





Darwin Initiative Main: Annual Report

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

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

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2024

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

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	28-014
Project title	Gibbon biodiversity conservation through coffee-based agroforestry
Country/ies	Myanmar
Lead Partner	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
Project partner(s)	Asho Chin Coffee Association (ACCA) Myanmar Forest Department (MFD) Genius Coffee
Darwin Initiative grant value	£368,461
Start/end dates of project	1 April 2021 – 31 December 2024
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2023 – Mar 2024) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 (Annual Report 3)
Project Leader name	Ngwe
Project website/blog/social media	N/A
Report author(s) and date	30 April 2024

1. Project summary

The Arakan Mountain Range is a priority biodiversity corridor and contains Mann Wildlife Sanctuary (MWS), itself a key biodiversity site. The Mann Wildlife Sanctuary, along with its adjacent landscape, is located in Nga-phe Township, Magway, also known as the Rakhine Yoma Range conservation corridor and has been identified as part of the Nat-yekan Key Biodiversity Area (Myanmar KBA No. 51) (WCS 2012).

The MWS is highlighted in Myanmar's National Biodiversity Action Plan for its high levels of biodiversity and endemism and is an important watershed of the Ayeyarwady basin. In this respect, the MWS provides critical water to the country's dry zone, Myanmar's poorest region and most vulnerable to climate change.

The area has a rich biodiversity and one of the highest densities of Western Hoolock Gibbons (*Hoolock hoolock*) in Myanmar. A total of 32 mammal species (including 11 globally threatened),

210 bird species (3 threatened), 372 species of plants (6 threatened) and 19 species of fish, have been recorded within the protected area.

The biologically diverse MWS, and its adjacent areas, is globally important but under threat from unsustainable agriculture. With a private-sector partner, FFI will enable farmers from 18 villages to develop gibbon-friendly agroforestry coffee, as an alternative to shifting agriculture, in exchange for gibbon protection measures. This will reduce dependency on forest clearance and shifting cultivation while strengthening livelihoods and will support the management objectives of the recently gazetted 12,400ha of land that makes up the Mann Wildlife Sanctuary. This approach has great potential for replication within the Arakan mountains.

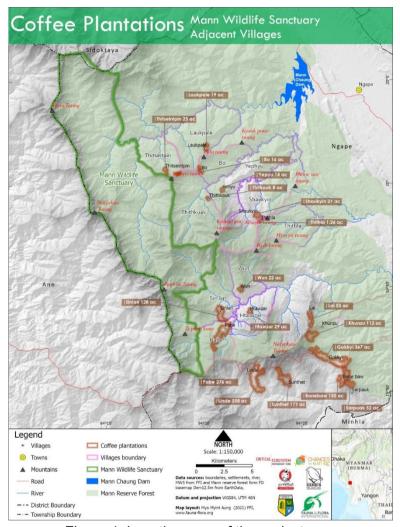


Figure 1: Location map of the project area

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

Through the implementation of a Darwin Initiative project, we are working collaboratively with a range of people and groups in the Magwe Region including beneficiary communities, the Magway Regional government, international NGOs and local enterprises, as well as collaborating with international experts. During the reporting period, all have actively supported project development, planning, implementation, monitoring, achievement and lessons learned.

The **Asho Chin Coffee Association (ACCA)**: the ACCA plays an important role in the project by supporting coffee growers in the Ngape highland area to develop sustainable agriculture livelihoods. This includes the development of coffee-based agroforestry and other agroforestry products. The ACCA also undertakes biodiversity monitoring and patrolling, contributes to the development of agroforestry in the buffer zone management plan, and assists with village landuse plans in the surrounding landscape. These activities build upon ACCA's experience in

establishing collective enterprises that improve community-based conservation and livelihoods, based on climate-smart agriculture.

In January 2022, FFI and ACCA entered into an agreement outlining ACCA's role in delivering specific project activities and outputs. This partnership has generally progressed well. The main challenges in project implementation have been delays and impacts that have emerged directly from the political crisis in Myanmar.

Genius Shan Highlands Coffee (a private company): Genius coffee provides technical support for ACCA coffee growers through field training and planning materials. They also undertake the marketing of the project both locally and internationally, acting as the main, non-exclusionary buyer.

Chances for Nature (CFN): CFN is collaborating with FFI on the design and delivery of biodiversity and primate conservation awareness and community-based primate conservation in Puaksa. Specifically, they provide training to build capacity in the project team and CSO partners in wildlife survey and monitoring techniques. They also provide co-financing to the project.

The **Myanmar Forest Department (MFD)** is mandated to oversee forest and species protection and has been the main government partner for many years, under various memoranda. MFD will support the certification of coffee and coordinate with ACCA members on monitoring and spatial planning. They will ensure the project supports the implementation of project activities by providing travel permissions, facilitating, and participating in consultation meetings and field surveys. They are key partners for carrying out the designation process of Mann Wildlife Sanctuary.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1: Technical standards for gibbon/wildlife-friendly coffee which meets the management goals of the proposed Mann Wildlife Sanctuary (to reduce deforestation, improve forest connectivity and secure resource use rights for buffer- zone communities).

1.1 Define and implement standards for gibbon-friendly coffee based on a suitable international scheme, i.e. the Wildlife Friendly Enterprise Network

The Wildlife Friendly Environment Network (WFEN) application was approved in May 2023, granting certification to ACCA as a Wildlife Friendly organization for its efforts in coffee production. This certification recognizes ACCA's dedication to sustainable practices that support the conservation of wildlife.

In August 2023, the project team facilitated a follow up meeting with ACCA's Management Committee in Bonbaw village to review the standards required for wildlife-friendly coffee certification, aiming to promote wildlife-friendly coffee production. A total of 24 participants, comprising of 17 men and 7 women, actively engaged in the follow up meeting. Please see WFEN production standards_ ACCA and WFEN certification agreement_ ACCA in ANNEX 4.

1.2 Fully implement the Participatory Guarantee System, with appropriate internal control system (with support from Myanmar Organic Growers and Producers Association (MOGPA) and Genius Coffee).

Organic Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) training sessions were conducted in Khun Zu, Linde, Pabe, and Bonebaw villages, in collaboration with ACCA and the Myanmar Organic Growers and Producers Association (MPGPA) during June 2023, November 2023, January 2024, and March 2024. A total of 330 participants (209 men, 121 women) from 11 villages attended these sessions.

The training was designed to equip coffee farmers with the skills necessary to produce organic fertilizer, insecticide, and fungicide using agricultural waste from their own farms and the surrounding areas, a process known as Bio-recycling. This approach not only helps them

meet the organic PGS standards and ecological principles, but also helps in reducing production costs.

In addition, workshops were conducted for a total of 56 Organic PGS group leaders, comprising of 49 men and 7 women, in June 2023 and November 2023. The focus of these workshops was to educate leaders on how to carry out internal monitoring, collect data, conduct peer reviews, and maintain detailed farmer records in the field. The Kobo Collect application was introduced as a tool for PGS certification, allowing users to easily gather field data using their Android devices. Please see PGS Training Reports (June 2023, November 2023, January 2024 and March 2024) in ANNEX 4.

1.3 Certify current coffee production under the MOGPA PGS organic standard and the EU organic standard as prerequisites for the WFEN Certified Wildlife Friendly™ global products program and accessing markets in Europe.

In August 2023, ACCA was awarded the Organic PGS (Participatory Guarantee System) certificate (coffee and forest trees). This certificate, introduced by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM) through MOGPA, covers 1800 acres of landl across 18 villages of Ngape township of the Magway Region. The effective period of certification is from 28th August 2023 to 28th August 2024. Please see ACCA Organic Certificate in ANNEX 4.

During the reporting period, the project and MOGPA also supported the organic PGS certification process, 177 individual organic farmers (coffee, fruits and vegetables) of ACCA received Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) certification in March 2024. The PGS certification ensures transparent and inclusive organic farming practices and improves the recognition of organic coffee in both local and global markets. The ACCA are confident that passion and conviction to achieve the PSG certification will inspire other farmers in Pauksa landscape to participate in the organic farming practices.

1.4 Develop training-of-trainers (ToT) scheme (including refresher training) with Genius Coffee to ensure dissemination of appropriate production methods (5 days per year).

In December 2023, a two-day refresher course on coffee harvesting and post-harvest processing was conducted. This training was attended by nineteen coffee farmers, including 12 men and 7 women, from seven villages participated in this training. The course was led by a seasoned coffee expert from the Genius Shan Highland company, who is known for his extensive experience in coffee plantations, quality harvesting of coffee berries, and coffee drying and roasting. The aim of the training was to enhance participants' understanding of coffee harvesting and post-harvest processing methods.

