

Darwin Initiative Innovation Annual Report

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

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2023

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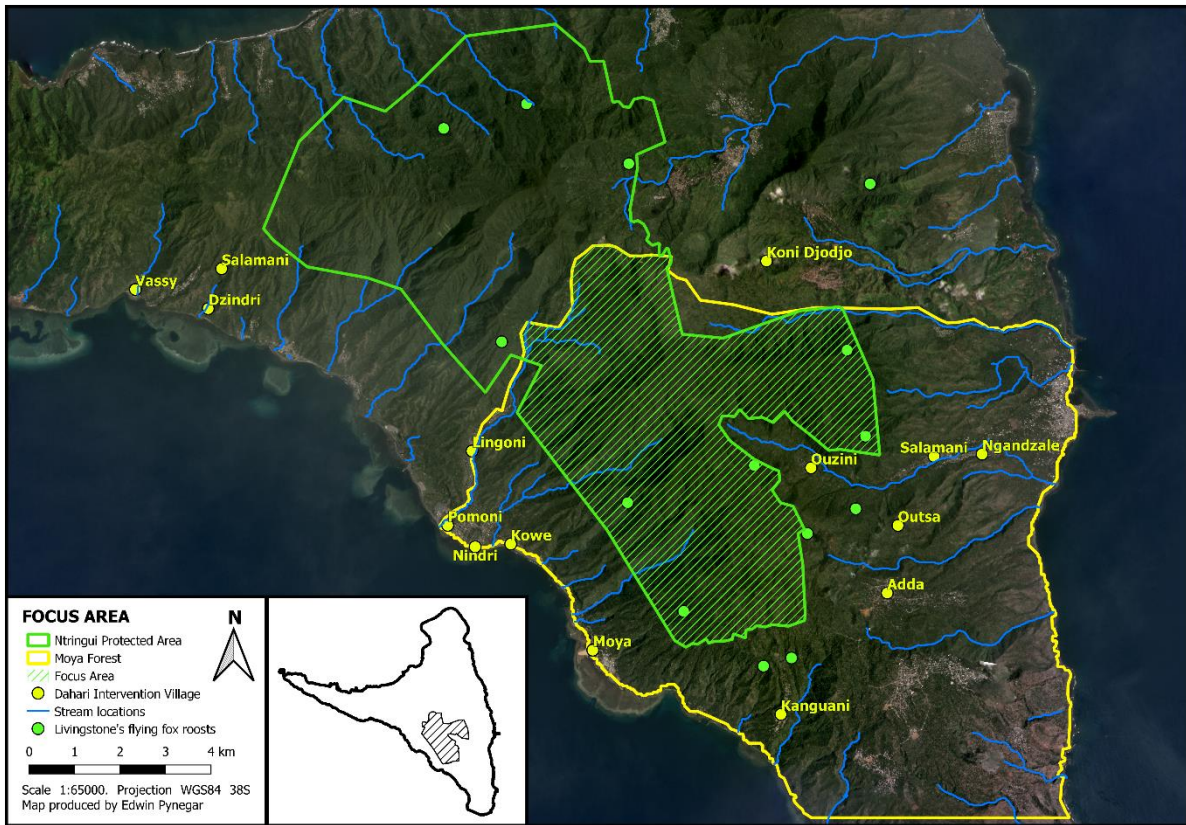
Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	DARNV004
Project title	Introducing research-informed conservation agreements for forest restoration in Anjouan, Comoros
Country/ies	Union of the Comoros
Lead partner	Bangor University
Project partner(s)	Dahari, University of Oxford
Darwin grant value	£199,936.00
Start/end dates of project	1 st April 2022 – 31 st March 2024
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2021 – Mar 2022) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2022 – March 2023 Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Hugh Doulton
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.bangor.ac.uk/conservation-agreements-in-the-comoros
Report author(s) and date	Edwin Pynegar, Hugh Doulton, Julia Jones April 2023

1. Project summary

The Comoro Islands are a tropical archipelago between Madagascar and Mozambique with exceptional terrestrial biodiversity: 20% of vertebrates and around 30% of plant species are endemic. They have suffered one of the highest rates of deforestation in the world. The island of Anjouan is the worst affected, losing 80% of its natural forests between 1995 and 2014. This extreme deforestation has had significant consequences for both biodiversity and local livelihoods. Only ten rivers on Anjouan still flow permanently, compared to fifty around forty years ago, while heavy soil erosion reduces agricultural yields and silts the reefs, reducing the productivity of fishing.

Deforestation is therefore contributing to poverty on Anjouan (Comoros is 156th on the Human Development Index), but poverty also exacerbates deforestation. Remaining mature forest trees are sometimes cut and sold for timber. Farmers practice extensive agriculture which, coupled with a high and rising population density and high dependence on agriculture for livelihoods, puts further pressure on forest areas. With each generation, fields are becoming smaller and livelihoods more marginal, and more trees are cut, further contributing to the cycle of degradation and poverty. Forest patches on the island of Anjouan now remain on only the most inaccessible slopes.



Map of the island of Anjouan showing the project focus area

Various efforts to reverse trends in forest loss since the 1980s have been largely unsuccessful. While protected areas now exist on each island, environmental laws lack support and application at the local level. Weak social cohesion and representative local leadership complicates collective conservation action. Dahari has been working to conserve and restore forest in Anjouan since 2013. A strategic planning process (2020-2021) concluded that continuing to pursue collective forest management approaches was not likely to be effective. Instead, the decision taken was to build on a successful pilot conservation agreement scheme to protect the critically endangered Livingstone's fruit bat, which has run for the last five years with seven landowners in the Moya Key Biodiversity Area (part-funded by the Darwin Initiative). Under the scheme, farmers gain agricultural investments in their other fields and small payments for research and tourist visits to the roost site. This proposal builds on learning from Dahari's pilot scheme and their broader expertise in reforestation and agroforestry development to develop a new conservation agreements approach. Conservation agreements, and related 'Payment for Ecosystem Services-like' schemes, have become a widely-used approach for incentivizing conservation on private land using conditional incentives. As with any approach, there are pitfalls and the limited existing evidence-based suggests mixed results.

Our project brings together substantial international research and practice expertise (including that associated with a Randomized Control Trial of a conservation agreements scheme in Bolivia) to facilitate the design of a rigorous, research-informed conservation agreement approach for the Comoros. The scheme design will, unusually, build-in robust impact evaluation. This will deliver benefits in the short to medium term (conserving and restoring the critical remaining forest in Anjouan), while also influencing conservation practice internationally by providing a model for genuinely research-informed conservation.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The three formal partners of the project are Bangor University, Dahari, and the University of Oxford. The project management team is composed of Professor Julia Jones (Bangor), Professor Owen Lewis (Oxford), Dr Edwin Pynegar (postdoctoral researcher, Bangor), Misbahou Mohamed

(Dahari) and Hugh Doulton (Project lead, Dahari). Monthly management meetings have taken place on Zoom/ Teams in which project progress is assessed and decisions are made regarding all aspects of project delivery. More frequent online meetings take place between Julia Jones and Edwin Pynegar, and more frequent in-person meetings between Edwin Pynegar, Misbahou Mohamed and Hugh Doulton.

