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

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Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	29-004
Project title	Kaya Connect: Restoring the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest Biodiversity Hotspot
Country/ies	Kenya
Lead Partner	Botanic Gardens Conservation International - BGCI
Project partner(s)	1. Kenya Forest Service (KFS) 2. National Museums of Kenya (NMK) 3. Little Environmental Action Foundation (The LEAF Charity) 4. Mandhari Plants & Designs (MPD) 5. International Tree Foundation (ITF) 6. County Government of Kilifi 7. Kivukoni Indigenous Tree Nursery 8. Green Heart of Kenya 9. Friends of Arabuko Sokoke Forest
Darwin Initiative grant value	£ 524,286.00
Start/end dates of project	June 2022 to March 2025
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2023 – Mar 2024) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2023 – March 2024 Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Kirsty ▮
Project website/blog/social media	Website: www.bgci.org Facebook 1: Botanic Gardens Conservation International Facebook 2: Afican Botanic Garden Network Twitter: Botanic Gardens Conservation International Twitter: Afican Botanic Garden Network
Report author(s) and date	Roniance ▮ and Kirsty ▮ 30th April 2024

1. **Project summary**

30% of the world's tree species are threatened (BGCI, State of the World's Trees report, 2021). Huge tree planting and restoration pledges are being made worldwide. The focus is on planting trees in high numbers for carbon capture, rather than species diversity and livelihoods. The Ten Golden Rules for Reforestation (DiSacco, et al. 2021) and Kew Declaration (The Declaration Drafting Committee, 2021) highlighted the need for a better approach, but action on the ground is needed too. Kenya has 1,117 native tree species, 144 of which are threatened (these figures are slightly updated from the time of proposal writing due to Global Tree Assessment updates). The biggest threats to coastal trees in Kenya are habitat loss for agriculture, residential and tourism development (BGCI, 2020). Forest patches in Kilifi County contain 51 threatened tree species and represent some of the last remaining fragments of the Eastern African Coastal Forest (EACF) biodiversity hotspot. EACF has the lowest percentage of remaining intact vegetation of African hotspots and the third lowest globally (Habel, et al., 2019), making it a restoration priority.

Kenya has made a 5.1-million-hectare pledge to the Bonn Challenge. The national-level restoration map produced in 2016 highlights some potential for restoration of natural forests in Kilifi County (the focus area for this application) but a much larger area is designated for plantations, agroforestry (both of which largely use non-native species) and bamboo planting (again relying on exotic species). Kenya has a single native bamboo species but found in upland areas not at the coast). These proposed interventions are putting economic benefit before biodiversity and could potentially cause significant harm to an already heavily degraded and fragile biodiversity hotspot. A review of tree-planting organisations operating in Kenya undertaken by BGCI found that only 8% of named tree species being planted are threatened.

This project will re-connect forest fragments in coastal Kenya, benefitting people and threatened trees, by mapping forest fragments, improving seed supply, protecting, and restoring sites for connectivity, providing training and jobs and securing long-term political and public support.

2. **Project stakeholders/ partners**

The Kaya connect project has been very collaborative and has worked well with the partners. The project has been able to foster successful partnerships with these project partners, with each of them focusing on their responsibilities within the project, as well as helping the other partners fulfil their responsibilities where necessary. The project partners form the Project Steering Committee. This committee is responsible for planning and ensuring proper delivery of the objectives of the project. The Project Steering Committee consists of 13 members who are representatives from each of the partners and important stakeholders. During the beginning of the second year of the project, the Steering Committee came together to assess the achievements that were made during the first year of the project, and identity the successes, gaps, challenges, and solutions to those challenges. We also looked forward into the second year of the project and the activities that will be implemented during the second year, contributions from each of the partners and the allocation of the project resources among the partners. The minutes of the Steering Committee meeting can be found ████

During the second year, there have been successful collaborations among the partners on the project activities. On occasion, the partners would come together, and carry out project activities together to maximize on the impact of the activity. Additionally, we have a WhatsApp platform where project partners exchange ideas on propagation, species identification and lessons learned on growing tree species in their respective areas. We have also had workshops and meetings where partners have come together to advance the work of the project.

Key achievements and strengths from the effective collaboration among the partners includes:

-   Sharing of seed and other propagation materials among the nursery partners.

-   Collaborative surveys in the forest fragments which builds the capacity of the partner teams that are present during the activity. For instance, staff of NMK-Coastal Forest Conservation

Unit (CFCU), Green Heart of Kenya, and The LEAF Charity collaborated on surveys and seed collection.

- Exchange of learning experiences among the partners. We have had partners visiting each other in the nurseries to learn from each other, and through this, they have been able to improve the productivity of their nurseries.

Figure 1: Partners during an exchange learning visit at Kaya Chonyi Tree Nursery

Additionally, the partners have had successful collaborations with other organizations which are not official project partners. Some of the successful collaborations include:

- Mandhari Plants and Designs, in collaboration with Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), brought lessons of indigenous trees and *Tectona grandis* to the local communities.

- Green Heart of Kenya and Kivukoni Indigenous Tree Nursery (KITN) have collaborated with the Centre for Ecosystem Restoration Kenya (CERK) in monitoring of their restoration sites and giving advice on restoration interventions they are employed in the sites. Jonathan Jenkins, the director of CERK is a member of the restoration advisory committee for the project, and his team has been instrumental in attending restoration trainings and cascading the knowledge to the project team where applicable.

- Mandhari Plants and Designs was able to secure the Global Genome Initiative for Gardens (GGI-Gardens) award, which is to be used to expand their indigenous tree seed bank and to cover part of the salary for the seed technician for next year. They are now a member of the GGI-Gardens international partnership for botanic gardens and arboreta, which will enable them to better connect with other institutions preserving plant genomic biodiversity around the world.

- The LEAF Charity has partnered with Plan International to enhance education on trees, restoration and forest protection in schools that are around the Kaya Chonyi area. This partnership is advancing the work that Kaya Connect is doing in 11 schools in coastal Kenya.

- KITN partnered with the Kenya Horticulture Society North Coast chapter for rewilding gardens using indigenous plants and some of the seedlings from the nursery were provided to this initiative. In partnership with Centre for Ecosystem Restoration Kenya, they conduct weekly in situ monitoring in the restoration site. They have also secured a partnership with KEFRI and Base Titanium (a local mining operation carrying out restoration work on their site) for attempting tissue culture of very threatened species to revive their propagation.

The project includes county and national level government partners: Kenya Forest Service (national and county-level), the National Museums of Kenya (national-level and regional via the Coastal Forest Conservation Unit) and Kilifi County Government. The inclusion of these partners in the project is helping to foster new or strengthened partnerships between the NGO, private and community partners involved in the project that will last beyond the timeframe of the funding, and helping to ensure that the lessons learnt from the project are translated into county-level policy and action. In year 3 of the project, these partnerships will be utilised to share the lessons learnt from Kilifi County to other counties across Kenya.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities.

Output 1: Remaining Forest fragments mapped and their potential as seed sources or tree islands better understood.

Activity 1.2.4 Scale up activities 1.2.1 – 1.2.3 across the whole of Kilifi County

In the second year of the project, we were able to expand the scope of the project to the wider Kilifi County to scope for other potential areas of restoration and understanding the state of other forest fragments within Kilifi. In collaboration with project partners and the restoration advisory committee, we identified an area in Jilore that is 44ha in size and degraded. Initial surveys were done on the site by the BGCI project team that also carried out consultations with Kenya Forest Service, Friends of Arabuko Sokoke Forest, and community members who share responsibility for the site. Using the initial criteria for selection of restoration sites (defined in year 1), we were able to include the site as one of the restoration sites for the project.

Figure 2: Jilore restoration site

Activity 1.3.1: Publish map for review.

A map showing the forest fragments, restoration sites and restoration interventions for each site is currently under development and will be published online for review by the partners and other stakeholders. The draft map is available [here](#).