The objective was to improve the quality of coffee to meet the requirements of the specialty coffee market. Through this training, farmers gained valuable insights and techniques necessary to produce high-quality coffee, aligning with the standards of specialty coffee and enhancing their potential for market success.

1.5 Routine documentation for ongoing organic/wildlife-friendly coffee certification assessments (2 days per month, per village).

During the 2023-2024 coffee planting and harvesting season, the project team collaborated with the ACCA management committee to conduct field inspections across 11 villages to identify any non-compliances within the coffee supply chain. Corrective actions were then implemented to address these issues and ensure compliance with organic standards and regulations. Additionally, the project team provided support to help farmers understand these standards and comply with the internal control system.

Furthermore, risk assessments were conducted to pinpoint potential threats to the organic integrity of the system. This included identifying the use of prohibited substances or non-compliant practices that could compromise the organic certification. Please see PGS monitoring report in ANNEX 4.

In September 2023, the project team organized a meeting with the ACCA management committee to develop Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) plans for coffee production. Thirty-three participants, including 22 men and 11 women, attended the meeting. During the session the potential risks for coffee production were discussed and identified, laying the groundwork for effective risk management strategies. Please see Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) standard on coffee production of ACCA in ANNEX 4.

Output 2: The ACCA is registered as a legal entity with robust internal systems, financing plans and policies, and members have the skills and knowledge to fully implement technical standards to achieve improved and sustainable agricultural practices.

2.1 Formalise and legally register the Asho Chin Coffee Association (ACCA), formally known as the Gibbon Coffee Association (GCA).

In September 2023, the project team organized a meeting with the ACCA management committee to prepare the necessary documents for ACCA registration as a Social Enterprise. The registration process for ACCA will be finalized in the upcoming reporting period, Year 4.

2.2 Define terms of reference and by-laws for operation of the (ACCA).

The activity was already delivered in Year 2.

2.3 Define benefit-sharing mechanisms and obligations for (ACCA) members, linked to the gibbon/wildlife-friendly coffee standard.

In September 2023, the project team held a meeting with the ACCA in Bonebaw village to finalize the benefit sharing mechanism and business plan associated with the wildlife-friendly coffee standard. A total of 30 participants, including 25 men and 5 women, actively participated in discussions with aims to define beneficiaries and benefits, stakeholder participation, as well as monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management.

During the meeting, various aspects were addressed, including the identification of beneficiaries, eligibility criteria for participation in benefit sharing, types of benefits (monetary or non-monetary), stakeholder involvement in design and implementation, and methods for monitoring and evaluation. Please see meeting note (Benefit sharing mechanisms) in ANNEX 4.

2.4 Provide appropriate training (e.g. financial management, gender sensitivity, gibbon/habitat monitoring methods).

There are no appropriate trainings (e.g. financial management, gender sensitivity, gibbon/habitat monitoring methods) in this reporting period.

2.5 Develop and implement a sustainable financing plan to cover operational expenses such as routine re-certification, monitoring and management costs.

In September 2023, the project team facilitated the management committee of ACCA members in developing a sustainable finance plan during the benefit-sharing mechanism meeting. Discussions revolved around institutional arrangements, funding structures, decision-making processes, and mechanisms for transparency.

Participants worked together to develop mechanisms for receiving funds, establishing decision-making structures and processes, and ensuring transparency in financial matters. The finalization of the sustainable financing plan is scheduled to be completed in the next reporting period, Year 4.

Output 3: Zonation and management of Mann Wildlife Sanctuary, and village land-use plans in the surrounding landscape are based on biodiversity science and community consultation, to

ensure effective protected area management and habitat connectivity within the wider Mann River watershed.

3.1 Finalise and agree guidelines for Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) in the planning process.

This activity was delivered in Year 2. The project team carried out project activities by adhearing the FPIC principles of cultural safety and humility, and involved engagement with Indigenous communities throughout the period.

3.2 Conduct detailed forest cover/land cover mapping, combining remote sensing and field surveys for the wider Mann watershed.

This activity was delivered in the Year 1 and will be repeated in end of the project.

3.3 Prepare a baseline to monitor deforestation risk associated with promoting high value commodities and inform and monitor village land use planning to ensure habitat connectivity.

In September 2023, the project team facilitated land use planning sessions in five villages: Yebyu, Thitkauk, Laukpale, Bo, and Thitseintpin. These planning sessions were based on the gibbon habitat restoration plan and the zonation plan within the buffer zone of the Mann Wildlife Sanctuary.

The process involved several steps, including identifying and mapping existing land uses and devising strategies for future land use. These strategies encompassed the implementation of sustainable agriculture practices and the designation of conservation areas for gibbons, watersheds, and threatened tree species.

A total of 54 participants, comprising of 36 men and 18 women, from the five villages, actively participated in the land use planning meetings. They contributed their insights and expertise to the process.

3.4 Conduct behavioural and genetic studies of hoolock gibbons to determine feeding ecology and dispersal of gibbons through agroforestry/forest corridors by applying modern highthroughput DNA sequencing methods.

The activity will be carried out in the next reporting period.

3.5 Support village land-use planning, and agroforestry design (including tree species selection) based on the scientific results.

In May 2023, the project team convened a meeting with the committees of the villages Pabe, Sinlan, Wun, and Htawzar. The purpose was to present updates on the agroforestry design that had been incorporated into the village land use plan. This design was developed by integrating feedback gathered from previous discussions and consultations. During the meeting, the team showcased the 5-year land use plan for each village. A total of 51 members from the land use committees of the four villages participated in the meeting, including 43 men and 8 women.

In September 2023, the project team facilitated land use planning sessions in five villages: Yebyu, Thitkauk, Laukpale, Bo, and Thitseintpin. These planning efforts were based on the gibbon habitat restoration plan and the zonation plan within the buffer zone of the Mann Wildlife Sanctuary. The process included identifying and mapping existing land uses and developing strategies for future land use. This included the implementation of sustainable agriculture practices and the establishment of conservation areas for gibbons, watersheds, and endangered tree species. A total of 54 participants, comprising of 36 men and 18 women, from the five villages, actively engaged in the land use planning meetings. Please see the village land use maps in ANNEX 4.

3.6 Prepare a management and zonation plan for MWS, based on biodiversity science and public consultations, for government approval

The initial draft of the management plan for the newly established Mann Wildlife Sanctuary (MWS) has been completed, although the approval process is currently delayed due to the ongoing political situation. Meanwhile, the wildlife monitoring team has been conducting patrol activities within the MWS to gather data on the presence and absence of mammals and birds, aiming to better understand their distribution within the sanctuary.

Using the patrol data as a foundation, the project team organized stakeholder workshops with local communities in August 2023 and October 2023 to develop the zonation and management plan for the MWS. These workshops drew a diverse group of 91 attendees, including 62 men and 29 women, representing eleven adjacent villages (Pabe, Sinlan, Wun, Gokkyi, Bonebaw, Sarpauk, Sunthet, Linde, Khunzu, Lain, and Htawzar).

Discussions during the workshops covered various topics, such as identifying potential additional threats and devising strategies for establishing a buffer zone around the protected area. As a result of these collaborative efforts, the initial draft of the management plan for the Mann Wildlife Sanctuary was successfully prepared. Please see MWS management plan report (Myanmar version) in ANNEX 4.

3.7 Provide scientific data to inform gibbon/wildlife-friendly certification of coffee and other agroforestry products.

In July 2023, the project team in collaboration with ACCA, carried out an assessment survey for threatened tree species in coffee plantation areas at ten villages: Wun, Htawzar, Sarpauk, Bonebaw, Khunzu, Lai, Linde, Sonthet, Sinlan and Pabe.

Additionally, the project team conducted monthly surveys of threatened tree species in coffee plantation areas and MWS. Simple forest inventory plot-and-line transect methods were used to identify forest types, species density, and identify the presence of threatened (according to IUCN categories), dominant, and rare species, as well as cultivated crop species. During these surveys, the project team recorded six threatened tree species in the village coffee garden and MWS. These include *Dipterocarpus turbinatus Gaertn. F. (VU), Knema communis (VU), and Elaeocarpus rugosus (VU), Hopea helferi (Dyer) Brandis (EN), Shorea farinosa Fischer (EN) and Syzygium densiflorum Wall. ex-Wt. & Arn (VU).*

3.8 Monitor the population of key indicator species (gibbon and hornbill) in the wildlife sanctuary and surrounding landscape, and changes in conservation knowledge, attitude and behaviour (KAB) through project start/end surveys.