Edwin Pynegar has been embedded with the Dahari team in the Comoros since October 2022, where he has been working to design the program and the associated randomised evaluation, as well as designing survey instruments, analysing results, and building local capacity through workshops with Dahari staff. On a previous visit in May 2022, he also led the impact evaluation of the pilot conservation agreements scheme which conserves Livingstone's flying fox roost sites (Output 1) with the support of Dahari staff.

Julia Jones and Owen Lewis input to all aspects of project delivery, leading on areas where they have particular expertise including impact evaluation and forest and biodiversity monitoring. They visited the Comoros on a first supervision mission from October 24th to November 1st 2022. They were able to test out protocols for vegetation monitoring and agreement valuation, as well as obtaining an appreciation of the landscape and dynamics of land use change through discussion with Dahari team members and local people. They also presented the project and their background to the Dahari team.

Other academic collaborations have included with the University of Copenhagen through a MSc dissertation currently being undertaken by Paolo Trimarchi under the supervision of Prof. Jonas Geldmann, and with the University of the Comoros through a BSc dissertation on Livingstone's flying foxes being completed by Imran Halidi. Jemima Tweedale, an Oxford University MBIol student supervised by Owen Lewis, will be travelling to the Comoros to complete her dissertation during Q2 of Y2. In April 2023 we also held the first meeting of the Academic Advisory Committee, comprising representatives of five world-renowned academic institutions as well as Natura Bolivia, an NGO with over 20 years' experience implementing conservation agreements.

A further key involvement of stakeholders has been meetings with the Dahari board of Directors and team members to gain their input to programme design. Their knowledge of Anjouan society and the social-ecological dynamics on the forest frontier are critical for realistic implementation and design. Another key actor at the local level is the National Agency for Protected Areas, and two meetings have been held to explain the project and discuss cooperation.

Dahari has also brought on board specialist consultants as necessary to tackle specific questions: Dr. Saïd Mahamoudou has delivered a report on land title in Anjouan; Dr. Sol Milne will be travelling from the UK in June to undertake drone-mediated photography and orthomosaic mapping of the forest area, to be processed, classified and further analysed by Dr. Jim Vafidis from the University of the West of England; and Professor Mark Mulligan from King's College London will visit Anjouan in September to set up hydrological monitoring parcels and equipment. These latter two collaborations are financed with co-funding obtained through Cartier for Nature.

All collaborations have been developed based upon demand from Dahari in order to obtain information necessary to design and implement both the intervention and the impact evaluation as effectively as possible. The high level and wide variety of expertise involved in the project is both critical to its success, and a testament to the quality of the work. As of yet there have been no problems with the state of collaborations and we look forward to taking them all forward during Year 2.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1: A qualitative evaluation of the impact and functioning of Dahari's pilot conservation agreement scheme protecting roost sites of the Livingstone's fruit bat in the Moya forest Key Biodiversity Area informs development of the new scheme.

1.1 Design and implement Key Informant Interviews with landowners, Dahari staff and other stakeholders (including participatory transect walks)

A total of 13 interviews were undertaken between May and October 2022 (seven Livingstone's fruit bat roost conservation agreement participants, six Dahari staff members). Julia Jones and Owen Lewis completed participatory transect walks during their visit and monitoring of vegetation was undertaken in two key Livingstone's flying fox conservation parcels (the two with the longest history under conservation). A database is provided in Annex 1.

1.2 Conduct qualitative impact evaluation to identify lessons for the new conservation agreement scheme

These interviews and ecological outcomes were analysed and integrated into a report (Annex 2).

Output 2: A research and development phase provides the necessary information to develop a robust conservation agreement scheme.

2.1 Design and implement Focus Group discussions with farmers to discuss key elements around the new scheme.

Four focus group discussions with a total of 34 participants (20 men, 14 women) have been undertaken in the villages (Adda and Ouzini) nearest to the forested areas likely to be placed in conservation agreements, with two male and two female groups. Results are currently being compiled but the results database for two of the four groups (Annex 3) is available.

2.2 Design and implement questionnaire survey to explore likely farmer uptake under different conditions.

Following much discussion, the questionnaire survey was substituted for key informant interviews, for two principal reasons. Firstly, the independent experts on the advisory committee warned against any attempt to systematically quantify valuation as being likely to result in "crowding out" of any inherent wish to conserve, as well as likely benchmarking an absolute minimum for future conservation payments. Secondly, Dahari management were concerned that this approach could be vulnerable to "sabotage" by a small number of interviewed individuals interested in inflating the minimum value required for uptake, and also risking shutting out Dahari from implementing the project unless it agreed to making these payments. Thus, in the context of Anjouan, this would have risked not only the result being irrelevant but also actively damaging the implementation of the agreements themselves.

Therefore two phases of key informant interviews were organised instead. The first phase, undertaken in December 2022 and January 2023, consisted of semi-structured interviews with 26 farmers (18 in Adda, 8 in Ouzini; 23 men, 3 women) who own land which we believed would potentially be suitable for enrolment in the future program (i.e. owners of forested parcels near or in the core zone of the Moya Forest). These questions were fairly general as part of the objective was to generate a good understanding of land use dynamics and farmers' decision-making processes in general, as well as mapping some representative parcel areas; however questions specifically relating to uptake and valuation of compensation were also asked. A report is available as Annex 4.

The second phase, undertaken in March and April 2023, consisted of detailed key informant interviews with interviewees whom Dahari knows and trusts to give unbiased responses and who

they are confident will not attempt to manipulate the results. 13 interviewees (8 in Adda, 5 in Ouzini; 9 men and 4 women) were interviewed in depth about valuation and other issues of design. Findings will be integrated into the report mentioned above (Annex 4).

2.3 Hire a legal consultant and work closely with them to conduct a legal review of relevant land tenure law.

Dahari hired Dr Said Mahamoudou from the faculty of law at the University of the Comoros to lead the land tenure review. This has been successfully undertaken and a first version of the report delivered (Annex 5). A final version will be presented following feedback.

2.4 Finalise priority areas through integrating existing mapping layers and agreed criteria.

This remains ongoing due to our work between October 2022 and March 2023 showing that the questions surrounding both eligible land covers and actions to be taken by program participants are highly complex. Complicating the matter further is that we are aware that the best forest cover map available (produced during a previous Darwin project) does not in all cases reflect actual land cover given the complexity and fine-grained nature of the landscape matrix.

