducted for 661 beneficiaries up from initial 300 planned for Y1 covering 267.5Ha of the 280Ha targeted. Additional cropland to be covered by OPC in Y2.</p>	<p>Soil structure analysis will be done in Y2Q1 and will form the baselines against which subsequent comparisons will be made.</p>

<p>Output Indicator 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>Community consensus building meetings held, sites for construction of the 2 water intakes identified, designs completed, and EIAs submitted to the National Environment Management Authority for approval. The construction of the intakes is planned for Y2. Actual number of households benefiting from the water intakes will be determined in Y2. Two of the 7 earth pans have been constructed, designs for the remaining 5 pans ready and will be constructed in Y2.</p> <p>NRT has worked with communities in the two conservancies whose earth-pans are complete to develop regulations on water access and use.</p>	<p>The actual construction of the common intakes is planned for Y2</p> <p>Construction of the remaining 5 pans and development of water access and use regulations to be done in Y2</p>
<p>Output Indicator 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>Ecosystem Service Assessment completed with initial informal discussions on water sharing development initiated with WRA and County governments of Nyeri, Laikipia and Meru.</p>	<p>An endorsed water sharing plan to be done in Y2.</p>
<p>Indicator 1.4 By EOP, quantity and quality of dry-season Ewaso river flows in target tributaries increases compared to Y1 baseline</p>	<p>Baseline water flow rates and levels in major tributaries have been determined using river gauge data by WRA and report is being compiled. Smart monitoring will start in Y2.</p>	<p>Procurement processes have been finalized and installation of the telemetric stations to monitor water flow levels are underway to be completed in Y2Q1.</p>

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)		
Output Indicator 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	As at EOY1, 2,733 beneficiary households identified: 1,799 beneficiaries (626M, 1173F) provided with farm inputs for climate smart agriculture, 378 (180M,198F) water harvesting, 400 households (145M, 255F) provided with energy saving stoves, 102 (60M, 42F) trained in entrepreneurship, 30 youth (15M,15F) trained on installation of energy saving cook stoves, and 24 (12M, 12F) soil monitors trained on soils sampling. Additional beneficiaries will be supported in Y2. Social baselines completed in Y1.	Repeat surveys will be done in Y3 and Y5 to evaluate impact of project livelihood interventions on household wellbeing. 102 trained youth and women on entrepreneurship to be given start-up capital in Y2
Output Indicator 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.	Measurement for this indicator will be done in Y3 and will be based on comparisons of the baseline figures with subsequent socio-economic and household wellbeing survey reports	To be done in Y3
Output Indicator 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.	Activities related to this indicator are planned for Y3-Y4. Progress on this will be measured through training reports, farmer-producer groups meeting minutes among other MoVs.	

<p>Output Indicator 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>Activities related to this indicator will be done in Y3and Y4</p>	
<p>Output Indicator 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>Planned for Y2.</p>	
<p>Output Indicator 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>This will be verified after the beneficiaries are grouped and supported to market formally their products and ensure that part of the income pay taxes as required by law.</p>	<p>Planned for Y2 and Y3</p>
<p>Output 3: Conservation CBOs (6 WRUAs and 5 CFAs) and local civic organizations (MKEWP, OPC, LCA, NRT, and MKT) have the capacity and capability to jointly, equitably, and sustainably manage natural resources.</p>		
<p>Output Indicator 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,</p>	<p>A total of 115 ToTs have been trained in Y1: 61 (39M, 22F) to support beneficiaries in Y2 on Nature-based approaches, 24 (50%F) to support soil testing for correct decisions around the choice of crops to improve yields, and 30 (50%F) to support installation of energy saving stoves.</p> <p>An additional 37 partner staff and 4 Fauna & Flora staff have been trained in social safeguards.</p>	<p>Rollout of trainings of the 15,000 people to be done in Y2</p>

fodder production, ground/rainwater harvesting, and land restoration.)		
Output Indicator 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	Training by the ToTs reported in indicator 3.1 above to be rolled out in Y2. Training manual has been developed and validated.	ToTs to roll out trainings for 1800 HHs in Y2
Output Indicator 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.	378 (180M,198F) households accessed conservation microcredit in Y1 through seed funding for water harvesting infrastructure, and numbers are expected to increase by 40% by the end of the project. Another 1,799 households accessed microcredit for livelihood development through provision of agricultural inputs.	Additional beneficiaries to be supported in Y2.
Output Indicator 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	The beneficiaries supported in Y1 (indicator 3.3 above) will repay the value of the seeds/funds received to their individual group owned account with the Ewaso Maji Users (EMU) SACCO as part of their savings and share capital. The funds will be used as seed money and will be available to the respective groups in the coming years. The capital/seed money obtained from the repayments of the value of the seeds received along with group investments are expected to earn 12% interests as the SACCO does business. Each group has committed to contributing 5% of the	Repayments will start in Y2.