This activity was delivered in the Year 1 and will be repeated in the end of the project.

3.9 Monitor forest cover through remote sensing at the beginning and end of the project to verify reduced deforestation of primary forest and improved agroforestry cover and forest/agroforest connectivity.

This activity was delivered in the Year 1 and will be repeated in end of the project. (activity 3.2)

Output 4: Local growers and harvesters have improved technical skills, resources and capacity to access premium markets and improved value chains, to secure a reliable income source, contributing to more sustainable and resilient livelihoods.

4.1 Provide improved coffee and agroforest seedlings, considering the ecology of wildlife indicator species.

In June 2023, the project provided three small grants across four villages (Htawzar, Wun, Thitseintpin, and Bo) in Ngape Township, Minbu District, Magway Region to support the development of sustainable coffee agroforestry, thus mitigating habitat conversion of secondary and primary forests and conserving the watershed.

Between October 2023 and February 2024, the project extended seven small grants across seven villages (Pabe, Sinlan, Wun, Linde, Gokkyi, Bonebaw, and Sarpauk). These grants were allocated for various purposes, including coffee production and the establishment of coffee nurseries, with a total of 150,000 seedlings distributed. Additionally, capacity-building sessions were conducted for coffee growers, focusing on the enhancement of coffee harvesting and post-harvest processing techniques. Compound fertilizers and natural pesticides were also distributed to members of the organic Participatory Guarantee System (PGS).

Throughout the reporting period, a total of 169,000 coffee seedlings were planted by 759 coffee farmers across the 14 villages. Furthermore, an additional 150,000 seedlings are expected to be ready for planting in the upcoming season.

4.2 Develop post-harvest processing capacity for an additional seven villages, widening impacts and making the supply chain commercially viable.

During the 2023-24 coffee harvesting season, the project provided support to ACCA by supplying coffee processing equipment (Table 1). Additionally, training was conducted on handling equipment and operating post-harvest processing methods to enhance coffee quality and increase the value of the beans.

Furthermore, Genius conducted refresher training sessions for ACCA members from seven villages, spanning two days in person. Remote technical support was also offered during the coffee harvesting season. As a result, ACCA was able to produce 14 tons of coffee parchment during this harvest season.

Table 1: Coffee processing equipment provided to ACCA in Year 3 of the project

No.	Description	Quantity
1	Coffee green bean machine	1
2	Coffee cherry filter machine	1
3	Electric Coffee grinder	1

4.3 Provide training to improve the quality of coffee cherry and bean selection and processing, meeting speciality coffee market requirements.

In December 2023, a refresher training session on coffee harvesting and post-harvest processing was conducted for 19 coffee farmers (activity 1.4).

Collaborating with ACCA, the project team organized awareness talks on coffee harvesting and post-harvest processing in 11 villages: Wun, Htawzar, Pabe, Sinlan, Gokkyi, Bonebaw, Sarpauk, Sunthet, Linde, Lai, and Khunzu, reaching a total of 137 coffee farmers, including (65 men and 72 women. During these sessions, the team primarily focused on explaining the process of selective harvesting, pulping, fermenting, washing, and drying of coffee.

Additionally, the project provided support through a small village development grant to the Gokkyi coffee plantation groups for capacity-building initiatives involving coffee farmers from 18 villages. Throughout the 2023-2024 coffee harvesting season, 70 coffee farmers, including 35 men and 35 women, underwent training in coffee harvesting and post-harvest processing at the ACCA coffee factory. Each participant received 4 days of practical and tutorial sessions covering various aspects of coffee harvesting and post-harvest processing methods.

4.4 Increase visibility of "Gibbon Coffee" through improved marketing by Genius

Genius Coffee, a local company that purchases and markets 'Gibbon coffee', held a promotional event for the product in Mandalay, Myanmar from January 6 to 7, 2024. During the event, the Genius Coffee Company introduced Gibbon Coffee to producers and importers nationwide, providing opportunities for tasting and cupping. The purpose of the event was also to introduce and promote Gibbon Coffee to the local coffee companies, shops and individual consumers. Additionally, the project team collaborated with a food blogger to create a short promotional video for Gibbon Coffee through media channels such as

Facebook and YouTube. Please see Gibbon Coffee Promotion event summary report and documentary in ANNEX 4.

Furthermore, the project hired a Coffee Branding and Marketing consultant to improve the visibility of Gibbon Coffee. Please see Coffee Marketing Plan, Branding Materials and Coffee Analysis report in ANNEX 4.

4.5 Showcase the product at an international trade fair (one minimum) to gauge market/buyer interest (e.g. Biofach Fare).

The project team, in collaboration with ACCA, provided necessary information and materials to Genius Coffee for their participation in the Speciality Coffee Expo 2024. This event was scheduled to take place in Chicago, United State, from the 12 to 14 April 2024. At the event, Genius Coffee will introduce and showcase Gibbon Coffee, produced by ACCA.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Technical standards for gibbon/wildlife-friendly coffee which meet the management goals of the proposed Mann Wildlife Sanctuary (to reduce deforestation, improve forest connectivity and secure resource use rights for buffer-zone communities).

Indicator 1.1 Participatory Guarantee System established in 50% of coffee-producing areas by March 2022

To date, a cumulative total of 684 coffee farmers (474 men, 210 women) from 11 project villages have received training on the Organic Participatory Guarantee System (PGS). The project team, in collaboration with ACCA and the Myanmar Organic Growers and Producers Association (MPGPA), conducted these training sessions. The aim was to enhance farmers' understanding of initiating peer reviews, conducting internal system audits for PGS certification, and completing organic farm profiles and records. This was done to meet the organic PGS standards while adhering to ecological principles and reducing production costs. The training also covered understanding the process of selective harvesting, pulping, fermenting, washing, and drying of coffee.

Indicator 1.2 Training of Trainers course developed to ensure appropriate production methods by Dec 2021.

In December 2022 and December 2023, two Training of Trainers (ToT) courses were conducted, focusing on coffee harvesting and post-harvest processing methods. These sessions were attended by a total of 54 individuals from seven project villages, with 35 participants in 2022 and 19 in 2023. The attendees comprised of 32 men and 22 women.

A coffee expert from Genius renowned for his expertise in coffee plantations, quality coffee berry harvesting, drying, and roasting, facilitated the courses. The primary goal of these trainings was to enhance the participants' understanding of coffee harvesting and post-harvest processing methods. This was aimed at elevating the quality of coffee to meet the demands of the specialty coffee market.

Indicator 1.3 100% of ACCA members is certified as organic.

In August 2023, ACCA obtained an Organic PGS certificate specifically for coffee and forest trees. This certificate spans 1800 acres of land spread across 18 villages in Ngape Township, Magway Region. Facilitated by IFOAM through MOGPA, this certification is valid from August 28, 2023, to August 28, 2024.

Additionally, the project in collaboration with MOGPA, provided organic certificates to a total of 282 individual farmers under the Organic PGS (Participatory Guarantee System) programme. This includes 105 farmers certified in January 2023 and 177 in March 2024. These certifications cover a range of produce including coffee, pepper, and avocado.

The WFEN application was approved in May 2023, granting certification to ACCA as a Wildlife Friendly organization for its efforts in coffee production. This certification recognizes ACCA's dedication to sustainable practices that support wildlife conservation.

In August 2023, the project team facilitated a follow up meeting with ACCA's Management Committee in Bonbaw village to review the standards required for wildlife-friendly coffee certification. The aim of this meeting was to promote wildlife-friendly coffee production. A total of 24 participants, comprising of 17 men and 7 women, actively engaged in the follow up meeting.

Output 2: The ACCA is registered as a legal entity with robust internal systems, financing plans and policies, and members have the skills and knowledge to fully implement technical standards to achieve improved and sustainable agricultural practices.

Indicator 2.1 Gibbon Coffee Association legally registered, with by- laws and benefit-sharing defined by March 2022.

In February 2023, an initial version of the benefit sharing arrangement for ACCA was drafted. However, due to the ongoing political crisis in Myanmar, the registration process faced obstacles, rendering registration impossible in Year 2 and Year 3.

The necessary documents for ACCA's registration as a Social Enterprise are already prepared in Year 3 but according to the suggestion of Law Firm, the registration process for ACCA will be finalized in the upcoming reporting period, Year 4.

Indicator 2.2 At least 50% of ACCA members (c.500 out of 1000 people) have received core competencies training by project end, of which at least half are woman.