Nonetheless, mapping layers and data were collated to support identification of priority areas for rollout. Mapping of water sources in the area was completed, identifying and classifying a total of 139 water sources, and geospatial analyses of forest overlap with potential areas of randomisation units was undertaken.

The exact area will only be fully finalized after a final decision on actions which participants in the program will have to take, which therefore in turn determines exactly what land is eligible for the program. This will be finalised by end Q1 of Y2. This will also be supported through the second meeting with the Academic Advisory Committee and the arrival of Dr Sol Milne to conduct fine-scale drone mapping in Q1 of Y2.

2.5 Identify units for roll-out of the scheme through mapping and additional field work.

Early on two potential randomisation units (lieux-dits, land parcels) were identified after eliminating others as unfeasible (villages, administrative areas, individual landowners) and extensive analysis on the pros and cons of each has been conducted, including statistical power analysis. These conclusions are provided in Annex 6. These implications have been discussed with Dahari staff and the Academic Advisory Committee in April 2023 (see Activity 3.1 below). The final decision will be taken shortly and then fieldwork conducted to complete the mapping process before randomisation and rollout in Q2 of Y2. However, a map showing examples of possible units measured has been produced, demonstrating the feasibility of both options (Annex 7).

Output 3: A comprehensive strategy for the implementation, scaling up and long term evaluation of a robust conservation agreements scheme to restore key forest areas in Anjouan is produced.

3.1 Organize workshops involving key stakeholders to capitalise on outputs to structure the final scheme.

As planned, one workshop has been conducted with Dahari staff in which design questions were examined in detail. The Dahari Board of Directors has also been presented with similar topics for discussion. Reports on outcomes of both these meetings are provided in Annexes 8 and 9.

3.2 Design agreements, write up strategy and impact evaluation design for the scheme.

This is a process which has been taking place since October 2022. As mentioned in Activity 3.1, the workshop examined these in detail; interviews and focus groups with local people (activities 2.1 and 2.2) also have served to inform design.

3.3 Arrange online meetings with independent experts in community conservation, PES and conservation agreements, and impact design.

The first of these meeting was held in April 2023, which focused in particular on the experimental design. The second meeting will take place once program design is finalised and ready to present, likely at the beginning of Q2 of Y2. Results will be presented in Y2 reporting.

3.4 Finalise methods and conduct baseline data collection (ecological and socio-economic) for the initial sub-set of units.

Land cover monitoring through UAV overflight and creation of orthomosaics and classified images will be undertaken in June 2023 through the hiring of consultants (Dr. Sol Milne and Dr. Jim Vafidis). Monitoring of vegetation and biodiversity will begin in June 2023 with the arrival of Jemima Tweedale from Oxford University.

3.5 Reach out to donors and submit grant applications

An important grant to implement the conservation agreements developed during this project was obtained by Dahari from Cartier for Nature, totalling one million euros over three years. Further fundraising will be undertaken in Y2.

3.6 Analyse and develop appropriate long-term financing option for the scheme with support of advisors and partners.

Blended finance structures have been explored, including through reaching out to regional and international experts, and options for application to the context of the program will be developed in the upcoming months.

Output 4: The design of the scheme is tested through implementation with a stratified random sub-set of at least 40 farmers.

All activities are planned for Y2.

Output 5: Capacity is built in the Comoros for developing and implementing conservation agreement schemes, and learning is shared internationally.

5.1 Training of Dahari staff in social and ecological field methods and scheme design.

Trainings for Dahari staff members has been led by Edwin Pynegar (Bangor), including on semi-structured interviews and focus groups, use of GPS devices for parcel measuring, as well as others described in Annex 10. Dahari staff have been surveyed about their level of familiarity with methods and their preferences for training (Annex 11) and in Y2 we plan to conduct training on, amongst others: mechanics of program implementation, use of GIS software, UAV flying, household surveys.

During the workshop mentioned under Activity 3.1 above, a training on the justification and mechanics of randomised experiments and its implications for scheme design was also conducted.

5.2 Select students and support them to complete dissertations.

One dissertation, being undertaken by Imran Halidi on Livingstone's fruit bat ecology, planned to be completed by Q2 of Y2. Paolo Trimarchi, an MSc student from the University of Copenhagen, is currently writing a dissertation on costs of RCTs after visiting the Comoros in October 2022, under supervision of Prof. Jonas Geldmann. Jemima Tweedale from the University of Oxford, supervised by Owen Lewis, will arrive in Anjouan in June 2023 to undertake a dissertation on biodiversity monitoring, which will include an experimental baseline.

5.3 Deliver lectures at University of the Comoros.

The University of the Comoros unfortunately cancelled a planned lecture by Julia Jones and Owen Lewis due to electricity blackouts during their trip in October 2022.

Minor changes to logframe (tracked in Annex 2):

Summarised here are minor changes to the logframe in line with what is reported above, which we understand do not oblige submission of a change request:

- Activity 1.1: 6 Dahari staff members interviewed (modified from 8 as only six staff involved)
- Activity 2.1: 40 participants in focus groups, of whom at least 40% should be women (modified from 50, an update on numbers involved)
- Activity 2.2: 50 key informants interviewed, of whom at least 20% should be women (modified from 100 questionnaire surveys with at least 40% women due to sensitivity around contract valuation and a higher % of farmers in targeted areas being male)
- Activity 5.1: 10 Dahari staff receiving training (modified from 15 due to a change in team structure at Dahari)
- Activity 5.3: Two lectures given at the University of the Comoros (modified from four due to cancellation at last minute of the first lecture planned).

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: A qualitative evaluation of the impact and functioning of Dahari's pilot conservation agreement scheme protecting roost sites of the Livingstone's fruit bat in the Moya forest Key Biodiversity Area informs development of the new scheme.

This output is now complete. The report and database corresponding to indicators 1.1 and 1.2 are provided in Annexes 1 and 2.

Key findings are that six out of seven beneficiaries had a clear understanding of the scheme's functioning and objectives. All beneficiaries claim to have respected the conditions of the program and land use intensity was consistently reported as reduced in conserved parcels which contain the roost sites. One respondent was entirely positive about the program, stating that he would not change any aspects of it and that he would like to see the agreements' duration extended to 10 years, and several respondents stated that they benefited from the materials and training provided by Dahari as well as the per diems provided when Dahari staff visit. Many reported that their neighbours were jealous that they were participating in the scheme.

However, while the scheme represents additional conservation, it also represented a substantial cost for a majority of the participants. Six out of the seven felt that they had found themselves at least somewhat disadvantaged by not being able to farm in conserved areas, which was particularly costly to those with relatively small areas of land. The participants provided a number of suggestions as to how the scheme could be modified.