	interest received to a water conservation fund to be managed by MKEWP.	
Output Indicator 3.5: By EOY1, the capacity of 12 monitors (50%W, 50%M) drawn from 6 WRUAs, is built to collect and manage data (water flows, abstraction, pollution, biodiversity, crop production, fuel consumption and micro-credit utilisation), and from Y2 to EOP data management is carried out by these monitors in collaboration with project partners	Recruitment of the 12 (50%W, 50%M) monitors was completed, Installation of the 7 water telemetric stations and development of training manuals for WRUAs scouts and other WRUA officials is underway and will capture all relevant data to be submitted. Actual training planned for Y2. Activity was delayed due to the delayed OPC activity implementation and budget moved to Fauna & Flora in Q4 of Y1.	Training planned for Y2Q1 after installation of telemetric stations is complete
Output Indicator 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.	MKEWP and 7 WRUAs underwent Capacity Assessments and gaps identified. MKEWP's capacity development plan put in place to be implemented from Y2. 3 of the 7 WRUAs trained by WRA in Y1 and the rest to be trained in Y2. In addition, 37 staff (26M and 11F) from 5 partner institutions (MKT, MKEWP, LCA, OPC and NRT) and 4 staff (2M and 2F) from Fauna & Flora were trained on social safeguards.	In Y2, the capacity building exercises will be accelerated to strengthen the institutional capacities.
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		
Output Indicator 4.1 By EOP, local community members (including members of WRUAs, CFAs, farmer/pastoralist producer groups and conservancy members), and target	A stakeholder engagement plan developed to galvanize partners and other stakeholders to support conservation initiatives. Inception	Continued implementation of the Stakeholder engagement plan

<p>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>meetings held with target local communities and 2,733 households enlisted as beneficiaries in Y1, courtesy calls held with 3 target counties, and representatives sit in PIC together with representatives from 3 key national agencies (KWS, KFS and WRA), awareness on the project has been raised in 7 WRUAs targeted for capacity development with expectation for increase in membership, 5 CFA are involved in conservation activities under the project.</p>	
<p>Output Indicator 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>This exercise will commence in Y3</p>	
<p>Output Indicator 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 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>This will be based on lessons learnt and this information will be packaged and shared to the larger audience including within the principal implementing partners. Documentation of lessons learnt to begin in Y2.</p>	

<p>Output Indicator 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>Scoping study for LCA completed in Y1 and key focal programs identified. Discussions on market analysis already initiated within the three counties of Nyeri, Laikipia and Meru, to be completed in Y2. Business case development expected by EOY4. The business case will provide the basis for private sector engagement.</p>	<p>Market analysis to be completed in Y2.</p>
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Annex 2: Project’s full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: A water-secure Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem supports thriving biodiversity and people, providing a scalable model for human-wildlife coexistence, climate-resilient livelihoods, nature-based solutions and sustainable economic development for other water-stressed landscapes.</p>			
<p>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.</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>0.3 By EOP, population and diversity of freshwater 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</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>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</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 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</p>

	<p>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>Capacity Analysis (CVCA) report.</p> <p>0.7 Institutional capacity and technical/skills assessments, County Annual Development and sectoral Plans, County/institutional annual budget, ecosystems services assessment report, sustainable financing plan, business case/proposal for upscaling targeting UK ODA portfolio and multilateral donors.</p>	<p>beneficiaries, markets and demand for agricultural, fodder and livestock products. We are confident that the trainings and other inperson 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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<p>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.</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 biogas.</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, reseeding 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>1.1e 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>1.1a 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>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>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 the government in ongoing programmes.</p> <p>Continued support and cooperation from targeted communities. MKEWP, MKT, OPC, and NRT have ongoing programmes with communities, and we are confident that this will continue.</p>
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<p>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).</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>2.3 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, climateresilient 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>2.1 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>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>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 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>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.</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 farmers, 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 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>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 reports, records of monitoring data collected and submitted by community monitors, dated photographs.</p> <p>3.6 Institutional capacity assessments reports.</p>	<p>COVID-19 restrictions will not affect inperson 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 sustained, effective collaboration.</p> <p>Sustained motivation and high retention of trained trainers (staff and community) and monitors.</p>
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<p>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.</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 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 (EOY12); a sustainable financing plan is developed (EOY3), and business cases and/or funding proposals cocreated 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>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 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>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>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 (Y24).
- 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).

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-D12	Area of degraded or converted ecosystems that are under active restoration.	Area (hectares)	Forest	201.06 Ha			201.06 Ha	620 Ha
DI-A03	Number of local/national organisations with improved capability and capacity as a result of project.	Number of organisations	Organisation type (local NGOs)	5			5	5
DI-B10	Number of households reporting an adoption of livelihood improvement practices as a result of project activities.	People/ Households	Typology of livelihood improvement practice	2,733			2,733	2,906
DI-A01	Number of people who have completed structured and relevant training	People	Men	163			163	
DI-A01	Number of people who have completed structured and relevant training	People	Women	185			185	
DI-B01	Number of new or improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	Number	Improved				0	3

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	Yes
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	Yes
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	No
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Yes
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 16)?	No
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	