As of now, a total of 612 ACCA members, consisting of 370 men and 242 women, have received training. The training covered a range of technical aspects such as refresher courses on wildlife monitoring and patrol, financial management, organizational development training, as well as a study tour of organic farms and assets. Additionally, they received training on organic PGS and inventory list management.

Indicator 2.3 Sustainable financing plan implemented for the ACCA by March 2023.

In September 2023, the project team collaborated with ACCA to formulate a sustainable financing strategy aimed at enhancing sustainable coffee production. During the meeting, an initial framework for the data collection process required for the business plan was outlined. A total of 30 participants, comprising of 24 men and 6 women, actively engaged in discussions aimed at shaping the sustainable financing plan. The project team is also preparing the business plan for ACCA in collaboration with the FFI cross cutting team.

Output 3: Zonation and management of Mann Wildlife Sanctuary, and village land-use plans in the surrounding landscape, are based on biodiversity science and community consultation, to ensure effective protected area management and habitat connectivity within the wider Mann River watershed.

Indicator 3.1 Detailed Forest cover/land cover mapping completed by end Y1

This activity was delivered in Year 1.

Indicator 3.2 Mann wildlife sanctuary draft management plan prepared in consultation with local stakeholders, by end Y1.

Based on previous survey results, the collection of biodiversity information in and around MWS was completed in Year 2. The township-level stakeholder workshop, originally scheduled for March 2023 in Ngape, was intended to review the first draft of the management plan for Mann Wildlife Sanctuary. However, due to the political crisis, it was postponed to Year.

In August and October 2023, village-level stakeholder consultation workshops were conducted in Pabe village. These workshops aimed to facilitate discussions on developing a management

plan for Mann Wildlife Sanctuary. Various topics were covered, including identifying potential additional threats and formulating strategies for establishing a buffer zone around the protected area. As a result of these workshops, the initial draft of the management plan for Mann Wildlife Sanctuary was successfully prepared.

Indicator 3.3 Spatial planning in the new park buffer zone completed by end Y2.

During the reporting period, land use planning maps for 11 villages (Pabe, Sinlan, Wun, Htawzar, Shaukyin, Thithla, Yebyu, Thitkauk, Laukpale, Bo, and Thitseintpin) in the new park buffer zone were completed. These maps were developed following the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) within the buffer zone surrounding the Mann Wildlife Sanctuary.

Indicator 3.4 Behavioural and genetic studies of hoolock gibbons completed by end Y2.

The four forest blocks area with different gibbon groups were selected for the data collection of study feeding ecology and dispersal of gibbons in Year 2. The behavioural and genetic studies of hoolock gibbons is ongoing and will be completed in the next reporting period, Year 4.

Indicator 3.5 By March 2022, detailed village land use plans based on defined gibbon habitat restoration and management criteria are signed off by stakeholders from at least seven villages.

Same as indicator 3.3, the detailed village land use mapping for 11 villages were established during the reporting period.

The land use planning process involved identifying and mapping existing land uses, along with developing strategies for future land use, such as sustainable agriculture and conservation areas for gibbons, watersheds, and threatened tree species. This was done following confirmation, through FPIC principles, that land use in each village is sustainable, equitable, and beneficial to its residents.

Indicator 3.6 Mann Wildlife Sanctuary gazetted, and management planning completed.

This indicator was achieved in Year 1.

Output 4: Local growers and harvesters have improved technical skills, resources and capacity to access premium markets and improved value chains, to secure a reliable income source, contributing to more sustainable and resilient livelihoods.

Indicator 4.1 Improved coffee and agroforestry seedlings planted by at least 1,000 growers representing 1,000 households from 11 villages, by project end.

As of now, a total of 328,100 coffee seedlings have been planted by 759 households across 18 villages. 58,100 coffee seedlings in 2021, 101,000 seedlings in 2022 and 169,000 seedlings in 2023 season.

	2021	2022	2023	Total (Max/ Cumulative)
Number of villages	8	8	18	18
Households	96	368	759	759
Number of coffee seedlings planted	58,100	101,000	169,000	328,100
Number of coffee seedlings in nurseries for next season	-	90,000	150,000	240,000

Indicator 4.2 80% of growers reporting improved knowledge of post- harvest processing techniques.

To date, a total of 512 coffee farmers, comprising of 288 men and 224 women, have completed comprehensive training. This training covers all aspects of coffee cultivation, including

harvesting, post-harvest processing, production, marketing, quality standards, and association strengthening. These sessions took place over the course of Years 1, 2, and 3. These efforts have equipped farmers with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively manage their coffee farms.

Furthermore, coffee farmers in the region have become increasingly aware of the high value of ripe coffee beans, particularly in the past year. This recognition has led to increase income for growers and producers alike. As a result of improved coffee quality in the region, coffee prices have increased alongside growing demand. Nine national coffee buyers have expressed interest in purchasing coffee at premium prices ranging from GBP 4.2 to 5.2 per 1 kg, specifically for parchment coffee, dry natural processed coffee, and wet method processed coffee. These prices significantly surpass the rates paid before the implementation of project interventions.

Indicator 4.3 Coffee cherry quality and bean selection and processing improved, so 80% of coffee beans meet Genius's high-quality standard by March 2023

According to the report from a technical expert from Genius Coffee, approximately 80% of coffee farmers have collaborated in group processing efforts, demonstrating increased cooperation among individual farmers. These collaborative efforts have led to significant improvements in coffee quality control and processing methods.

Additionally, feedback provided by the quality control team from Sako No Tochu company indicated that the majority of green beans from the project area exhibit good quality, although there are instances of immature coffees present. While some improvements have been noted, the team strongly recommends implementing training for sorting staff to prevent any decline in quality as production volumes continue to rise.

Indicator 4.4 Increase in market visibility of "Gibbon Coffee" by March 2024.

The project team, in collaboration with ACCA, supported Genius Coffee with essential information and materials for their participation in various coffee events. Genius Coffee showcased coffee produced by ACCA at the Speciality Coffee Conference and Exhibition 2022 in Tokyo, Japan, held from October 12 to 15, 2022.

Following this, Genius Coffee organized a marketing promotion event for Gibbon Coffee in Mandalay, Myanmar, from January 6 to 7, 2024. The event aimed to introduce and promote Gibbon Coffee to producers, importers, local coffee shops, and individual consumers. Additionally, the project team facilitated the creation of a short video clip featuring Gibbon Coffee for promotion through social media channels such as Facebook and YouTube.

Looking ahead, the project team, along with ACCA, will provide necessary support to Genius Coffee for their participation in the Speciality Coffee Expo 2024, scheduled to take place in Chicago, United States, from April 12 to 14, 2024. Genius Coffee will once again present and showcase Gibbon coffee produced by ACCA at this event.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Gibbon-friendly coffee agroforestry, along with the designation and collaborative management of MWS, are protecting approximately 30,000ha of primary forest. This protection benefits endangered gibbon populations and enhances the livelihoods of 1,000 ethnic Chin people.

1. Gibbon density (1.6 groups/ sq km) stable by project end and Hornbill population stable by project end from baseline established in Y1.

In Year 1, 194 Great Hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*), 53 Oriental Pied Hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) and 22 Rufous-necked Hornbill (*Aceros nipalensis*) were recorded using the viewpoint method. This data serves as baseline information to comparison with the population at the project end.

In December 2023, the project team conducted a follow up survey to estimate the Hornbill population and recorded 182 Great Hornbills, 26 Oriental Pied Hornbills and 25 Rufous-necked Hornbills using the viewpoint method during the survey.

2. By March 2024, gibbon- habitat (ie, closed-canopy forest) extent increases in the core areas by 5% annually.

As described in Year 2 annual report, forest cover assessment was conducted in Year 1 to provide baseline information to compare with the forest cover area at the end of the project.

3. Combined local income from coffee doubles by March 2024 for at least 1000 members of the GCA (ACCA).

Over the span of three consecutive coffee harvesting seasons from 2021 to 2023, there has been a significant increase in local income derived from coffee production. As a result of improvements in coffee harvesting and post-harvest methods, national companies are now willing to pay a premium price for the coffee from ACCA. In 2021, 96 coffee farmers collectively cultivated 58,100 coffee seedlings, yielding 1,974 Viss (3.2 tons) of coffee at a price ranging from 1.1 to 1.2 GBP per unit, resulting in an income of 6,119,200 MMK (Est; 2309 GBP). However, this figure notably escalated in 2022, with 368 farmers cultivating 101,000 coffee seedlings. This cultivation produced a substantial 22,953 Viss (37.5 tons) of coffee, which was sold at a higher price of 5.7 to 6.2 GBP per unit. Consequently, the income soared to 349,546,050 MMK (Est; 131,904 GBP). This upward trend persisted into 2023, where 759 farmers harvested 169,000 coffee seedlings, resulting in 14,822 Viss (24.2 tons) of coffee which sold at a price ranging from 6.7 to 8.3 GBP per unit, generating an income of 261,310,384 MMK (Est; 98,608 GBP). The cumulative effect of these three seasons showcases a remarkable increase in coffee production, with a total income of 616,975,634 MMK (Est: 232,821 GBP), signifying the growing prosperity within the local coffee industry.