Discussions with program designers and technicians showed that scaling-up and consequent standardization will represent a fundamental change from the previous way in which Dahari had established and managed conservation agreements. Previously these had been based on personal negotiation by the Co-Director with landowners already known to Dahari, a likely unfeasible approach given the greatly increased numbers of agreement signatories. A standardized formula for compensation value and clearly defined sanctions in case of noncompliance will likely be necessary. Furthermore, designers noted that monitoring and evaluation had thus far been unsystematic and will have to be designed and more clearly implemented for both compliance monitoring and monitoring for impact evaluation purposes.

These findings are currently being used to inform the design of the conservation agreements to be implemented during this project.

Output 2: A research and development phase provides the necessary information to develop a robust conservation agreement scheme.

This output is almost complete and will be complete in time to implement the first 40 agreements in Q2 of Y2. Data from focus groups (indicator 2.1) is currently being collated and analysed as these have only just been concluded. Similarly, the report corresponding to indicator 2.2 (Annex 4) contains the analysis corresponding to the first group of interviews and that corresponding to the second group will be added shortly. A pre-final version of the report on land tenure law is available (indicator 2.3, Annex 5). Power analysis and spatial analysis have been undertaken to determine priority areas and inform randomisation unit decision-making (indicator 2.4) but final decision on randomisation unit and therefore completion of mapping can only be made subsequently to the April 2023 meeting with the academic advisory committee and then ratification by the Dahari team. This is to be completed in Q1 of Y2.

These processes have served to inform program design about appropriate payment levels and modalities as well as other aspects of the conservation agreement and experimental design. At the time of writing, program designers have provisionally decided on the use of parcels as randomisation unit, cash as payment modality, and actions by participants rather than land cover per se as a participation criterion. Other decisions, such as payment amount, are still under consideration subsequent to analysis of focus group and key informant interview results.

Output 3: A comprehensive strategy for the implementation, scaling up and long term evaluation of a robust conservation agreements scheme to restore key forest areas in Anjouan is produced.

All activities under this output other than 3.6 are at least partially complete and the output is expected to be completed on schedule. Specifically, the first workshop report (indicator 3.1) is provided and complete (Annex 8) as well as the record of the meeting with the Dahari board of Directors (Annex 9). Remaining activities corresponding to this output are planned to be concluded in Y2, and no constraints are currently foreseen.

Output 4: The design of the scheme is tested through implementation with a stratified random sub-set of at least 40 farmers.

Activities under this output are not planned until Y2, but there no constraints to completing this output are foreseen.

Output 5: Capacity is built in the Comoros for developing and implementing conservation agreement schemes, and learning is shared internationally.

Activities contributing to this output are currently ongoing. A list of attendees of trainings undertaken up until March 2023 is provided (Annex 10). Surveys conducted have allowed identification of important training requirements (specified in section 3.1 above) which are to be completed in Y2, and surveys of key Dahari staff have been conducted to determine levels of understanding at the beginning of the project (Annex 11). Capacity building in an academic context has also continued, with one thesis at the University of the Comoros almost complete. As mentioned above, the lecture planned for Y1 was not able to be given due to factors beyond our control, but we intend to complete two planned lectures during Y2. Internationally, Edwin Pynegar will present the project at a conference in July 2023 and other possible presentation contexts are also being explored.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The project Outcome states: An innovative, research-informed conservation agreements scheme designed to allow robust impact evaluation is ready for scaling across high priority areas for water and biodiversity on Anjouan

There are no problems foreseen that will prevent achieving the project Outcome by end of funding. The research phase (Outputs 1 and 2) has proceeded as planned in the main, and both the conservation agreements design, and randomised trial design, will be directly informed by them. It is expected that at least 40 farmers will enrol land in conservation agreements as in preliminary interviews and focus groups the concept has been widely understood and a large

majority of interviewees have already stated that they would be interested in participating. The funding from Cartier for Nature will support implementation up to end 2025. Training of Dahari staff continues and knowledge-sharing activities will be continued with Comorian and international audiences.

The indicators for this innovation project are appropriate for monitoring progress towards the stated outcome. They relate to planning, numbers of agreements signed, and experimental implementation, all of which are straightforward to monitor over the timeline of the project. Ultimately, the project intends to deliver a conservation agreement programme which, over the longer term, will result in better outcomes for forest and biodiversity in Anjouan and, crucially, will result in robust estimates of impact on those outcomes. Much of the project effort is put into developing the longer term impact evaluation design and collection of baseline. However, work on these other indicators such as forest cover and vegetation structure are not meaningful indicators of project outcome. Our current indicators are therefore appropriate.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

All key assumptions have been met so far:

Assumption 1: The research and learning phases of the project are not heavily impacted by Covid- 19, political trouble, or other crises.

No such problem has occurred.

Assumption 2: Land-owners in high priority areas on Anjouan see value in engaging with conservation agreements scheme.

While offers are yet to be made, in interviews and focus groups the vast majority of participants have stated their interest in participating.

Assumption 3: Members of the pilot scheme are willing to engage with this lesson learning phase.

Every member of the pilot scheme agreed to interviews without problems.

Assumption 4: Farmers are willing to engage in the research and learning phase.

All farmers asked to engage with research and learning through interviews and focus groups have been willing to participate.

Assumption 5: Appropriate Comorian consultant available to conduct the legal review.

A highly-recommended consultant was hired.

Assumption 6: Key local and regional authorities in the Comoros engage constructively with this new scheme.

Several useful meetings were held with local mayors about the scheme, as well as the Director of Environment on Anjouan. Meetings have been collaborative and constructive.

Assumption 7: Additional independent experts agree to review the scheme once invited.

A group of six international experts has been established who have agreed to review the scheme. The first meeting has taken place successfully.

Assumption 8: Donors continue to support Dahari and new donors are attracted to the research-informed conservation agreements approach.

Dahari has received a grant of 1,000,000 euros from Cartier for Nature from the start of 2023 focused on implementing the conservation agreements derived during this project.

Assumption 9: Landowners in targeted high priority areas on Anjouan are willing to engage in conservation agreements scheme.

This is something which can only be determined when offers are made, but the design phase has been undertaken with the goal of making the agreements as likely to be accepted as possible given the context of Anjouan and feedback from farmers on the principles has been positive.

Assumption 10: Dahari staff absorb training and learning.

Dahari staff have participated in trainings and workshops and subsequently led research in the field.

Assumption 11: The University of the Comoros remains willing to engage with the project.

The first student has completed their dissertation successfully.

Assumption 12: Strong students commit to the proposed dissertations.

Thus far, this has been the case.

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

Project Impact: "The forests of the island of Anjouan in the Comoros archipelago are restored, securing water supplies, improving livelihood resilience and conserving endemic biodiversity".

The implementation of the agreements will take place next year, as planned. Therefore we have not had direct impact on biodiversity or poverty reduction as yet. Once agreements are signed, it is expected that compensation from conservation agreements will in many cases be invested in productive projects by scheme participants, serving as a multiplier in local economies and enabling participants to diversify and/or increase household incomes. Over the longer term it is expected that if large areas of the remaining forest are conserved, this will serve to halt the consistent decreases in water availability on Anjouan which exacerbate poverty and threaten biodiversity. A halt to deforestation will also serve to reduce exposure to risks such as floods and landslides triggered by tropical cyclones and other extreme weather events, exacerbated in the context of the Comoros through the effects of climate change, thereby increasing resilience.