Output 2: 136 people from marginalised groups in Kilifi County have improved capacity to engage in forest restoration and protection activities and are employed in new or expanded restoration enterprises and 1,000 additional households are benefitting from trees on farms.

Activity 2.2.2: Assess employees work and provide top-up training to all trainees as required at the start of each project year.

At the beginning of the second year, we developed skills assessment tools that we used to determine where the project beneficiaries (nursery workers and seed collectors) were still lacking and what they needed further training in. The assessment revealed that there were still knowledge gaps in some areas. Therefore, we conducted refresher trainings on phenology monitoring, documentation, seed collection, post-harvest preparation, seed storage and in situ protection to 60 community members (24 women and 36 men). This was done in the respective forest fragments where the seed collectors are assigned to do their collection. We also conducted refresher trainings to 65 nursery workers (36 male and 29 female), which was preceded by doing a comprehensive knowledge and skills gap assessment that informed the scope of the training. The nursery workers were therefore trained on seed handling, seed extraction, pre-treatment, pricking out after germination, watering, pest and disease control and preparing the seedlings for field transfer.

Figure 3: Training on seed handling and nursery management.

To enable effective and efficient propagation of the native tree species, we initiated the process of documenting propagation information that will inform the development of propagation protocols for the native tree species. Using BGCI's internal training tools and forms on propagation protocols development, the BGCI Africa team, and one of the project partners, the LEAF Charity received training from BGCI's global conservation team on collecting propagation information and in turn, 65 (36 male and 29 female) nursery workers received the training in the field, with one person assigned in each nursery to fill in and share the forms which will be used to develop comprehensive propagation protocols in the third year of the project. The training materials for propagation protocol development can be found ▆▆▆

For sustainability purposes, it is important for the project to build the business acumen of the project beneficiaries to enable them to monetize the skills and resources they have received from the training. As such, a total of 89 people were trained on business development in the context of seed collection and seedling production in nursery businesses. The training covered topics such as business management skills, business planning, public and customer relations skills, record and book-keeping, market research, marketing, business financing, costing and pricing products and services, quality assurance and financial management. The modules for the training can be found ▆▆▆ The training report can also be found ▆▆▆

Figure 4: Business skills development training at Rabai

Training on seed banking was also done for the seed technician. Initially, the project outlined hiring three seed technicians, but given the resources that were available, and the capacity of the seed bank we established in partnership with MPD at the coast, it made more sense to have one seed technician working on a full-time basis. The seed technician was trained by experts from the Centre for Ecosystem Restoration – Kenya. Advice was also provided by Kate Hardwick, the project's restoration consultant from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, during her visit to the restoration sites in year 2.

Figure 5: Seed technician training by Herbert (BGCI) and Victor (CERK)

To enhance soil quality in the nurseries a 5-day training course on soil conservation was conducted at Pwani University, facilitated by an external expert sourced by the LEAF Charity. The training included lessons in understanding soil composition and structure; assessing soil health; soil biology; soil stewardship and community engagement; and sustainable soil management practices. A total of 16 people participated in the training, and this included representatives of the partner nurseries and project partners. The training workbook can be found ███ The training report for the 5-day training can be found ███ As a result of the training, partners have been able to improve their soil management practices in the nurseries and restoration sites. Through combined efforts, the LEAF team set up a composting site at LEAF's nursery. In addition, they have also locally sourced manure and sustainable forest soil (based on guidance shared in the training). Green Heart Nursery have also been able to apply the lessons learned to improve their soil conservation and composting work. These initiatives have improved the conditions and sustainable practices of the nurseries.

Figure 6: Soil type analysis practical.

Activity 2.2.3: Provide certificates to each trainee for each completed course.

The certificates for the training courses were given to the trainees at the end of year 1, and most of the trainings done in year 2 were refreshers of what was already done in the first year. A one-day refresher training on marketing and business development will be done in year 3, and this is when certificates for this course will be handed over. The same will be done for the seed technician's training.

Activity 2.3.3: Provide regular payments to each employee throughout the project.

A total of 40 nursery workers continued to receive monthly payments throughout the second year of the project. The workers are paid at a rate of KES750 per day, and they each have 15 paid working days per month in the nursery. Since there are more than 2 workers employed in each nursery, their work schedules are managed to ensure that there are always workers in the nurseries throughout the month. NMK-CFCU manages 22 workers across five community nurseries (Kaya Kauma 4 women 1 man; Kaya Chonyi 6 men; Chasimba 2 women; CFCU 1 woman and 1 man; Rabai 5 men 2 women; Kilifi County Government 3 women and 1 man) and they make routine monitoring and support visits to the nurseries each month. The other workers are distributed among the other nurseries: KITN has 7 workers 2 women and 5 men; The LEAF Charity has 6 nursery workers 4 women and 2 men; Green Heart of Kenya has 4 workers (3 men and 1 woman); Gede Tropical Nursery (managed by Mandhari Plants and Designs) has 5 workers (3 women 2 men); County Government of Kilifi has 2 workers (2 women); and Kenya Forest Service has 1 worker (1 woman).

A total of 60 seed collectors and monitors have also continued to receive monthly payments throughout the second year of the project. 21 workers are being managed by Friends of Arabuko Sokoke Forest, and they also earn a daily wage of KES 750 per day working approximately 10 days per month for 5 months spread through the year, during the months when there are a lot of trees in fruit. CFCU manages 30 seed collectors in the Kaya Forests, and the rest of the seed collectors are distributed across the nursery partners.

Activity 2.4.1: Sensitisation with farmers about the benefit of planting economically viable native trees in their farms.

Sensitisation outreaches were held during the reporting period targeting farmers recruited by the project to plant trees in their farms. In collaboration with the Catholic Diocese of Malindi, BGCI Africa team held outreaches with the congregations of the catholic church on the benefits of planting indigenous trees and the economic viability of these trees. After these outreaches, 320 people were reached across Arabuko, Mida and Watamu areas and 1,300 seedlings of 8 indigenous trees species were distributed to them to plant in their farms. We also conducted targeted outreaches with farmers to discuss the economic viability of planting indigenous trees for carbon credits and the potential of earning carbon revenue from planting trees in their farms. We were able to reach out to 400 farmers in this round of sensitisation.

Figure 7: Seedlings distribution after farmer sensitisation

Output 3: Supply of appropriate seed and seedlings of native and threatened species increased sufficiently in Kilifi County to support restoration of project demonstration sites (Output 1) and planting in additional sites.

Activity 3.1.1 Procure and install equipment for nursery improvement, including installation of a seedbank.

Kilifi is an ASAL county (Arid or Semi-Arid Land), which experiences water shortage, and this affects the production of seedlings in the nurseries. As such, it was important for the project to provide water harvesting infrastructure so the nurseries can have a steady supply of water. In this year, A 5000 litre plastic water tank was procured, delivered, and installed at Kaya Kauma community nursery raising the water storage capacity to 7000 litres. A 5000-litre tank was also provided for CFCU Kilifi nursery raising the water storage capacity to 6500 litres. As part of co-finance for the project, CFCU compound was secured with a chicken wire mesh fence to keep out grazing livestock and human intruders from the nursery. At Chasimba nursery, roofing of one of the houses was partially provided to collect runoff, and a 5000-litre water tank was also provided. This will raise the water storage capacity to 5000 litres. Previously, the workers at Chasimba nursery spent approximately KES6000 per month in purchasing water for use in the nursery, and this comes out of the salary they are paid. The installation of the water harvesting facility will ensure that more money is going into their pockets, and they will have a steady supply of water.

Consumables including polytubes for potting seedlings were also provided to all the nurseries. The county government of Kilifi was also provided with water tanks and other nursery equipment. Shade nets were provided to Kenya Forest Service to repair their nursery.