4. At least 10,000 ha of buffer zone planted with coffee by March 2023.

A total of 759 coffee farmers from 18 villages, located adjacent to the MWS, planted a total of 328,100 coffee seedlings in 2021, 2022 and 2023. This initiative involved the planting of 58,100 seedlings planted in Year 1, 101,000 seedlings in Year 2 and 169,000 in Year 3. Furthermore, preparations are underway for the planting of an additional 220,000 coffee seedlings in the 2024 rainy season. According to the assessment results in 2021, the coffee plantation covered approximately 728.43 ha in the buffer zone of MWS. A coffee plantation area coverage assessment will be carried out again in October - November 2024 to understand the additional coffee plantation area coverage planted in 2022, 2023 and 2024. This information will be included in final report.

5. There is a reduction in new incursions into primary forest for swidden farming between project baseline and end.

In Year 1, a land cover map was created as baseline information. This map serves as a reference point for comparing with the land cover data collected at the end of the project. The goal is to assess any reduction in new incursions into primary forests over the project duration.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Overall, the outcome and output level assumptions still hold true;

Outcome Level Assumptions

- Coffee growers remain interested in the further development of gibbon-friendly coffee together with Genius Coffee, to increase household incomes.
- Market demand for gibbon-friendly coffee is maintained at regional and national levels, as indicated by market research.

- There are no external impacts that dramatically negatively impact gibbon populations (disease, habitat destruction etc).
- Military rule nonetheless allows NGOs to continue to operate.

Output Level Assumptions

- There are no major changes to external standards that require significant revision of project technical standards during the project period.
- Growers do not become dis-incentivised to implement organic and gibbon-friendly standards by other opportunities and remain engaged with this project.
- Coffee farmers are willing to work together to develop gibbon-friendly coffee for the national market.
- National and local government agencies, as well as local communities, support the participatory gazettement and management planning of Mann Wildlife Sanctuary and village land use planning in the surrounding landscape.

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

- The practice of sustainable agriculture, such as coffee agroforestry can help to promote biodiversity while also improving the livelihoods of small-scale coffee farmers. By planting coffee into farming systems, farmers can create a more resilient ecosystem that supports a wider range of wildlife species, while providing a source of income for farmers.
- Improving coffee farmer capacity can also have significant benefits. By providing training, the project in sustainable agricultural techniques (Organic PGS), which involves the non-use of pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals. Pest control methods do not allow the use of pesticides, and the soil is fertilized through compost to keep it chemical free. Communities make organic fertilizer, insecticide, and fungicide with agricultural waste from their own farms and surrounding areas (Bio-recycling) to reduce the cost of production and to enhance the regional system to care for both environment and people which can lead to increased income, food security for local communities.
- Project-engaged local communities in conservation efforts can support the promotion of the sustainable use of natural resources while also improving livelihoods.
- The project engaged with Genius Coffee to provide training in coffee harvesting and postharvest processing methods, to improve the quality of coffee bean year by year as a group for coffee processing, with more cooperation from individual coffee farmers.
- With the financial and technical support of the project, the organizational capacity of ACCA and the coffee quality standards is improved. As a result, it can help a communitybased organization to more effectively plan and implementation of the project, the coffee from ACCA has received attention from the coffee industries and it raised awareness to extend coffee plantations in the project area.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

Convention on Biological Diversity: The project is contributing to Myanmar's CBD commitments, as defined in the Myanmar National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2020), by:

- i. supporting the conservation of key species to improve the status of biodiversity (Strategic Goal C), including the Western Hoolock Gibbon (EN)
- ii. promoting appropriate agriculture in biodiverse landscapes, thereby reducing direct pressures and promoting sustainable use (Strategic Goal B), through the introduction of agroforestry coffee that retains canopy cover, protecting vital habitat for gibbons.
- iii. enhancing the benefits from biodiversity and ecosystem services (Strategic Goal D) by enabling 1000 ethnic Chin men and women to engage in biodiversity-friendly agroforestry coffee production in the landscape.

The project also contributes to Aichi target 11, by supporting the increase in Myanmar's protected area coverage by 12,400 ha.

The project supports the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): The project contributes to Myanmar's UNFCC Nationally Determined Contributions, as defined in the draft national REDD+ Strategy (2018), by:

- increasing Myanmar's protected area coverage, as noted above
- supporting community-based rehabilitation of climate-resilient ecosystems, and rural livelihoods in degraded watershed areas of the Central Dry Zone (the Mann forests protect the catchment for the Mann River Dam, which provides irrigation water to the dry zone).

5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The project aimed to promote sustainable livelihoods and increase income for local communities through the development of the coffee industry. Capacity building activities were carried out to equip individuals with the necessary skills to engage in productive livelihood activities and access markets. The project provided capital for coffee production, including necessary equipment and machinery, resulting in the production of 64.9 tons of coffee parchment during the 2021-2023 harvesting season. A total of 512 coffee farmers (288 men, 224 women) were trained in harvesting and post-harvest processing of coffee using different methods to produce specialty coffee of higher quality, which can be sold at premium prices in the market.

In addition, the project provided small village development grants to village conservation groups to plant a total of 328,100 coffee seedlings and supported the establishment of coffee nurseries to produce 150,000 coffee seedlings in ACCA, Silan and Pabe villages. These initiatives aimed to increase the productivity and sustainability of the coffee industry and create job opportunities for local communities. Overall, the project contributed to the promotion of sustainable livelihoods and the development of the coffee industry in the region.

6. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Please quantify the proportion of women on the	As of now, a cumulative total of 1902 local
Project Board ¹ .	communities were participated to the project
	during 2021, 2022 and 2023 through trainings
	and meetings. Of which 633 (33%) are women.
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 .	The project facilitated women to become members of the ACCA and currently 372 out of 755 (49%) ACCA members are women.

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
	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.	х
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	

Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an	
	'empowering' approach whilst also addressing	
	unequal power relationships and seeking	
	institutional and societal change	

7. Monitoring and evaluation

The project was monitored and evaluated based on the project work plan and the agreed measurable indicators (Annex 1 and 2). Monthly meetings with ACCA were conducted to update the project progress and to discuss workplans together with ACCA members.

The project team conducted various monitoring activities regularly to assess different aspects within the project area. These included monthly species surveys to monitor biodiversity status, annual income surveys in collaboration with ACCA to track coffee farmer livelihoods, and regular monitoring missions to the ACCA coffee factory in Bonebaw village to ensure coffee cherry quality.

Additionally, small grant monitoring missions were conducted for each grantee to assess progress and proper fund utilization.

Furthermore, PGS monitoring missions were carried out in collaboration with ACCA and PGS group leaders in each village to ensure farmers' adherence to PGS standards.

Also, the project organized internal M&E team as follow:

- Finance Manager, Wint War Tun, centrally evaluates financial issues and works closely with the Senior Accountant, Nan Ei Phyu Sin;
- Market Chain Development Advisor, Kiran Mohanan, Emma Scott and Mrunmayee Amarnath supports the project team to develop the coffee market chain and Wildlife Friendly Certification.
- Project Director, Ngwe Lwin has regular meetings with the project manager and project team for work-planning and project implementation, and to ensure the project activities contribute to the project outputs.
- Protected Area Management adviser, Frank Momberg support the project team to develop protected area management plan preparation.

8. Lessons learnt

We learnt that coffee farmers work together as a group for coffee processing, with more cooperation from individual coffee farmers, which means sustainable coffee agroforestry development can contribute to sustainable and inclusive development in the region.

Sustainable coffee production requires collaboration and partnerships among different stakeholders, including government, civil society, and private sectors. Collaboration and partnerships can help to leverage resources, increase efficiency, and improve sustainability.

Empowerment and participation of the poor and marginalized are essential components of sustainable livelihood development. These communities should be involved in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of project interventions to ensure that they meet their needs and expectations.

We also learnt that local civil society organizations (CSOs) play an important role in project Implementation as they can empower communities by promoting their active participation in decision-making processes and providing them with information, skills, and resources to enable them to participate more effectively.