If the pilot phase of implementation represented by this project is successful, Dahari intends to upscale the conservation agreements scheme, firstly more widely on the island of Anjouan and then to Grande Comore. This would serve as a demonstration of how incentive-based agreements can be implemented effectively in the context of Small Island Developing States, many of which are home to endemic and endangered biodiversity.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

Given its nature, the project has not contributed to national policy or international conventions to date. Regular annual or biannual meetings are held by Dahari with the CBD focal point Mr Abdouchakour Mohamed.

5. Project support to poverty reduction

The remaining forest is located on steep and high slopes. Given the distance and difficulty of access to these areas this land tends to belong to more marginalised sections of the community

(wealthier individuals will often possess better quality land closer to the villages). Hence the scheme is expected to be inherently pro-poor.

The program will compensate participants with goods or money in return for restoring and conserving forest, which is expected to have a poverty reduction effect through increasing household income. Not all participants will have the same opportunity cost and so those with low opportunity costs will likely be able to make a larger rent out of the program. This could either be used for household consumption or for investment in agricultural projects which may create a multiplier effect in the local economy.

We have a clear social safeguard commitment that no one is made worse off by the scheme. We have committed to a participant survey at six months to gauge satisfaction. We are also ensuring we have clear mechanisms for reporting of any concerns from our staff or from community members.

We hope that where the landowner is male, by including their spouse as a signatory on the agreement, this may serve to encourage female participation in decision-making on land use, as well as ensuring that female members of households are aware of the compensation and may participate in decisions relating to its use.

We also expect there to be indirect effects over the long term relating to water availability. Landowners in the area attribute the lack of water availability to compounded deforestation over the past decades and therefore we would expect that slowing or halting this trend would also halt the decline in hydrological provisioning and therefore reduce poverty due to lack of water availability. Hydrological studies, as mentioned in section 1 above, will begin to answer this question.

6. Gender equality and social inclusion

Explicit gender equality requirements were integrated into the design criteria for the scheme and have been followed as closely as possible. Activity 2.1, the focus groups, has had a design requirement of at least 40 per cent female participation. While 2 out of 4 focus groups were women-only, the entire activity had 14 women participating out of 34 (41%). The key informant interviews with trusted informants (Activity 2.2) resulted in 21% (8 out of 39) of interviewees being women, this being a function of who is farming parcels in the areas targeted. Women’s focus groups and interviews with women participants were led by a female member of Dahari staff.

We are exploring the likely social acceptability, and any consequences of asking that spouses of landowners will also be required to sign agreements (see section 5). We envisage that this will help ensure they are more involved with both land use decisions and decisions surrounding use of the compensation – an assumption that we are interrogating.

Over the longer term we expect greater access to water, a consequence of halting deforestation, to particularly support women, given the impacts of lack of water on domestic work and the gendered nature of this in the Comoros.

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	20%
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women ² .	1 – Dahari has two female and two male members of its Direction team

¹ A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

² Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

Responsibility for M&E is shared between all partner organisations with each taking on roles based on capability and expertise. Bangor University is responsible for design of the randomised trial together with contributions from Dahari. While this is not M&E of this innovation project, it is designing evaluation of the ultimate outcomes of interest over longer term. This involves both designing the experiment and establishment of counterfactuals; Dahari is then responsible for implementation actions with support from Bangor. Owen Lewis is principally responsible for designing biodiversity and vegetation structure monitoring which Oxford University and Dahari will then implement.

Activity indicators are being monitored by Hugh Doulton (Dahari) and Edwin Pynegar (Bangor) regularly to ensure that activities are being completed, with monthly review by the project management team. This has been adequate so far and there have been no changes made to the M&E plan.

Outputs and Activities of the project necessarily contribute to the outcome due to the nature of the project itself: the outputs and activities are steps required to design an evidence-informed conservation agreements program and then implement it. For example, the design phase (output 2) provides us with information, without which we would have been unable to produce a coherently-designed scheme likely to be acceptable to potential participants. Similarly scheme implementation cannot occur without, for example, stakeholders approving of it (output 3.1) and both it and the experiment being finalised (output 3.2).

8. Lessons learnt

The first semester was planned to ensure a smooth start to the project, including giving time for the recruitment and arrival of Edwin Pynegar by October 2022, which helped to get everything set up efficiently. A separate knowledge exchange mission between Dahari and Natura Bolivia during that period fed into identification of issues and research questions, as well as clear comparison with a pre-existing conservation agreements program. We were also able to separately complete the impact evaluation of the Livingstone's flying fox conservation program and integrate those results from the beginning of the design phase.

We have had to identify and then take a number of difficult but key decisions relating to both agreement program design and experimental design, as well as the intersection between the two. The choice of randomisation unit, to use cash or in-kind compensation payments, eligible land cover, actions participants should have to take all involve tradeoffs. These decisions have required a substantial amount of time and consideration, including discussions with key stakeholders. The time given to this period of project development has allowed all key actors to comfortable with conclusions taken surrounding some of these decisions, with the remaining ones to be finalised soon.

In retrospect we would have preferred the drone mapping phase to have been undertaken earlier, but again we feel that substantial discussion and considerations, identifying potential areas for implementation and potential land covers of interest, were necessary to guide this work.

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

Not applicable.

10. Risk Management

No new risks were identified, and there has been nothing of significance to report on the risk register. The latest version of the risk register is available in Annex 12.

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

N/A

12. Sustainability and legacy

Interviewees in the villages have been highly positive towards the concept of conservation agreements and have shown substantial interest, but we will only know whether the planned legacy approach will be feasible once they are offered to potential participants. Capacity has been built within Dahari as described in section 5.1 above and will be continued in Y2.

The funding provided by Cartier for Nature will underpin delivery of the agreements scheme by Dahari post-project. The plan will be to gradually increase the area of forest covered under the scheme and eventually impact on conservation policy in the Comoros. No changes are currently planned to what was originally proposed.

In-country, the project is known by key actors through meetings, including with the National Parks Agency, the Director of Environment on Anjouan, and local mayors. This will be stepped up as planned during Y2.

13. Darwin Initiative identity

The Darwin Initiative logo is prominently displayed on all of Dahari's institutional communication eg. the front page of the Dahari website, vehicles, office boards, display panels etc. Dahari posts regular updates on project progress on Facebook, tagging BCF where relevant.

In the Comoros, this project is known amongst the Dahari team, Board of Directors, and other stakeholders as the "Darwin project" and thus a clear identity for the project and its associated funding is being maintained.