Mandhari Plants and Designs (MPD) was provided with equipment for establishing a seed bank. The seed bank was provided on a co-finance model with MPD and provides storage for seeds to help ensure seed is still available to the nurseries during periods of low seed production. When the project proposal was submitted, Terraformation had committed matched funding to install a high-tech seed bank at this site, but their fundraising priorities shifted, and this matched funding component was not delivered. The project therefore used some of the infrastructure budget to establish a lower-tech facility instead. The seed bank includes a fridge, drying chamber, sorting and drying shelves, weighing scales and processing and storage equipment (sieves and containers).

Figure 8: Water tank at Kaya Kauma Tree Nursery

Activity 3.2.3: Trained seed collectors assigned to continue survey, monitoring and recording phenology of each target species, collecting seed when available and taking it to nurseries.

Surveys and seed collection continued during the second year of the project. The project has been able to locate and collect seeds from 180 indigenous tree species of which 45 are threatened and near threatened species. The seed sources for the project are Kayas Kauma, Chivara, Chonyi, Mudzimuvya, Bomu-Fimboni, and Fungo; and Arabuko Sokoke Forest. Arabuko Sokoke forest provided the highest diversity of indigenous trees with 109 species of the target indigenous trees located and seeds collected from 72 species in this reporting period. Data on seed collection is meticulously recorded as can be seen ▮▮▮ to enable easy monitoring of the mother trees as well.

Activity 3.3.1 Trained nursery workers plant seed, care for seedlings and document propagation protocols

Nursery workers continued with propagation in the nurseries and the workers improved in both quality and quantity of seedlings produced, compared with their performance in the first year of the project. In the second year, the following are the production numbers that were achieved in the project:

S/No	Nursery	Total Number of seedlings	No of Species	Seedlings ready for planting
1	Kaya Kauma	14,478	32	10,000
2	Chasimba	4,653	15	2,344
3	Kaya Chonyi	19,500	34	15,000
4	Mudzimuvya Rabai	25,000	25	20,000
5	CFCU Nursery	8,340	21	7,000
6	The LEAF Nursery	30,448	63	17,000
7	County Government Nursery	5,003	21	3000
8	KFS Nursery	9,725	35	4000

9	Kivukoni Indigenous Tree Nursery	12,000	170	10,000
10	Gede Tropical Nursery	26,544	25	23,798
11	Green Heart of Kenya Tree Nursery	49,237	180	30,000
	TOTAL	195,203	180	142,142

Table 1: Summary of nursery production

Using the propagation protocols development form we have been able to collect information for 20 indigenous tree species which can be found ▮▮▮▮ The information is still in raw and draft form, and in the third year of the project, we will be verifying the information with other nursery partners and literature and be able to improve and publish the protocols.

Activity 3.3.2: Trained seed technicians carry out germination and storage testing on a portion of seed, and document germination and storage protocols.

A seed bank has been set up at Mandhari Plants and Designs and a seed technician hired to undertake the operations of the seed bank. The premise is complete, and we now have a place to store and preserve seeds for future propagation. In the seed bank, we keep, and record data of seed stored in the -4 temperatures, germination tests during storage, and seed entries. The technician is now investigating different methods of breaking dormancy on seeds that take time to germinate and documenting different seed preparation methods. We are in the process of developing storage protocols for the seeds and this will mostly be done in the third year of the project. The performance of the seed bank has been excellent. Currently, there are approximately 15,000 seeds of 19 species stored in the seed bank.

Figure 9: Seed drying and sorting at the seed bank

Activity 3.4.1: Maintain records of seed and seedling availability and provenance, price (for 3.5) and utility of each species at each nursery

Using indigenous knowledge and from literature, we have been able to document the uses of the target species. This has also enabled us to assign seedlings to the right planting areas. For instance, species which are more economically useful are planted in the farmlands to enable the farmers to earn from them in the long term. We also keep records of the species that are available in each of the nurseries through this ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ The database is updated by the nurseries monthly by filling in forms and submitting them for automatic updates to the database.

Activity 3.4.2: Using target species lists and provenance of propagation material, supply the most appropriate seedlings for planting at each project restoration site.

By looking at the existing trees in the restoration sites, and trees present in reference forests (closest remaining forests to the areas to be restored), documenting both the climax and pioneer species, and considering the provenance of the propagation material, we were able to come up with a recommended list of species to be planted in each of the restoration sites. ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮

Activity 3.5.1 Nursery workers meet with potential seedling purchasers at nurseries, and visit their planting sites, to provide guidance on appropriate species for planting.

The nurseries receive visits from potential purchasers from different areas within Kilifi County, and it was ascertained early on in the project that it might not be possible for them to visit each of the sites of the purchasers and be able to give advice on the best species for them to plant. As an alternative, the nursery workers have been capacitated with information on the uses of the trees they have in the nurseries and in which kind of areas they grow best in. Nursery workers have been trained to obtain a detailed description of the land for planting from the purchasers, the current land use, and the needs for the trees in terms of numbers and purpose. For instance, if a purchaser wants trees for their homestead and they need trees that provide good shade, then *Terminalia sembesiaca* and *Terminalia prunioides* are examples of species that they will suggest. If the purpose of the trees is for agroforestry, then they would suggest species such as *Rhodognaphalon schumannianum* and *Milicia excelsa.* A list of the species and their uses can be found ▇▇▇▇

Activity 3.5.2 Maintain records of seedlings sold, to who and for what purpose.

The following table provides information on the seedlings that were sold from the nurseries and the purchasers of the seedlings from each of the nurseries.

Nursery	Number of Seedlings	Buyers	Income from sale of seedlings (KES)
CFCU	560	WESLUX, Private farmers.	35,600
Kaya Kauma	1,500	WESLUX, private farmers	100,000
Chasimba	1,100	Leaf Charity	55,000
Kaya Chonyi	2,500	Assorted buyers	125,000
Kaya Rabai	1,200	Assorted buyers	90,000
Green Heart of Kenya	7,241	Assorted Buyers	964,561
KITN	1,672	Kenya Horticultural Society and individual buyers	668,800
County Government Kilifi	1000	Local communities and equity bank	100,000
Total	**16,773**		**2,138,961**

Table 2: Seedling sales in the nursery

Output 4: Restoration demonstration sites established that follow best practice, trial and monitor different restoration approaches, promote the use of native and threatened species and act as demonstration sites.

Activity 4.1.2 Hold meetings of the advisory group at least twice per year to review restoration progress.

The project established a Restoration Advisory Group in the first year of the project, which is aimed at enabling the effective and efficient implementation of the restoration components of the Kaya Connect project. The Group is made up of members of BGCI's Ecological Restoration Alliance of Botanic Gardens from around the world, who are experts in the field of restoration. At the beginning of the second year of the project, the Restoration Advisory Group had a meeting to go over the progress of the project on restoration activities, development of restoration plans for each of the sites, update on the new restoration sites and the model farm forester sites, monitoring plan for the restoration sites and training of restoration workers. This meeting resulted in valuable advice for the project and guidelines on how to proceed with restoration actions and monitoring of the restoration sites. Members of the Restoration Advisory Group have continued to provide guidance to the restoration activities of the project during the remainder of the year, including a visit from Kate Hardwick from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in November to assess restoration sites and proposed restoration interventions.

Activity 4.3.1: Procure equipment required to support restoration activities, including for water supply, planting, and monitoring.

In each of the restoration sites, there is a nearby nursery supported by the project that has been issued with water harvesting and storage equipment. The water supply is also essential for the restoration site especially during periods of insufficient rainfall. The LEAF Charity has also procured equipment for removal of invasive species and clearing land for planting. More procurement for aftercare and maintenance equipment for the restoration workers will be done in the third year of the project.

Activity 4.3.2: Community members (trained in Output 2) carry out initial site preparation, including invasive plant removal, and hole digging for sites that require planting.