By providing training and capacity-building support to strengthen community-based organizations, it can help to build more resilient communities and promote sustainable development.

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

No.	Comments	Response	
1	Add annex material to back up narrative and	Links of each report and photo are	
	indicator reporting.	added in the Annex 4 to access them.	

2	Does working with MFD legitimise the coup? How do you mitigate for this if so?	Keep engagement with government to a minimum - just informing of our actions
	The project has not commented on its exit strategy and should do so in its next AR.	Exit Strategy will be included in AR 3.
	The reviewer notes Western Hoolock Gibbons are listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List of threatened species and are present on the CITES species checklist for Myanmar. Does the project have any interactions with the CITES focal point for Myanmar?	Yes
	The project should develop some additional indicators, potentially from the Darwin Standard Indicators to specifically, to strengthen demonstration of attribution against outcome and impact.	Currently, the project has no plan to
	The project notes it has updated its safeguarding policy in the 12 months since implementation. The Safeguarding policy was not present in annex materials and could not be verified by the reviewer.	Safeguarding policy is attached in AR

10. Risk Management

There have been no new risks identified, and no major modifications have been required for the project's original design.

10. Sustainability and legacy

The project focused on promoting sustainable agriculture, improving coffee farmer capacity, conserving biodiversity, and engaging local communities in conservation efforts. The project promotes sustainable agriculture by encouraging the practice of coffee agroforestry, which helps to promote biodiversity while also improving the livelihoods of small-scale coffee farmers. The project also provided training to farmers in sustainable agricultural techniques such as Organic PGS, which reduces the use of pesticides and fertilizers while promoting the use of organic fertilizers and pest control methods.

The project provided capacity building activities to equip individuals with necessary skills, and capital for coffee production, resulting in the production of 64.9 tons of coffee parchment during the 2021-2023 harvesting seasons. The project trained 512 coffee farmers (288 men, 224 women) in harvesting and post-harvest processing of coffee using different methods to produce specialty coffee of higher quality, which can be sold at premium prices in the market. The project engaged local communities in conservation efforts by training members of indigenous communities in biodiversity monitoring and patrolling. This helps to promote the sustainable use of natural resources while also improving livelihoods.

Through the financial and technical support of the project, the organizational capacity of ACCA (a community-based organization) is improved, which helps to more effectively plan and implement the project. The coffee from ACCA has received attention from the coffee industry, which has raised awareness and led to the extension of coffee plantations in the project area. The project also provided small village development grants to the village conservation groups to plant 328,100 coffee seedlings and supported the establishment of coffee nurseries to produce 240,000 coffee seedlings. These initiatives aimed to increase the productivity and sustainability of the coffee industry and create job opportunities for local communities in the region.

11. Darwin Initiative identity

The project team ensured that the role and support of the Darwin Initiative was emphasised at all meetings and training events. During the reporting period, the project distributed a total of 50

selective coffee harvesting awareness and 50 of 12 principles of PGS rule and regulation, all with the Darwin logo added.

12. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	Yes
Have any concerns been reported in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	No
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 100% [4 project staffs] Planned: 100% [4 project staffs]

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

None

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

The project is planning conservation and developments activities around safeguarding in the coming 12 months, it will involve implementing policies and procedures to prevent abuse or harm, providing training to staff and volunteers on recognizing and responding to safeguarding concerns, and creating safe environments for vulnerable individuals and establish clear reporting procedures for any safeguarding concerns that will any arise.

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

None

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.

None

13. Project expenditure

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

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

Others (see below)			
TOTAL	97,577.00	97,577.00	

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 (£)			Chances for Nature
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Exit Strategy

The project seeks long-term protection of gibbons, forest and biodiversity, through the sustainable local livelihood benefits of a biodiversity-friendly cash crop. These will be achieved in three ways.

Firstly, the project will develop and institutionalise a local conservation constituency, to be led by the Gibbon Coffee Association. A sub-section of the local population will thereby have vested interests in the long-term protection of the local forest and biodiversity, on which the increased income from biodiversity-

friendly coffee will depend.

Secondly, the establishment of a strong system of collaborative management for the Mann Wildlife Sanctuary will create a long-term sense of ownership by local stakeholders.

Thirdly, Genius Coffee has a long-term commitment to its growers and to the promotion of environmental and social goods. By supporting up-front investment and capacity costs it will demonstrate this commitment to local growers.

FFI expects to exit the project when the model is yielding evidenced social and biodiversity benefits, However, we have a long-term commitment to the landscape and will retain a role in supporting local capacity development, biomonitoring and wildlife area management. Genius will share recurrent future costs beyond the initial investment from Darwin and will retain a long-term role as coffee experts.

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

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

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

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024	Actions required/planned for next period
a result of extended habitat, im	orting increasing gibbon populations as aproved connectivity, and excellent roforestry, enabled by resilient local	Promoted sustainable agriculture and improves the livelihoods of small-scale coffee farmers while protecting	
Outcome Gibbon-friendly coffee agroforestry, and designation and collaborative management of Mann Wildlife Sanctuary are protecting c.30,000ha of primary forest, benefiting endangered gibbon populations and livelihoods for 1,000 ethnic Chin people.	 km) stable by project end and Hornbill population stable by project end from baseline established in Y1. 2. By March 2024, gibbon- habitat 	update density and abundance estimate for hoolock gibbons in MWS. 2. No activity during the reporting period 3. In 2021, the highest prices for coffee parchment are 1.2 GBP per 1.6 kg. In 2023, the price for coffee parchment rise to 8.3 GBP per 1.6 kg as of the improvement of coffee quality. 4. Planted 169,000 coffee seedlings by 759 households from 18 villages; a total of 150,000 coffee seedlings were ready to plant in the monsoon season of 2024.	survey will be conducted in October and November 2024. 2. Assess gibbon habitat area using remote sensing 3. Income survey 4. Plan to plant 220,000 coffee seedlings by coffee farmers in 2024 5. No activity in Y4
Output 1. Technical standards for gibbon/wildlife-friendly coffee which meet the management goals of the proposed Mann Wildlife Sanctuary (to reduce deforestation, improve forest connectivity and secure resource use rights for buffer- zone communities).	System established in 50% of coffee- producing area by March 2022. 2. Training of Trainers course developed to ensure appropriate	member at 18 villages. 2. Trained 19 coffee farmers (12 and post-harvest processing (TO 3. A total of 177 coffee farme	nings and a formation of PGS new men, 7 women) in coffee harvesting T) in December 2023. rs of ACCA members received the antee System (PGS) in March 2024.

3. 100% of GCA (ACCA) members are certified as organic. 4. Standards for gibbon/wildlife-friendly coffee defined by March 2022.	approved in May 2023.	nent Network (WFEN) application was
Activity 1.1 Define and implement standards for gibbon-friendly coffee based on a suitable international scheme, i.e. the Wildlife Friendly Enterprise Network		No activity in Y4
Activity 1.2 Fully implement the Participatory Guarantee System, with appropriate internal control system (with support from Myanmar Organic Growers and Producers Association (MOGPA) and Genius Coffee).	 Organized PGS trainings for the new PGS members (386 participants; 258 men: 128 women) from 18 villages. 	in Y4
Activity 1.3 Certify current coffee production under the MOGPA PGS organic standard and the EU organic standard as prerequisites for the WFEN Certified Wildlife Friendly™ global products program, and accessing markets in Europe	 ACCA received the Organic PGS (Participatory Guarantee System) certificate (coffee and forest trees) introduced by International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM) through MOGPA covering 1800 land acrefrom 18 villages of Ngape township Magway Region. The effective period of certification is from 28th August 2023 to 28th August 2024. Supported 177 organic coffee farmers to receive Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) certification in March 2024. The application of Wildliffe Friendly Environment Network (WFEN) for ACCA was approved in May 2023. 	MOGPA, PGS organic certification will be continued to support qualified coffee farmers.
Activity 1.4 Develop training-of-trainers (ToT) scheme (including refresher training) with Genius Coffee to ensure dissemination of appropriate production methods (5 days per year).	 Provided 19 coffee farmers (12 men; 7 women) with coffee harvesting and post-harvest processing (ToT) 	,
\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	 MOGPA, FFI and ACCA and PGS group leaders conducted regular monitoring and field Inspections for the 	in Y4.