A project website has been created via Bangor (<https://www.bangor.ac.uk/conservation-agreements-in-the-comoros>), and Julia Jones posts regularly on Twitter regarding project progress, tagging BCF. The website contains a blog section with updates on recent activities.

14. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	Yes
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes Hugh Doulton and Misbahou Mohamed [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	No
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	0
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.	No

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

Update the safeguarding policy again and familiarise all staff with it through a dedicated training.

15. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2022/23 Grant (£)	2022/23 Total Darwin Initiative Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)				
Staff costs (see below) Bangor Dahari Oxford Total								
Consultancy costs								
Overhead Costs								
Travel and subsistence								
Operating Costs								
Capital items (see below)								
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)								
Others (see below) Computer + field equipment								
TOTAL					91142	91142	0%	

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

Year 1 has been a research and development phase so we will submit material here in Y2.

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

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>The forests of the island of Anjouan in the Comoros archipelago are restored, securing water supplies, improving livelihood resilience and conserving endemic biodiversity</p>		<p>Evaluation of a trial program complete. Research phase almost complete.</p> <p>Training and knowledge transfer ongoing.</p> <p>Design of program on track for implementation in Y2.</p>	
<p>Outcome An innovative, research-informed conservation agreements scheme designed to allow robust impact evaluation is ready for scaling across high priority areas for water and biodiversity on Anjouan</p>	<p>0.1 Priority areas for implementation mapped and used to design randomized staggered roll out to deliver robust long term impact evaluation (by start of Y2).</p> <p>0.2 A research-informed strategy for the updated conservation agreements scheme (by middle of Y2).</p> <p>0.3 Forest integrity and socio-economic baselines methods are finalised, and established for the first agreements (by middle of Y2)</p> <p>0.4 40 conservation agreements have been successfully implemented for 6 months and assessed (by project end).</p>	<p>0.1 Analyses of aspects of randomised staggered rollout completed. Provisional focus area identified.</p> <p>0.2. Design questions analysed and discussed with stakeholders.</p> <p>0.3. Outcomes of interest identified and methods developed. Consultants identified where required and missions planned.</p>	<p>0.1. Mapping to be completed in Q1 of Y2.</p> <p>0.2. Decisions to be finalised in Q1 of Y2.</p> <p>0.3. Baselines to be taken in Q1 and Q2 of Y2.</p> <p>0.4. Training of technicians in agreement rollout and presentation of program to potential participants in Q2 of Y2. 6 month evaluation in Q4.</p>
<p>Output 1. A qualitative evaluation of the impact and functioning of Dahari's pilot conservation agreement scheme protecting roost sites of the Livingstone's fruit bat in the Moya forest Key Biodiversity Area informs development of the new scheme</p>	<p>1.1 Key Informant Interviews and field visits with the 7 landowners and 6 staff involved in the pilot scheme show perceived impacts of the current scheme (both socio-economic as well as ecological).</p> <p>1.2 Qualitative report highlighting what changed and what did not due to the scheme and what lessons</p>	<p>7 landowners and 6 staff interviewed. Tree counts and plot monitoring completed in the 2 oldest conservation areas. Report completed which combines both results of interviews and lessons learned (see section 3.1).</p>	

	there are for the new Dahari conservation agreement scheme. (All by end of Y1)		
Activity 1.1 Design and implement Key Informant Interviews with landowners, Dahari staff and other stakeholders (including participatory transect walks)		13 interviews completed, transect walks, tree counting, and systematic plot monitoring undertaken.	N/A
1.2 Conduct qualitative impact evaluation to identify lessons for the new conservation agreement scheme		Results analysed and report completed.	N/A
Output 2. A research and development phase provides the necessary information to develop a robust conservation agreement scheme	<p>2.1 40 farmers (at least 40% female) take part in focus groups to improve understanding of motivations for retaining mature trees, the value of potential interventions to compensate for restoration investments by farmers, and how conditionality in the new scheme could operate.</p> <p>2.2 Key informant interviews completed with 50 farmers (at least 20% female) to explore likely uptake under different conditions.</p> <p>2.3 A legal review of land tenure law in the Comoros as relevant to the proposed scheme is undertaken.</p> <p>2.4 Mapping finalises priority target areas in the Moya forest Key Biodiversity Area and identifies units for roll out. (All by end Y1)</p>	<p>Some changes to research and development phase relating to methods used for activities. Research and development soon to be complete and all stakeholders in agreement about decisions made.</p> <p>Focus groups recently completed. Gender balance maintained throughout. Also discussed questions of valuation.</p> <p>As discussed in section 3.1 and section 10 above, WTA contingent valuation was considered overly risky by Dahari management and so we switched the valuation approach to in-depth key informant interviews of which 39 have been conducted. This has provided the same result as an input to scheme design.</p> <p>Land tenure review pre-final draft complete.</p> <p>Mapping and relevant geospatial analysis completed; mapping of units to be completed in Q1 of Y2.</p>	
Activity 2.1. Design and implement Focus Group discussions with farmers to discuss key elements around the new scheme.		4 focus groups completed with 34 participants.	Completion, analysis, report writing by Q1 of Y2.

2.2 Design and implement questionnaire survey to explore likely farmer uptake under different conditions.	39 key informant interviews conducted. Analysis and report relating to first 26 interviews completed.	Update to report with final interview information.
2.3 Hire a legal consultant and work closely with them to conduct a legal review of relevant land tenure law.	Consultant hired, visited Anjouan, conducted investigation and pre-final draft of report delivered.	Final report to be delivered.
2.4 Finalise priority areas through integrating existing mapping layers and agreed criteria.	Provisional area identified; map and other geospatial analysis completed. Report available.	Finalisation of priority area once scheme eligibility finalised and drone mapping completed.
2.5 Identify units for roll-out of the scheme through mapping and additional field work.	Consideration and analysis of possible units conducted. Report available Options presented to and examined with academic advisory committee.	Unit decision finalised and completion of mapping in Q1 of Y2.
<p>Output 3. A comprehensive strategy for the implementation, scaling up and long term evaluation of a robust conservation agreements scheme to restore key forest areas in Anjouan is produced.</p>	<p>3.1 Two workshops including key stakeholders capitalise on outputs 1 & 2 to structure the final scheme (Y1: 1, Y2: 1).</p> <p>3.2 The strategy and impact evaluation design are written up (Y2)</p> <p>3.3 The design of both the scheme and of a robust impact evaluation against a counterfactual is validated by independent experts (both Y2).</p> <p>3.4 Baseline data collection complete for the units where initial roll out will be carried out, and their matched controls (Y2).</p> <p>3.5 Donor funding is secured to finance the first 3 years of the scheme, and a realistic long-term funding plan is proposed (Y2).</p>	<p>A workshop and a meeting with the independent advisory group held as planned. Funding secured from a private foundation to enable implementation of the program for the first three years.</p> <p>Scheme design close to finalisation with input of all stakeholders.</p> <p>Outcomes of interest identified, work underway to identify and develop methods for monitoring. This will be finalised in Q1 of Y2 and the actual data collection in Q1 to Q2.</p>
3.1 Organize workshops involving key stakeholders to capitalise on outputs to structure the final scheme.	Workshop with Dahari staff complete; a separate discussion with Dahari board of directors also undertaken.	Second discussion with Dahari staff; workshop with local stakeholders and potential participants to approve design.