Two restoration trainings were carried out in the second year of the project. The first training was done by BGCI's Training Officer and Project Officer and was delivered to the project partners and the restoration workers. The training was delivered to 32 people (13 women and 19 men). It included in class theoretical training and field training that covered topics such as introduction to and drivers of land degradation, benefits of landscape restoration, sustainable land use practices, techniques of landscape restoration including (Assisted Natural Regeneration, direct seeding and tree planting), best practices for tree planting including size of holes and matching the right species to the site. The training presentation can be found███

The second training was delivered by the restoration consultant from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The training was attended by 35 people (14 women and 21 men). The training topics that were covered included going over the Ten Golden Rules for Reforestation, site management and aftercare techniques such as weeding, setting up monitoring plots, and monitoring of restoration sites. The training materials are available███ After the theory was covered, the participants moved to the field for practical training.

Figure 10: Field and classroom restoration training led by restoration consultant, Kate Hardwick

Activity 4.3.3 Plant seedlings out on sites (except those where Assisted Natural Regeneration is identified as the most appropriate restoration approach) aligning with rainy seasons (quarters shaded align with expected rainy seasons, but rain at the coast can be variable)

In the second year of the project, we had two planting seasons. In the first season (April/May), even though it was the long rains, some areas did not receive enough rains and most of the seedlings in the nurseries had not yet reached planting age. However, we managed to distribute seedlings to farmers and planted 7562 seedlings of 27 species with 185 farmers. During the second season (Oct/Nov/Dec) we planted 16,830 seedlings in four restoration sites (Kaya Chonyi, Kaya Rabai Mudzimuvya, Green Heart of Kenya, and Pwani University). We also planted 900 seedlings with farmers (9 species). Other partners also planted in Mida and Kivukoni Indigenous Tree Nursery restoration area.

The table below gives a breakdown of the seedlings planted per restoration sites and the number of species planted.

Planting Site	Number of seedlings planted	Species planted

Kaya Chonyi (restoration site and surrounding community)	5,700	17
Kaya Mudzimuvya (restoration site)	4,000	12
Green Heart of Kenya (restoration site)	4,000	88
Pwani University (botanic garden and restoration site)	8,257	135
Kaya Kauma (forest)	1,300	8
CDA Mida (model farm)	1,600	20
Farmers (Farmlands and households)	10,162	35
Schools	1,000	10
Kivukoni (restoration site and community)	2,830	110
GTN Restoration Site	1,850	15
Total	40,699	135

We managed to enter into a formal agreement with Kenya Forest Service for a restoration site that is under their management. The land approximately 44ha and degraded, comprising mostly of shrubs and small trees. Overgrazing and wood fuel are the drivers of degradation. Along with tree planting in the side, we will also build the capacity of the community forest association to enhance protection of the site and enable its restoration. Plans are underway to begin planting trees in this site in the April/May rains.

At the Green Heart of Kenya restoration site, a total of 2000 seedlings of 88 species were planted in the Green Heart corridor as part of the Kaya Connect supported seedlings. As part of matched funding for the restoration of the corridor, a total of 2000 seedlings of 44 species were planted in this period. At Gede Tropical Nursery restoration site, 150 trees were planted and in this rainy season, there are plans to plant 15,000 trees in the restoration site and on farmer's land. GTN also donated 1,700 seedlings which were given to farmers to plant in their lands.

Kivukoni Indigenous Tree Nursery planted over 1065 hardened seedlings inside their restoration site and other restoration sites. This included 765 seedlings (53 species) during the National Tree Growing Day, 140 seedlings (67 species) in June 2023 at KITN restoration site, 300 seedlings (110 species) during the November December El-nino rains. They also donated threatened indigenous seedlings for direct planting at Kivukoni school, where every student who has ever attended the school has received and planted a seedling, totalling to over 600 seedlings planted. 100 trees were also planted in Pwani University Botanic Garden.

Figure 11: GHK Miyawaki Plot and Kaya Chonyi tree planting.

Activity 4.3.4: Carry out site maintenance, including watering, removal of invasive species.

10 restoration workers were employed in the second year of the project, and they were attached to each of the restoration sites. Their work included removal of invasive species in the site, weeding, and in Kaya Chonyi and Rabai where there are encroachment challenges, they were also responsible for watching out for livestock and keeping them away from the site. In Kaya Chonyi, a restoration committee was established whose members include the Kaya elders, the conservation groups, and representatives of

working groups in the community, The restoration committee was set up to oversee the restoration activities being undertaken at Kaya Chonyi and provide leadership, conflict resolution, and a point of connection to the local communities. They advocate for restoration and sensitize the community members on matters of conservation and respecting the restoration activities on the grounds and deterring them from grazing their livestock on the site. When it comes to tree planting efforts, they also come together to mobilize community members to plant trees in the restoration sites and in their farms. In the third year of the project, they will assist in mobilization of their community members to help with maintenance work that is needed on the site, because it is extensive work that the project does not have the capacity to fully pay the labour for, and we rely on the assistance of the local communities.

In the Pwani University restoration sites both the nursery workers and restoration workers tended the trees in the past year by weeding, mulching and removal of exotic species such as *Leucaena leucocephala* from the restoration sites. In the Green Heart corridor, we noticed that high growth of invasive species, climbers, grasses, and other woody herbs can significantly hamper planted seedling growth, in many cases leading to seedling suppression and death. Additionally, well established seedlings in shady areas from Year 1 now require more sunlight to continue growing. Both these activities involve significant human labour and supervision (care is critical to avoid damaging the planted material). The restoration workers with assistance from the nursery workers from this site, have been working to maintain the site, and they will continue this work in the third year of the project. In the other planting sites, tree planting activities have been accompanied with tree after care. This has included monitoring of the young trees and acting appropriately to ensure good survival. Initiatives to protect them have been carried out, such as fencing, mulching, watering, weeding and even drip irrigation. The tree after care has been the focus especially during the dry seasons.

Public engagements are also critical in providing social protection and enhancing support for the restoration work within the local communities. A public meeting was held at Kaya Chonyi Forest restoration site to create awareness on the need to restore kaya forests and mobilize public support for restoration. The meeting was attended by over 150 community members and their local leaders. The project held a public meeting at Kaya Kauma to commemorate the International Day of Forests which was on 21st March 2024. It was a useful forum to highlight the importance of indigenous forests and tree planting in providing natural solutions to the problems affecting mankind. It was an opportunity for community to also visit the nursery and see the seedlings available and know the best native trees for planting in the farms for their multiple needs. The public meeting was attended by over 80 people from the Kaya Kauma community including the local leadership (Chiefs) and the environment officers at the sub-county level.

Figure 12: Public engagement meetings at Kaya Kauma

Activity 4.3.5: Collect and analyse monitoring data from all restoration sites at least twice per year (following the plan and indicators defined in 1.3)

The project carries out three levels of monitoring. The first one is in the nurseries where we get monthly reports on the status of the nurseries with regards to production, offtake, and mortality (this database is ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ The second one is through monitoring the survival rate of seedlings that have been

planted with the farmers. We have a team of enumerators that go round to the farmers to collect this information. So far in the project we have a survival rate of 69%. Then lastly, we developed a monitoring and evaluation plan for the project with support from the restoration advisory group and the restoration consultant, Kate Hardwick. This is meant to monitor the status of the restoration site and the annual monitoring for Year 2 was done in March 2023. Please refer to the monitoring section for the report.

Activity 4.4.4 Host meetings at demonstration homesteads and demonstration schools to engage additional farmers and schools and promote the benefits of planting native and threatened species.

In this reporting period, we established the Model Farm Foresters model. A Model Farm Forester is someone who is successfully implementing the taught techniques and sustainably planting, maintaining, and utilizing their farm forest, and someone who has the capacity to enable other community members to learn from them and be able to implement the same sustainable practices. The Model Farm Foresters serve as a learning-hub for the small holder farmers. The Model Forest Farmers will be enhancing the Kaya Connect project's work towards catalysing efforts to restore degraded private lands for local communities through enhancing their capacity to plant indigenous trees of ecological, social, and economic value. The responsibilities of the model farmers include planting native trees on the farm, maintenance of the trees, awareness creation to community members on indigenous tree planting, serving as a learning hub for indigenous tree planting and maintenance techniques to community members. We have 5 model farmers recruited and who signed formal agreements to take up this role to provide outreach to more people in the community on indigenous tree planting. They are based in Chasimba, Vumbini, Dida and Kauma. The model farmers have planted trees in their farms, and so far, they have reached approximately 100 people in their lands about indigenous tree planting. The model farmer agreements can be found ▮▮▮.