		nternal control system of coffee armers' activities.	
Output 2. The GCA (ACCA) is registered as a legal entity with robust internal systems, financing plans and policies, and members have the skills and knowledge to fully implement technical standards to achieve improved and sustainable agricultural practices.	1. Gibbon Coffee Association legally registered, with by- laws and benefit-sharing defined by March 2022. 2. At least 50% of GCA (ACCA) members (c.500 out of 1000 people) have received core competencies training by project end, of which at least half are women. 3. Sustainable financing plan implemented for the GCA (ACCA) by March 2023.	1. The document preparation of A ready to submit. A first draft of the bene completed in February 2023. The active 2. Trained 612 (370 men, 242 vechnical pieces of training. 3. Business plan for ACCA included be completed in Y4.	
Activity 2.1. Formalise and legally regi	ster the Gibbon Coffee Association.	 Facilitated ACCA for the preparation of registration documents. 	
Activity 2.2. Define terms of reference (ACCA)	and by-laws for operation of the GCA	 ToR for ACCA already developed in Y3. 	No activity in Y4
Activity 2.3 Define benefit-sharing m (ACCA) members, linked to the gibbor	/wildlife-friendly coffee standard	and obligations for ACCA members already defined in Y3.	·
Activity 2.4 Provide appropriate training sensitivity, gibbon/habitat monitoring n		 No activity in Y3. 	 No activity in Y4.
Activity 2.5 Develop and implement a operational expenses such as roumanagement costs			including of a sustainable
Output 3. Zonation and management of Mann wildlife sanctuary, and village land-use plans in the surrounding landscape, are based on biodiversity science and community consultation, to ensure effective protected area management and habitat connectivity within the wider Mann River watershed	cover mapping completed by end Y1. 2. Mann wildlife sanctuary draft management plan prepared in consultation with local stakeholders,	 Detailed forest cover/land cove of project to compare with baseline Collected biodiversity informations Sanctuary for the development of a material and a second of the consult of the principles to prepare land use planning Selected forest block and gibb 	ation meetings based on the FPIC

	use planning in the community land and forest use areas. 6. Completed in Y1.
Activity 3.1 Finalise and agree guidelines for FPIC in the planning process.	The project continued to follow No activity in Y4 FPIC guidelines in the project planning and implementation
Activity 3.2 Conduct detailed forest cover/land cover mapping, combining remote sensing and field surveys for the wider Mann watershed.	 No work to update for this activity in Y3. Detailed forest cover/land cover mapping, combining remote sensing and field surveys for the wider Mann watershed will be carried out in Y4.
Activity 3.3 Prepare a baseline to monitor deforestation risk associated with promoting high-value commodities and inform and monitor village land use planning to ensure habitat connectivity.	Conducted 11 village No activity in Y4. consultation meetings to discuss 5- year land use planning for their community land use areas
Activity 3.4 Conduct behavioural and genetic studies of Hoolock Gibbons to determine feeding ecology and dispersal of gibbons through agroforest/forest corridors by applying modern high-throughput DNA sequencing methods.	Identified the gibbon groups in This activity will be continued the four different forest blocks for Y4. the collection of the data adjacent to the Mann Wildlife Sanctuary.
Activity 3.5 Support village land use planning and agroforestry design (including tree species selection) based on the scientific results	 11 village land use mappings No activity in Y4. were produced in Y3.
Activity 3.6 Prepare a management and zonation plan for Mann Wildlife Sanctuary, based on biodiversity science and public consultations, for government approval	Collected biodiversity Consultation meetings will be information to promote the conducted for the development of management plan of Mann Wildlife management and zonation plan of Sanctuary MWS
Activity 3.7 Provide scientific data to inform gibbon/wildlife-friendly certification of coffee and other agroforestry products.	Carried out a tree survey in No activity in Y4. coffee plantation areas at nine villages

Activity 3.8 Monitor the population of Hornbill) in the wildlife sanctuary and s in conservation knowledge, attitude a start/end surveys.	surrounding landscape, and changes and behaviour (KAB) through project	 Conducted follow up survey for Hornbills and KAB survey 	monitored in Y4
Activity 3.9 Monitor Forest cover through remote sensing at the beginning and end of the project to verify reduced deforestation of primary forest and improved agroforestry cover and forest/agroforest connectivity.		 No work to update for this activity in Y3. 	This activity will be repeated in the Y4.
Output 4: Local growers and harvesters have improved technical skills, resources and capacity to access premium markets and improved value chains, to secure a reliable income source, contributing to more sustainable and resilient livelihoods.	least 1,000 growers representing 1,000 households from 11 villages, by project end. 2. 80% of growers reporting improved knowledge of post- harvest processing techniques. 3. Coffee cherry quality and bean selection and processing improved, so 80% of coffee beans meet Genius's high-quality standard by March 2023. 4. Increase in market visibility of "Gibbon Coffee" by March 2024.	in 2023 and 5 coffee nurseries for 150 the plantation of 2024. 2. Trained 226 coffee farmers (112 of coffee harvesting, post-harvest process. Improved more effective coffee processing by promoting coffee plantacoffee year by year.	2 men, and 114 women) in all aspects essing, production, and marketing. e quality control and improvement of ations and processing better quality arketing promotion event for Gibbon anuary 6 to 7, 2024. The event aimed e to producers, importers, local coffee ionally, the project team facilitated the Gibbon Coffee for promotion through ok and YouTube. Looking ahead, the provide necessary support to Genius ciality Coffee Expo 2024, scheduled to the properties of the provide of the pr
Activity 4.1 Provide improved coffee and agroforest seedlings, considering the ecology of wildlife indicator species.		 Supported village small 	in Y4
Activity 4.2 Develop post-harvest proc villages, widening impacts and making	essing capacity for an additional seven g the supply chain commercially viable		in Y4
Activity 4.3 Provide training to improve		Organized coffee harvesting	3
selection and processing, meeting spe	eciality coffee market requirements.	and post-harvest processing	coffee farmers in Y4

Activity 4.4 Increase visibility of "Gibbon Coffee" through improved marketing by Genius	training and coffee awareness talks, reaching 226 coffee farmers (112 men, 114 women) from 18 villages. • Genius Coffee organized a marketing promotion event for Gibbon Coffee in Mandalay, Myanmar, from January 6 to 7, 2024. The event aimed to introduce and promote Gibbon Coffee to producers, importers, local coffee shops, and individual consumers. Additionally, the project team facilitated the creation of a short	Marketing Technician will be carried out Gibbon Coffee promotion in the region and
Activity 4.5 Showcase the product at an international trade fair (one minimum) to gauge market/buyer interest (e.g. Biofach Fare).	video clip featuring Gibbon Coffee for promotion through social media channels such as Facebook and YouTube.	This activity will be continued in Y4

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
	uary is supporting increasing gibbon proforestry, enabled by resilient local	populations as a result of extended habit livelihoods strategies.	at, improved connectivity, andexcellent
(Max 30 words)			
Outcome: (Max 30 words) Gibbon-friendly coffee agroforestry, and designation and collaborative management of Mann Wildlife Sanctuary are protecting c.30,000ha of primary forest, benefiting endangered gibbon populations and livelihoods for 1,000 ethnic Chin people.	 01. Gibbon density (1.6 groups/ sq km) stable by project end and Hornbill population stable by project end from baseline established in Y1. 02. By March 2024, gibbonhabitat (ie, closedcanopy forest) extent increases in the core areas by 5% annually 03. Combined local income from coffee doubles by March 2024 for at least 1000 members of the GCA. 04. At least 10,000 ha of bufferzone planted with coffee byMarch 2023. 05. There is a reduction in new incursions into primary forest for swidden farming betweenproject baseline and end. 	 01. Gibbon/ Hornbill population survey reports. 02. Land cover map and forest inventory at sample sites. 03. Household surveys in random sample of members, year 1 baseline, and final year assessment. 04. Annual GCA and project progress reports. 0.5 Drone-based or other remote sensing vegetation analysis maps. 	Coffee growers remain interested in the further development of gibbon-friendly coffee together with Genius, to increase household incomes. Market demand for gibbon- friendly coffee at regional and national level is maintained atlevels indicated in our test market research. All stakeholders support the gazettement of a collaborativelymanaged Mann Wildlife Sanctuary. There are no external impacts that dramatically negatively impact gibbon populations (outbreak of disease, major illegal habitat destruction). Myanmar continues to be largely unaffected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Military rule nonetheless allows NGOs to continue to operate. This should be mitigated by most of our project staff being based in-country. We consider this a fair assumption, since the FFI Myanmar programme was founded and

		operated under similar circumstances for several years
Output 1: Technical standards for pibbon/wildlife-friendly coffee which meet the management loals of the proposed Mann Vildlife Sanctuary (to reduce leforestation, improve forest connectivity and secure resource is rights for buffer- zone communities). 1.1 Participatory Guarantee System established in 50% of coffee-producing area by March 2022. 1.2 Training of Trainers course developed to ensure appropriate production methods by Dec 2021. 1.3 100% of GCA members are certified as organic. 1.4 Standards for gibbon/wildlife-friendly coffee defined by March 2022.	 1.1 Annual report of participatory guarantee system progress. 1.2 Training reports on ToT for coffee planting and production including training evaluation assessment. 1.3 Annual Internal Control System reports (one per project year) and organic certificate. 1.4 Agreement with coffee farmers and stakeholders of gibbon/wildlife-friendly coffee standard. 	There are no major changes to external standards that require significant revision of project technical standards during the project period. Growers do not become dis- incentivised to implement organic and gibbon-friendly standards by other opportunities and remain engaged with this project

as a legal entity with robust internal systems, financing plans and policies, andmembers have 2.2 At least 50% of GCA the skills and knowledge to fully implement technical standards to achieve improved and sustainable agricultural practices.