3.2 Design agreements, write up strategy and impact evaluation design for the scheme	Discussions ongoing with Dahari staff and board of directors as well as advisory committee. Some analysis already conducted and reports available.	Finalisation of design and completion of strategy document. Randomisation to be conducted.
3.3 Arrange online meetings with independent experts in community conservation, PES and conservation agreements, and impact design.	One meeting already successfully concluded.	Second meeting once design finalised and written up.
3.4 Finalise methods and conduct baseline data collection (ecological and socio-economic) for the initial sub-set of units.	Discussions ongoing since October 2022. Outcomes identified and methods broadly identified; some (e.g. drone monitoring of forest cover) finalised.	Methods to be finalised and baseline data to be collected by end Q2 of Y2.
3.5 Reach out to donors and submit grant applications	One application successful which will contribute to funding agreements for first three years of implementation.	Not applicable
3.6 Analyse and develop appropriate long-term financing option for the scheme with support of advisors and partners.	Reach out to regional and international experts	To be undertaken throughout Y2.
Output 4: The design of the scheme is tested through implementation with a stratified random sub-set of at least 40 farmers.	4.1 By Q3 of Y2 conservation agreements are signed with at least 40 farmers (a stratified random sub-set of the full set identified for the longer-term scheme). 4.2 75% of farmers signing agreements report positive attitude to scheme after first six months (end Y2).	To be undertaken in Y2. Early signs are encouraging as most interviewees understand the concept of conservation agreements and are interested in signing.
4.1 Outreach with the target farmers.		Once farmers identified, organization of meetings and presentation of programme.
4.2 Sign agreements with farmers in the target catchments.		Measurement and signing to be conducted by Dahari.
4.3 Conduct a brief satisfaction survey after 6 months of the agreements running inviting feedback from participating farmers.		To be conducted in Q4 of Y2.
5. Capacity is built in the Comoros for developing and implementing conservation agreement schemes,	5.1 10 Dahari staff demonstrate improved skills and understanding of robust impact evaluation,	Trainings conducted with Dahari staff on conservation agreements, impact evaluation, randomised control trials, use of GPS devices and focus group and semi-structured interview methodology.

<p>and learning is shared internationally.</p>	<p>ecological survey protocols to monitor forest integrity, social research tools such as focus group discussions and choice experiments (workshops in Y1 then mentoring).</p> <p>5.2 Two students from the University of the Comoros complete their dissertations embedded within the project (Y1:1, Y2:1).</p> <p>5.3 Two lectures linked to project activities are delivered by visiting project partners at the University of the Comoros (Y2).</p> <p>5.4 At least one peer-reviewed publication is prepared for the applied conservation literature by end Y2.</p> <p>5.5 Two international presentations share learning with other conservation organizations and funders by end Y2.</p>	<p>We have also interviewed the Dahari staff to assess training needs and have further training sessions planned.</p> <p>One student is soon to complete his thesis on Livingstone fruit bat use of habitat in the zone of conservation interest, and we will shortly recruit another for Y2. Unfortunately the lecture planned at the University of the Comoros was cancelled on the day.</p> <p>The programme will be presented at the ICCB conference in Rwanda in July 2023 and we are currently exploring other presentation possibilities.</p>	
<p>5.1 Training of Dahari staff in social and ecological field methods and scheme design.</p>	<p>Seven trainings successfully conducted with up to nine members of Dahari staff.</p>	<p>Further training planned as required.</p>	
<p>5.2 Select students and support them to complete dissertations.</p>	<p>1 student currently completing dissertation.</p>	<p>1 student to be recruited.</p>	
<p>5.3 Deliver lectures at University of the Comoros.</p>		<p>2 lectures to be given in Y2.</p>	
<p>5.4 Prepare papers for publication.</p>		<p>1 paper to be written in Y2.</p>	
<p>5.5 Deliver presentations to regional and international audiences.</p>		<p>1 presentation to be given at ICCB 2023 in Q2 of Y2; another presentation venue to be identified.</p>	

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: The forests of the island of Anjouan in the Comoros archipelago are restored, securing water supplies, improving livelihood resilience and conserving endemic biodiversity (Max 30 words)</p>			
<p>Outcome: (Max 30 words) An innovative, research-informed conservation agreements scheme designed to allow robust impact evaluation is ready for scaling across high priority areas for water and biodiversity on Anjouan</p>	<p>0.1 Priority areas for implementation mapped and used to design randomized staggered roll out to deliver robust long term impact evaluation (by start of Y2). 0.2 A research-informed strategy for the updated conservation agreements scheme (by middle of Y2). 0.3 Forest integrity and socio-economic baselines methods are finalised, and established for the first agreements (by middle of Y2) 0.4 40 conservation agreements have been successfully implemented for 6 months and assessed (by project end).</p>	<p>0.1 Map showing planned roll out and summary of independent review of impact design. 0.2 Implementation strategy for conservation agreements scheme and summary of independent review. 0.3: Ecological and social databases; methodology documents. 0.4: Database of agreement holders and project-end survey.</p>	<p>The research and learning phases of the project are not heavily impacted by Covid-19, political trouble, or other crises. Land-owners in high priority areas on Anjouan see value in engaging with conservation agreements scheme.</p>
<p>1. A qualitative evaluation of the impact and functioning of Dahari’s pilot conservation agreement scheme protecting roost sites of the Livingstone’s fruit bat in the Moya forest Key Biodiversity Area informs development of the new scheme</p>	<p>1.1 Key Informant Interviews and field visits with the 7 landowners and 6 staff involved in the pilot scheme show perceived impacts of the current scheme (both socio-economic as well as ecological). 1.2 Qualitative report highlighting what changed and what did not due to the scheme and what lessons there are for the new Dahari conservation agreement scheme. (All by end of Y1)</p>	<p>1.1 Summary interviews report; plot maps and tree counts. 1.2 ‘Lessons learnt’ document.</p>	<p>Members of the pilot scheme are willing to engage with this lesson learning phase.</p>
<p>2. A research and development phase provides the necessary information to develop a robust conservation agreement scheme</p>	<p>2.1 40 farmers (at least 40% female) take part in focus groups to improve understanding of motivations for retaining mature trees, the value of</p>	<p>2.1 Report summarising focus group discussions. 2.2 Summary survey report.</p>	<p>Farmers are willing to engage in the research and learning phase.</p>