Figure 13: Timothy Ntanelewa, a model farmer and his farm with visitors

Timothy Ntanelewa is a pharmacist and a traditional medicine man. He has 2.5acres of land that he has dedicated for restoration work, and he wants to establish a mini botanic garden on his land. He grew up with a father who was a medicine man, and he has a very deep understanding of indigenous trees and their value especially with regards to herbal medicine and herbal remedies. He is well liked and respected in his community. Given his stature and passion for indigenous trees, he was selected as one of the model farmers and has planted 100 indigenous trees on his piece of land and will be planting more in this coming rainy season. He has hosted numerous people from the community who want to learn more about planting indigenous trees and the benefits of having a small home-based tree nursery. The nursery on his farm is being run by his wife.

Model schools and Education Program: The project is currently working with 11 schools. A baseline assessment visit was carried out to determine which of them will serve as the model school, and Gardini Primary school was selected. As a model school, the school will plant a high diversity of multipurpose

indigenous trees and serve as a learning hub for other institutions and surrounding communities on restoration, tree growing and biodiversity conservation. Each school has different numbers of students in grade 4: Kibaoni primary school 205, Kilifi primary schools 212, Gede primary school 175, Mida primary school 59, Maereni primary school 36, Chasimba primary school 53, Vwevwesi primary school 142, Chang'ombe primary school 97, Gandini primary school 103, Mwatsama primary school 113 and Isaac Nyondo primary school 140. A total of 1,335 students have been directly involved into the education program and have weekly engagement with the education officers. This environmental education toolbox was developed in year 1 and it is now being used by the education officers to facilitate the weekly engagement with the students. At a wider scale and through involvement of the other students in the school in practical activities, such as clubs, classes and tree planting, the total number of students that are directly impacted is more than 10,200 students. Some of the topics that they have benefitted from include soil, composting, waste management, indigenous trees, intensive and regenerative agriculture, insects, water cycle, biodiversity, types of habitats, mushrooms, parts and functions of a tree. The reports from the school's engagement can be found ▮▮▮▮

Activity 4.4.5: Provide interested homestead owners within the project area and schools with trees, guidance, and planting support.

During the start of Year 2, 11 schools participated in t tree planting exercise that took place in May 2023. The species planted include: 50 *Cordia goetzei*,100 *Bauhinia mombassae*, 150 Afzelia quanzensis, 50 *Gyrocarpus americanus*, 100 *Gardenia volkensii, 40 Antidesma venosum*, 20 *Milicia excelsa*, 100 *Kigelia africana*, 100 *Ludia mauritiana*, 10 *Sideroxylon inerme*, 50 *Garcinia livingstonei*, 20 *Sterculia afrricana*, 30 *Antiaris toxicaria*, 10 *Ficus sycomorus*, 30 *Strychnos spinosa*, 30 *Ziziphus mucronata*, 20 *Terminalia prunioides*, 30 *Markhamia zanzibarica*, 20 *Balanites wilsoniana*, 30 *Tamarindus indica*, 10 *Cussonia zimmermannii*, making a total of 1000 indigenous seedlings. In addition to this Starseed Natural, a regenerative skin care brand based in the UK, bought 502 fruit seedlings from partner nurseries of the LEAF charity that were also distributed to the schools. In addition to tree planting, the students also took part in compositing, mulching, tree labelling, and art using plastic bottles recycled around their school.

We have recruited 1,132 farmers to the project and in the second year, 10,162 seedlings of 35 species have been distributed to 400 farmers who have planted them in their farms. We have provided sensitisation to the farmers on tree planting techniques. A training of trainers' approach was used, whereby the project recruited 10 community environmental champions spread across Kilifi. The environmental champions then held meetings with over 1,000 farmers across Kilifi County discussing the benefits of indigenous trees, and the economically viable native tree species in Kilifi County that they could plant on their farms. They also trained them on planting and maintenance techniques. A restoration training was delivered to model farmers and the community environmental champions that was focused on tree planting, maintenance and after care techniques. 31 men and women who were trained were able to disseminate the information to all the farmers they represent when distributing seedlings to them. In monitoring visits, project partners have also conducted field trainings with the farmers on how to maintain the seedlings they have planted in their farms, in an effort to reinforce the knowledge that had already been passed to them and ensure their seedlings are thriving.

Figure 14: Lawrence Chiro of CFCU teaching mulching to a farmer in Chonyi

Activity 4.4.6: Collect and analyse monitoring data from homesteads and schools at least twice per year (following the plan and indicators defined in 1.3)

We conduct quarterly monitoring for the seedlings planted in the schools and with the farmers to monitor their survival rate and if there are any conditions that are hindering their growth that we need to be aware of and address. From the monitoring work done in the second year, we noted there was a 70% survival rate for the trees planted in the farms and in the schools. The mortality that was experienced was because of the trees being eaten by livestock and some of them not being subjected to proper maintenance, and therefore they dried up. This information enables us to plan for and execute remedial measures to ensure that in the following years, and planting seasons, we end up with higher survival rates for the trees in the schools and farms. The report can be found ▇▇▇.

Figure 15: Baraka (enumerator) monitoring planted trees in farms in Kauma

Activity 4.5.1: Identify target organisations, groups and influential people to invite to visit sites. And Activity 4.5.2: Host visits to Kenya Forest Service staff, county government staff, tree planting organisations and corporates to demonstrate different restoration techniques and the benefits of planting native and threatened species.

The project team has identified organizations that are doing restoration work in the region that we would like to invite to the project restoration sites to demonstrate the work being done, and the impacts that we have been able to achieve via Assisted Natural Regeneration and indigenous tree planting. We have also engaged an environmental reporter from one of the biggest media houses in Kenya (KTN) to document the work in the sites and broadcast it to reach a large audience of landscape restoration practitioners. We also held an online workshop for the Kenya Threatened Tree Consortium which is led by BGCI and has a membership of 33 organizations. In this workshop, we highlighted the work of the Kaya

Connect project. As we develop our best practice manual for the project, we will ensure that it is disseminated to influential people and organisations who will help to scale up the project impact.

Kenya Forest Service and the County Government of Kilifi are partners of the project, which has meant they have been involved in designing and implementing restoration activities. The project is seeking higher-level engagement beyond the individuals directly involved in the project, so we have hosted senior staff of Kenya Forest Service and county government officials at the project sites to demonstrate restoration techniques and take part in tree planting activities, and senior county officials were also represented in the policy development workshop.

Figure 16: Assistant County Commissioner planting trees in Kaya Kauma and the County Forst Conservator (KFS) at the policy development workshop

Output 5: Mechanisms in place to ensure long-term sustainability of project outputs, scalability of best practice restoration within Kilifi County and replicability across the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest hotspot.

Activity 5.1.2: Aligning with marketing plan, develop marketing and outreach materials for all nurseries, promoting the native and threatened species available, including printed materials, online and via media channels.

The communications and marketing consultant has been working with the nurseries to develop marketing materials for each of the nurseries. We also have an actionable communications and marketing plan that we are currently implementing to aid in creating more awareness about the project, and for the nurseries to be able to market the seedlings they are producing. The outreach materials for the nurseries and the marketing plans can be found ▮▮▮▮ To attract more visitors into the nurseries and enhance their visibility and publicity, nursery boards were procured by BGCI and were distributed to the nurseries for hanging at the nursery sites.

Figure 17: Wooden plaque of Kaya Kauma Tree Nursery

Activity 5.1.3: Host talks and tours at nurseries to show availability and diversity of native and threatened species available.