- legally registered, with bylaws and benefit-sharing defined by March 2022.
- members (c.500 out of 1000 people) have received core competencies training by project end, of which at leasthalf are women.
- 2.3 Sustainable financing plan implemented for the GCA byMarch 2023.

- and organization management document.
- 2.2 Annual training reports, including pre- and post-training knowledge assessments/ training evaluation
- 2.3 Annual progress reports of GCA on development of sustainable financing plan.

to develop gibbon-friendly coffee for the national market.

Output 3:	Z	onation	n and
managemen	t of	Mann	wildlife
sanctuary, a	nd vil	llage la	ınd-use
plans in	the	surro	unding
landscape,	are	base	ed on
biodiversity	sc	cience	and
community	con	sultatio	on, to
ensure effect	tive p	rotect	ed area
managemen	t a	and	habitat
connectivity	with	in the	wider
Mann river w	aters	shed	

- 3.1 Detailed forest cover/land cover mapping completed byend Y1.
- 3.2 Mann wildlife sanctuary draft management plan prepared in consultation with local stakeholders, by end Y1.
- 3.3 Spatial planning in the new park buffer zone completedby end Y2.
- 3.4 Behavioural and genetic studies of Hoolock Gibbonscompleted by end Y2.
- 3.5 By March 2022, detailed village land use plans based on defined gibbon habitat restoration and management criteria are signed off by stakeholders from at least seven villages.
- 3.6 Mann Wildlife Sanctuary gazettement and management planning completed.

- 3.1 Land cover mapping report with map.
- 3.2 Management/zonation spatial planning report, including zonation maps.
- 3.3 Agricultural land use plan for the landscape.
- 3.4 Research reports/data.
- 3.5 Village endorsement records, photos.
- 3.6 Gazettement documents, management plans submitted to government for legal designation.

National and local government agencies, as well as local communities, support the participatory gazettement and management planning of Mann Wildlife Sanctuary and village land use planning in surrounding landscape.

Output 4: L	_ocal gr	owers and
harvesters	have	improved
technical sk	ills, reso	ources and
capacity to	access	s premium
markets an	d impro	oved value
chains, to	secure	a reliable
income soul	rce, con	tributing to
more sustai	nable a	nd resilient
livelihoods.		

- 4.1 Improved coffee and agroforest seedlings planted by at least 1,000 growers representing 1,000 households from 11 villages, by project end.
- 4.2 80% of growers reporting improved knowledge of post-harvest processing techniques.
- 4.3 Coffee cherry quality and bean selection and processing improved, so 80% of coffee beans meet Genius's high-quality standard by March 2023.
- 4.4 Increase in market visibility of "Gibbon Coffee" by March

- 4.1 Fixed point photos (before and after planting).
- 4.2 Pre- and post-training participant assessments report
- 4.3 Coffee quality assessment report from Genius.
- 4.4 Number of sales enquiries from commercial buyers.

Growers and local conditions sufficient to produce improved quality cherry.

Successful marketing elevates consumer awareness in Myanmar, leading to an increased demand.

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 toOutput 1) NB. Each activity should start on a new line and be no more than approximately 25 words

- 1.1 Define and implement standards for gibbon-friendly coffee based on a suitable international scheme, i.e. the Wildlife Friendly Enterprise Network.
- 1.2 Fully implement the Participatory Guarantee System, with appropriate internal control system (with support from Myanmar Organic Growers and Producers Association (MOGPA) and Genius Coffee).
- 1.3 Certify current coffee production under the MOGPA PGS organic standard and the EU organic standard as prerequisites for the WFENCertified Wildlife Friendly™ global products program, and accessing markets in Europe.
- 1.3 Develop training-of-trainers (ToT) scheme (including refresher training) with Genius Coffee to ensure dissemination of appropriate production methods (5 days per year).
- 1.4 Routine documentation for ongoing organic/wildlife-friendly coffee certification assessments (2 days per month, per village).
- 1.5 Develop training-of-trainers (ToT) scheme (including refresher training) with Genius Coffee to ensure dissemination of appropriate production methods (5 days per year).
- 1.6 Routine documentation for ongoing organic/wildlife-friendly coffee certification assessments (2 days per month, per village).
- 2.1 Formalise and legally register the Gibbon Coffee Association.
- 2.2 Define terms of reference and by-laws for operation of the GCA.

- 2.3 Define benefit-sharing mechanisms and obligations for GCA members, linked to the gibbon/wildlife-friendly coffee standard.
- 2.4 Provide appropriate training (e.g. financial management, gender sensitivity, gibbon/habitat monitoring methods).
- 2.5 Develop and implement a sustainable financing plan to cover operational expenses such as routine re-certification, monitoring and management costs.
- 3.1 Finalise and agree guidelines for FPIC in the planning process.
- 3.2 Conduct detailed forest cover/land cover mapping, combining remote sensing and field surveys for the wider Mann watershed.
- 3.3 Prepare a baseline to monitor deforestation risk associated with promoting high-value commodities, and inform and monitor village land use planning to ensure habitat connectivity.
- 3.4 Conduct behavioural and genetic studies of Hoolock Gibbons to determine feeding ecology and dispersal of gibbons throughagroforest/forest corridors by applying modern high-throughput DNA sequencing methods.
- 3.5 Support village land use planning and agroforestry design (including tree species selection) based on the scientific results.
- 3.6 Prepare a management and zonation plan for Mann Wildlife Sanctuary, based on biodiversity science and public consultations, for government approval.
- 3.7 Provide scientific data to inform gibbon/wildlife-friendly certification of coffee and other agroforestry products.
- 3.8 Monitor the population of key indicator species (Gibbons and Hornbill) in the wildlife sanctuary and surrounding landscape, and changes in conservation knowledge, attitude and behaviour (KAB) through project start/end surveys.
- 3.9 Monitor forest cover through remote sensing at the beginning and end of the project to verify reduced deforestation of primary forest and improved agroforestry cover and forest/agroforest connectivity.
- 4.1 Provide improved coffee and agroforest seedlings, taking into account the ecology of wildlife indicator species.
- 4.2 Develop post-harvest processing capacity for an additional seven villages, widening impacts and making the supply chain commercially viable.
- 4.3 Provide training to improve the quality of coffee cherry and bean selection and processing, meeting speciality coffee market requirements.
- 4.4 Increase visibility of "Gibbon Coffee" through improved marketing by Genius.
- 4.5 Showcase the product at an international trade fair (one minimum) to gauge market/buyer interest (e.g. Biofach Fare).

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-A01	Number of people from key national and local stakeholders completing structured and relevant training	People	Men/ Women	140/47	421/205	791/447		791/447	1000
DI-A03	Number of local/national organisations with improved capability and capacity as a result of project. (ACCA)	Number	СВО	1	0	0		1	1
DI-B05	Number of people with increased participation in local communities / local management organisations (i.e., participation in Governance/citizen engagement).	People	Men/ Women	349/336	386/340	383/372		383/372	600/400
DI-B08	Volume of internationally traded products complying with sustainability standards.	tonnes	Coffee	3.2	37.5	24.2		64.9	
DI-C01	Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed.	Number	Wildlife Friendly Certificate for Gibbon Coffee	0	0	1		1	1
DI-D01	Hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices	Hectors	Sustainable coffee plantation area	460	728	-		728	10,000
DI-D16	Number of households reporting improved livelihoods.	Households	Income	96	368	759		759	1000

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
N/A	, , ,					

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?	
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)?	Yes
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.	•