	<p>potential interventions to compensate for restoration investments by farmers, and how conditionality in the new scheme could operate.</p> <p>2.2 Key informant interviews completed with 50 farmers (at least 20% female) to explore likely uptake under different conditions.</p> <p>2.3 A legal review of land tenure law in the Comoros as relevant to the proposed scheme is undertaken.</p> <p>2.4 Mapping finalises priority target areas in the Moya forest Key Biodiversity Area and identifies units for roll out. (All by beginning Y2)</p>	<p>2.3 Report of legal review.</p> <p>2.4 Map of prioritised areas showing units for randomized roll out.</p>	<p>Appropriate Comorian consultant available to conduct the legal review.</p>
<p>3. A comprehensive strategy for the implementation, scaling up and long term evaluation of a robust conservation agreements scheme to restore key forest areas in Anjouan is produced.</p>	<p>3.1 Two workshops including key stakeholders capitalise on outputs 1 & 2 to structure the final scheme (Y1: 1, Y2: 1).</p> <p>3.2 The strategy and impact evaluation design are written up (Y2)</p> <p>3.3 The design of both the scheme and of a robust impact evaluation against a counterfactual is validated by independent experts (both Y2).</p> <p>3.4 Baseline data collection complete for the units where initial roll out will be carried out, and their matched controls (Y2).</p> <p>3.5 Donor funding is secured to finance the first three years of the scheme, and a realistic long-term funding plan is proposed (Y2).</p>	<p>3.1 Workshop reports.</p> <p>3.2 Strategy and impact design documents</p> <p>3.3 Summary meeting notes.</p> <p>3.4 Meeting agendas and summary reports.</p> <p>3.5 Database of ecological and socio-economic indicators at baseline.</p> <p>3.6: Funding agreements and funding plan.</p>	<p>Key local and regional authorities in the Comoros engage constructively with this new scheme.</p> <p>Additional independent experts agree to review the scheme once invited.</p> <p>Donors continue to support Dahari and new donors are attracted to the research-informed conservation agreements approach.</p>
<p>4. The design of the scheme is tested through implementation with a stratified random sub-set of at least 40 farmers.</p>	<p>4.1 By Q3 of Y2 conservation agreements are signed with at least 40 farmers (a stratified random sub-set of the full set identified for the longer-term scheme).</p>	<p>4.1 Database of agreement holders; individual agreements.</p> <p>4.2 Data from rapid social survey of farmers signing</p>	<p>Land-owners in targeted high priority areas on Anjouan are willing to engage in conservation agreements scheme.</p>

	4.2 75% of farmers signing agreements report positive attitude to scheme after first six months (end Y2).	agreements and summary report.	
5. Capacity is built in the Comoros for developing and implementing conservation agreement schemes, and learning is shared internationally.	<p>5.1 10 Dahari staff demonstrate improved skills and understanding of robust impact evaluation, ecological survey protocols to monitor forest integrity, social research tools such as focus group discussions and choice experiments (workshops in Y1 & Y2, then mentoring).</p> <p>5.2 Two students from the University of the Comoros complete their dissertations embedded within the project (Y1:1, Y2:1).</p> <p>5.3 Two lectures linked to project activities are delivered by visiting project partners at the University of the Comoros (Y2).</p> <p>5.4 At least one peer-reviewed publication is prepared for the applied conservation literature by end Y2.</p> <p>5.5 Two international presentations share learning with other conservation organizations and funders by end Y2.</p>	<p>5.1 Lists of training workshop attendees; survey of Dahari staff at midpoint and end of project.</p> <p>5.2 Submitted dissertations.</p> <p>5.3 Lecture files and attendee lists.</p> <p>5.4 Draft manuscripts with targeted journals.</p> <p>5.5 Presentation files and attendee lists.</p>	<p>Dahari staff absorb training and learning.</p> <p>The University of the Comoros remains willing to engage with the project.</p> <p>Strong students commit to the proposed dissertations.</p>
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p>1.1 Design and implement Key Informant Interviews with landowners, Dahari staff and other stakeholders (including participatory transect walks)</p> <p>1.2 Conduct qualitative impact evaluation to identify lessons for the new conservation agreement scheme</p> <p>2.1 Design and implement Focus Group discussions with farmers to discuss key elements around the new scheme.</p> <p>2.2 Design and implement key informant interviews to explore likely farmer uptake under different conditions.</p> <p>2.3 Hire a legal consultant and work closely with them to conduct a legal review of relevant land tenure law.</p> <p>2.4 Finalise priority areas through integrating existing mapping layers and agreed criteria.</p> <p>2.5 Identify units for roll-out of the scheme through mapping and additional field work.</p> <p>3.1 Organize workshops involving key stakeholders to capitalise on outputs to structure the final scheme.</p> <p>3.2 Design agreements, write up strategy and impact evaluation design for the scheme</p> <p>3.3 Arrange online meetings with independent experts in community conservation, PES and conservation agreements, and impact design.</p> <p>3.4 Finalise methods and conduct baseline data collection (ecological and socio-economic) for the initial sub-set of units.</p> <p>3.5 Reach out to donors and submit grant applications</p> <p>3.6 Analyse and develop appropriate long-term financing option for the scheme with support of advisors and partners.</p>			

- 4.1 Outreach with the target farmers.
- 4.2 Sign agreements with farmers in the target catchments.
- 4.3 Conduct a brief satisfaction survey after 6 months of the agreements running inviting feedback from participating farmers.
- 5.1 Training of Dahari staff in social and ecological field methods and scheme design.
- 5.2 Select students and support them to complete dissertations.
- 5.3 Deliver lectures at University of the Comoros.
- 5.4 Prepare papers for publication.
- 5.5 Deliver presentations to regional and international audiences.

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-A02	Not used in logframe	Number of secondments or placements completed by individuals of key local and national stakeholders.	People	Gender - Male	1 1		1	2
DI-A03	Not used in logframe	Number of local/national organisations with improved capability and capacity as a result of project.	Organisations		2		2	2
DI-A04	Not used in logframe	Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.	People	Gender – Male Gender – Female				10
DI-B07	Not used in logframe	Number of people participating in community-based management groups and/or Payment for Ecosystem Service schemes.	People	Gender – Male Gender – Female				40
DI-C17	Not used in logframe	Number of unique papers submitted to peer reviewed journals.	Papers					1

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-D01	Not used in logframe	Hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices.	Hectares	N/A				To be determined
DI-D09	Not used in logframe	Number of hectares where deforestation has been avoided through project support [ICF KPI 8].	Hectares	N/A				To be determined
DI-D17	Not used in logframe	Income derived by local communities from new/enhanced Payment for Ecosystem Services.	Pounds sterling	N/A				To be determined

Table 2 Publications

No publications in Y1

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	Yes
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	No
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	Yes
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Yes
Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	No
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 16)?	N/A
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.	