The project supports 11 nurseries. People living locally to the nurseries, as well as representatives from NGOs and government, have visited the nurseries to see the work being undertaken. Outreach events have also been carried out in the local communities that always include a walk through the nursery to enhance the understanding of the communities about indigenous seed and seedling supply and encourage ownership of the restoration and indigenous tree planting efforts by the communities.

Useful linkages have been created between nurseries and actors such as World Vision, Plan International COSME project, and the KEFRI Darwin biocultural heritage project. Gede Tropical Nursery co-hosted an event on indigenous trees and *Tectona grandis* planting with KEFRI for farmers. An exchange learning visit was undertaken for the casual nurseries workers so they can learn from their peers in the kaya landscape. A total of 22 workers and CFCU staff were involved in the tour of Kaya Chonyi nursery and Kaya Kauma nursery. The visit provided useful insights in addressing some of the challenges and technical and innovation management practises and nursery workers are adopting what they learnt from the tour.

Additional talks and tours will be hosted at nurseries during Year 3 to promote seedling sales.

Activity 5.1.4: Monitor success of marketing work, including number of people reached, number of new partners purchasing native or threatened trees who weren't before and seedling sales (3.4).

The nurseries have been able to reach approximately 4,000 new people in their communities, via tours and outreach events. BGCI Africa's analytics indicate a reach of 9,357 across X, Facebook and LinkedIn. Across the project, with all the project partners we reached approximately 30,000 people through social media posts. In this reporting period, we have had 10 new organizations purchasing seedlings from the nurseries and about 300 individuals from the communities' purchasing seedlings. This is from a baseline of about 20 people purchasing seedlings from the community nurseries.

Activity 5.2.1: Connect restoration sites and partners to Terraformation, who will register the carbon project with Plan Vivo

As reported in year 1, despite Terraformation providing a quote for registering the project for carbon credits when the proposal was developed, they drew back from this commitment. Given the extent of the work and expertise needed to establish a successful carbon project, we engaged the services of a consultant in year 2. We have developed a Project Idea Note (PIN), which has been submitted to Plan Vivo and it is currently under review. We are in the process of getting all the relevant agreements and documentation in place to proceed with the full application. We have also partnered with AirImpact, and

we are using their platform to assist in development of the carbon project and calculation of the potential sequestration.
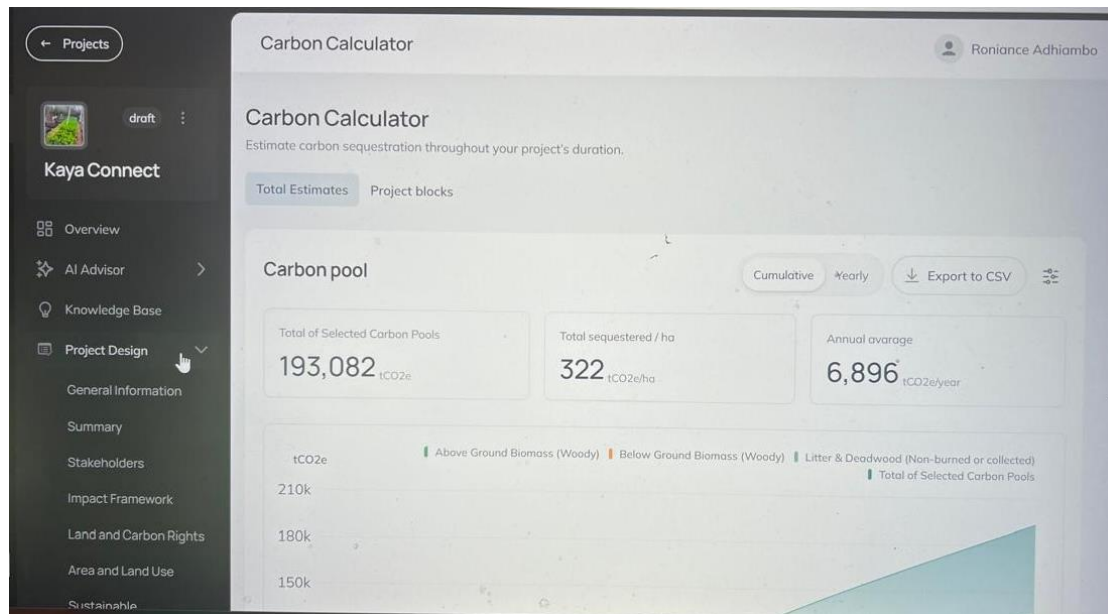

Figure 18: Carbon calculation ongoing on the AirImpact platform

A training was undertaken for farmer enumerators, model farmers and nursery workers on the potential of trees planted on farms for carbon credits, so farmers can obtain income in addition to the environmental and other economic benefits they are getting from the trees. After the training, the information on carbon credits was shared with registered farmers and farm visits were undertaken to monitor the state of planted seedlings and provide advice on best management practices. The meetings were held at Kayas Kauma, Chivara, Mudzimuvya, Bomu Fimboni and Chonyi. So far, 365 farmers have signed onto the carbon project, and we intend to get the number to 2,500 farmers and collectively cover an area of 2000 ha through expanding the carbon project to the rest of Kilifi and Kwale counties.

Figure 19: Consent form signed by a farmer and carbon outreach being led by Caroline Wanjiku (The LEAF Charity)

Activity 5.2.2: Ensure a fair, equitable and fully understood mechanism for sharing income is in place.

To ensure that there is equitable benefit sharing in the project, we had various discussions with project partners, especially with relevance to the Kaya communities, on the benefits of having benefit sharing agreements in place. The land where the community nurseries are, belongs to the Kaya communities, and therefore, it is important that every Kaya community stakeholder feels well represented and is benefiting from the activities of the project. Seed collectors are also collecting seed and monitoring trees in the Kaya forests.so benefits from that work also need to be equitably shared. After the discussions, NMK-CFCU facilitated meeting with Kaya communities to highlight the issues necessitating benefit sharing agreements. A benefit sharing agreement format was developed between nursery workers, seed collectors, community groups, kaya elders and other partners. This agreement has been used in the 3

community nurseries under CFCU. This has helped reduce occurrences of conflicts over incomes from sale of seedlings. The agreements were signed, and copies distributed to parties concerned. The benefit sharing agreements for Kaya Chonyi, Kaya Kauma, and Kaya Rabai-Mudzimuvya can be found ███.

Activity 5.2.3: Ensure monitoring approach provides all relevant data required for obtaining carbon credits, adapt where needed, and share monitoring data with carbon financing partner.

The carbon consultant was able to visit the project sites during year 2 at the same time as the restoration consultant was visiting the restoration sites. One aim of this joint visit was to support the development of a monitoring plan for the project, that will ideally cover both carbon and restoration indicators. Both consultants provided training on carbon and restoration monitoring, including baseline assessments, the optimum size of monitoring plots, regularity of monitoring and monitoring techniques. The approaches and scales for restoration and carbon monitoring differ, so our work is ongoing to try to align these processes and streamline monitoring requirements going forwards. As restoration work has commenced, we have developed a comprehensive monitoring plan for restoration that we used during the Year 2 annual monitoring. We will advance the carbon monitoring plan in the third year, when we are working on the carbon Project Development Document (PDD) and going through to the verification stages of the carbon project.

Figure 20: Carbon and restoration monitoring training.

Activity 5.3.2: Based on results of 5.3.1 run media campaign via various channels (newspapers, radio, etc.)

We have been publicizing the project through social media platforms (X, Linkedin, and Facebook) run by both BGCI, BGCI Africa and project partners. We also had television coverage on KTN (national media channel). It covered the work the project has been doing to support policy development and restoration efforts in Kilifi. With more tangible impacts to show for the project after this second year, we are aiming to do more radio and television broadcasts in the third year of the project. The link to the KTN coverage is ███.

Activity 5.4.3: Collate and review monitoring data from restoration sites (Output 1), document methodology and lessons learnt in an open access manual / similar (determined by 4.3.1)

We have been documenting the project process and lessons learnt. We are currently collating restoration monitoring information and reviewing it, and in the third year, we will collate the content for the open access best practice manual. This will help ensure the project is scalable and replicable.

Activity 5.5.3 Hold additional workshops to develop plan, collaboratively draft and review plan in between workshops, including zoning of areas using map produced in 4.4

During the initial workshop in year 1, we brought together stakeholders to determine the policy gaps in the Kilifi County environmental regulatory framework. This informed the need for amendment of the Kilifi County Forest Management and Tree Growing Policy and Act. In year 2, in partnership with the County Government of Kilifi, we held another 2-day workshop bringing together 30 participants representing the local communities, the private sector, civil society organizations, academia and

government organizations. The main agenda of the workshops was to contribute text to the amendment of the existing policy to ensure that it has a strong focus on indigenous tree planting in Kilifi County. The sustainability of the Kaya Connect project actions will be enhanced, if the county is able to have a proper regulatory framework in place, that puts a focus on indigenous tree planting, including the conservation of threatened trees. In this forum, we had the opportunity to influence the policy to include these policy statements, which were lacking in the existing policies and acts for the county.

Figure 21: Policy workshop in Kilifi County

We reviewed the document in detail and participants proposed amendments to the sections on indigenous forests, plantation forests, dryland forests, urban forests and agroforestry, key issues, challenges and opportunities for forestry development, training forest research and education, guiding principles, partnerships with non-state actors, and wood products and industries. We also added a section that was not existing, on tree planting, restoration, and nurseries. Details of the amendments proposed for each section are presented in the workshop ▮▮▮▮

Given the amount of time it takes for policies and bills to be officially passed by the county governments, the stakeholders felt that it would be good to have some soft tools and resources developed for the project that would enable the partnership of the project and the stakeholders to make tangible contributions or impacts to indigenous tree planting and restoration efforts in Kilifi. There were more than 30 tools and resources proposed from the group members. We group the tools into three categories – education and awareness creation tools; technical support tools; and cultural tools. A prioritization activity was conducted that enabled us to select three tools that we will develop in the third year of the project. These include a resource to support education and awareness creation to forest communities and integrating that with indigenous knowledge; guidelines for establishing arboreta and green zones for the county; and resources for discouraging the exploitation for sacred and cultural species.

Figure 22: Soft tools and resources prioritization activity and BGCI Project Manager and County Government Environmental Department Leaders heading the policy amendment process.

Activity 5.6.1: Identify tree planting and conservation organisations, corporates supporting tree planting, from across the EACF who would benefit from project model and resources.

We have identified a number of tree planting and conservation organizations, and corporates who would both benefit from and support scaling the model. Some of them include government institutions such as

National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) – Kilifi; and Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI); others like National Museums of Kenya and Kenya Forest Service are already project partners but we could reach more staff in other coastal areas and beyond. The Civil society conservation organizations that we identified included Community Based Environmental Conservation – Kilifi (COBEC – Kilifi); Scope Kenya; Shamba Project Kilifi, Earthlungs Reforestation; Arocha Kenya, Eden Reforestation Projects; Plan international; World Vision Kenya; the Restore Africa Project; Nature Kenya; and Dabaso Creek Conservation Group. In the private sector, we identified banking institutions and cement companies some of which include Kenya Commercial Bank, Equity Bank, and Absa Bank. We have initiated discussions through sharing the project model with COBEC, Plan International, World Vision Kenya, KEFRI, NEMA, Absa and Equity banks, Eden Reforestation, Arocha Kenya and Nature Kenya. This list will be expanded further in year 3 to include organisations working along the EACF outside of Kenya.

Activity 5.6.2 Identify relevant forums for promoting the model, including the Kenya National Landscape Scaling Conference (assuming follow up sessions will occur).

We identified and participated in several forums in the second year of the project, where we shared the Kaya Connect project model, the actions and impacts we have achieved so far. For example, we attended the African Climate Summit 2023 in Nairobi, where we were able to share about the Kaya Connect project with other delegates attending the summit. Through these engagements, we were able to cultivate potential partnerships for tree planting with Equity Bank Group, Young Women Christians Association, and World Vision among others. We also attended and hosted a tabletop exhibition at the Global Landscapes Forum in Nairobi, to showcase the project. We also participated in the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 6) in Nairobi and shared with other restoration practitioners the Kaya Connect project. We also participated in the Scaling Nature-based Solutions Conference in Zambia, where we had a dedicated session for sharing BGCI's tree conservation work, including our practical action efforts with the Kaya Connect Project as the case study. This led to discussions with Good Carbon, who may be interested in finding a suitable funder for the carbon project, and the Kilimanjaro Project in Tanzania, who are interested in a lesson sharing and mentoring partnership with Kaya Connect, as our projects are at similar levels of development, aiming for carbon credits and focusing on indigenous species.

Figure 23: Sharing Kaya Connect project at GEA conference in Zambia and Exhibition at GLF in Nairobi

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Remaining Forest fragments mapped and their potential as seed sources or tree islands better understood.

In this reporting period, we extended site visits to Arabuko Sokoke area and identified an additional site of 44 ha for the project. The county map that shows remnant forest patches, mother trees, priority sites for restoration and protection and indicating restoration approaches for each site is currently in draft form and will soon be reviewed by project partners and published online for further review. Refer to annex 1 for the draft map.

Output 2: 136 people from marginalised groups in Kilifi County have improved capacity to engage in forest restoration and protection activities and are employed in new or expanded restoration enterprises and 1,000 additional households are benefitting from trees on farms.

Follow up and new trainings were delivered to a total of 174 people during the second year. 132 people (53 women 72 men) obtained seed collection and nursery management and business development skills; 10 people (4 women and 6 men) received the training for restoration workers. 2 people (2 male) received the seed technician's training. 3 people have been trained as education officers (2 women and 1 man). 11 (6 men and 5 women) community environmental champions (enumerators) also received training on restoration, farmer engagement, carbon credits and tree growing and aftercare techniques. 16 (5 women 11 men) people were trained on soil conservation techniques. Refer to annex 2 for training resources and attendance lists.

A large fraction of the people trained in various aspects of the project were employed and continued earning from the project through the second year. The table below shows the category of work and the number of people. Refer to annex 3 for the record of people engaged in the project.

Category	Number	Male	Female	Youth	% Female	% Male	% Youth
Seed collectors	57	40	17	25	30%	70%	43%
Nursery Workers	50	23	27	24	54%	46%	48%
Restoration workers	8	6	2	6	25%	75%	75%
Education officers	3	1	2	3	67%	33%	100%
Seed technician	1	1	0	1	0%	100%	100%
Community scouts	8	5	3	8	38%	62%	100%
Enumerators	11	6	5	11	45%	55%	100%
Botanists	1	1	0	0	0%	100%	0%
Assistant Botanists	2	2	0	1	0%	100%	50%
Totals	**141**	**85**	**56**	**78**	**40%**	**60%**	**55%**

Table 3: Breakdown of project community workers desegregated by gender.

Every person working on the project in the second year was earning a daily rate of KES 750 which is above the minimum wage of the country. The nursery workers worked the highest number of days because of the amount of work needed in the nurseries. They worked up to 15 days each month for the full year, and the seed collectors worked up to 10 days each month over 5 months across the year. The seed technician is also employed on a full-time basis, and the education officers also work on part time basis, but they are paid a monthly salary. Refer to annex 4 for records of regular salary payments.

960 farmers were outreached during the second year of the project on useful species and woodlots, benefits of planting indigenous trees and how to manage them, proper planting techniques, and seedlings were distributed to 400 of them to plant.

Output 3: Supply of appropriate seed and seedlings of native and threatened species increased sufficiently in Kilifi County to support restoration of project demonstration sites (Output 1) and planting in additional sites.

Infrastructural support was given to 11 nurseries, 5 water tanks were installed for Kaya Kauma, Chasimba, CGK and KFS nurseries. Infrastructural support was also given for the establishment of the seedbank at Gede Tropical Nursery. Refer to annex 5 for photos of nursery sites and receipts.

180 species are being monitored in situ, and seeds have been collected from all the 180 species. 45 species are threatened and near threatened. Propagation protocols have been developed for 20 species and more prioritization of difficult species will be done in the third year and propagation protocols developed for the additional species. 195,203 seedlings of 180 species were produced in the nursery during the second year of the project. Refer to annexes 6 to 10 for verification.

20,937 seedlings of 135 species supplied to restoration sites. 1000 seedlings of 10 species supplied to schools. 10,162 seedlings of 35 species supplied to farms/homesteads. 16,773 seedlings of 43 species sold from the nurseries. Please refer to table 2 for the summary of seedling sales in each of the nurseries.

Output 4: Restoration demonstration sites established that follow best practice, trial and monitor different restoration approaches, promote the use of native and threatened species and act as demonstration sites.

The Restoration Advisory Group met once at the beginning of the year to assess the restoration activities lined up for the second year and provided individual support as needed throughout the rest of the year. Because of the delayed rains in the coast, tree planting for the next season will begin in May, and therefore the restoration committee will meet again in May 2024 to review the restoration interventions employed so far. Refer to annex 11 for advisory group meeting proceedings.

A restoration monitoring plan has been developed for the project and annual monitoring has been carried out. An additional restoration site was added to the project which covers 44ha bringing the total area of restoration sites to 176 ha. A baseline survey has been conducted for the site. 27,937 seedlings of 143 species have been planted in the restoration sites. 22 planted species are threatened and near threatened. In the long rains of 2023, we did not have a lot of mature seedlings in the nurseries that could be planted in the restoration sites. Therefore, a lot of the planting was done in the short rains in Oct-Dec but some of the sites in Kilifi did not receive significant rainfall for planting. In the 2024 long rains (May-June), we intend to do massive planting in the restoration sites to cover the planting deficit that has been experienced in the earlier year. Refer to annexes 12, 13 and 14 for baseline survey for the additional restoration sites and updated restoration and monitoring plans.

10,000 students in 11 schools are currently involved in planting activities in schools through the engagement of the education officers. 1000 seedlings of 10 species have been planted in schools across Kilifi. The model school has been identified and it has 3 acres of planting space. 10,162 seedlings of 35 species were planted in farms/homesteads. One demonstration farm has been established in Mida creek and 1,600 seedlings of 20 species have been planted. As per the current monitoring results, the survival rate of the planted trees is at 70%. Refer to annex 15 for the monitoring report. Significant restoration activities have only started in the last few months in the restoration sites because of all the preparation work that had to be done. In the third year, we will be in a good position to show tangible impact in the restoration sites and will host more visitors to the sites. Across the 11 nurseries we have hosted 150 people from 15 organizations over the last year.

Output 5: Mechanisms in place to ensure long-term sustainability of project outputs, scalability of best practice restoration within Kilifi County and replicability across the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest hotspot.

Discussions have been initiated with private companies like Equity and Absa banks, and non-governmental organizations like Plan International and World Vision Kenya, to support restoration activities through purchasing seedings for restoration from the nurseries. Community meetings and events have been held in the Kaya Forest communities to encourage native tree planting and this has led to approximately 600 individuals purchasing seedlings and planting them for restoration. A marketing strategy has been developed for the project, which will be fully executed in Year 3. Public sensitization meetings have reached up to 8,000 people and social and mainstream media has reached up to 30,000 people about the project's restoration interventions. Refer to annex 16 for IEC and media materials.

We have submitted our PIN to Plan Vivo and it is currently under review. We have also established a partnership with AirImpact and we are using their platform to assist in the development of the carbon project documents and making carbon calculations. The carbon registration process has been met with significant hurdles from the beginning of the project, owing to the size and design of the project. However, we have been able to work out the challenges and had several engagements with Plan Vivo to ascertain our validity for certification. Currently, we have engaged 365 smallholder farmers who have signed consent to be included in the carbon project, in addition to the restoration sites. Refer to annex 17 for the Carbon project PIN.

We have been co-leading the amendment of the Kilifi County Forest Management and Tree Growing Policy with the county government. We held a "writeshop" in March 2024, in collaboration with the county government and relevant stakeholders who proposed text amendments for the policy statements to cover enhanced focus on native tree planting. The draft amended policy is currently in development with BGCI Africa and the county government co-leading its development. In year 3, we will also be developing tools and resources to support tree planting and rehabilitation projects, and implementation of the new policy. These include a resource to support education and awareness creation to forest communities and integrating that with indigenous knowledge; guidelines for establishing arboreta and green zones for the county; and resources for discouraging the exploitation for sacred and cultural species. Refer to annex 18 for policy workshop report, participant lists and photos.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Our intended Outcome is that Kilifi County provides a scalable model of best practice restoration for the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest hotspot providing employment to 136 local people and conservation of 40 threatened species.

Good progress has been made towards this Outcome. All project interventions are underway, and the impacts have started being realized. We are in a good position to develop the intended county level restoration model that will document the project process, impacts, and the lessons learned, so it can be replicated and scaled up to other areas. The project has established significant partnerships and strengthened working relationships with existing partners. We are in the process of developing the next phase of scaling up the project across the rest of Kilifi County and the East African Coastal Biodiversity Hotspot.

We have trained 174 community members and 141 of them have been receiving regular income from the project. We have also surpassed our species target of 150 native tree species including 40 threatened and near threatened. We have managed to locate and monitor 180 species of native trees in situ, including 45 threatened and near threatened and the same number of species have been produced in the nurseries. We have so far planted 143 species in the restoration sites, 22 of which are threatened and near threatened species. All the supporting documents have been included in the annexes as highlighted under each output and under the activity's sections. The indicators are accurately measuring the intended outcome, and we foresee the likelihood of achieving the outcome by the end of the project.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption **1**: Proposed activities are still possible under COVID-19 restrictions (helped by the fact that most project activities can be done outside). ***Comments***: this assumption carries reduced risk now. COVID-19 disruption has reduced over the past year as restrictions related to gathering people have all been lifted in Kenya.

Assumption 2: Training is still possible under future COVID-19 restrictions (helped by the fact that most of the training can be done outside). ***Comments***: this assumption carries reduced risk now. COVID-19 disruption is not there, and trainings can go on even indoors with no restrictions on the numbers.

Assumption 3: Access will be given to additional sites for seed collection (permission of many sites already obtained). ***Comments***: this assumption has reduced risk. During the year 1 and year 2 we obtained permission to access to sites.

Assumption 4: Water supply is available at nurseries (mitigated by working with existing nurseries but the risk could increase if rains are poor). ***Comments***: this assumption still holds true. Kenya has been affected by drought and rains at the coast have been scarce. However, to mitigate the risk, water tanks and rain harvest systems have been provided to nurseries.

Assumption 5: Costs of native seedlings are appealing to purchasers. ***Comments***: this assumption partly still holds true. The project is managing this assumption by a marketing assessment and strategy. However, for large organizations which are looking to plant tens to hundreds of thousands of trees, then they require significantly reduced prices, which are lower than what the nurseries are comfortable selling at currently. A global shift in the 1 USD per tree model is needed, which BGCI is advocating for via this project and the development of the Global Biodiversity Standard (www.biodiversitystandard.org, project DAREX001).

Assumption 6: Water is available at sites for planted seedlings (mitigated by careful site selection and planning but the risk could increase if the rains are poor). ***Comments***: this assumption still holds true. Kenya has been affected by drought and rains at the coast has been scarce. Planting of trees was postponed in some seasons for some sites because rains received were not sufficient.

Assumption 7: Permission will be given to restore additional sites. ***Comments***: this assumption holds true. Interest from other stakeholders have been shown during the first and second year of the project and new potential restoration sites identified.

Assumption 8: Carbon markets remain strong during and after the project period (predictions look good) and interested buyers of carbon credits will be identified in the voluntary market. ***Comments***: this assumption holds true as there is still interest in carbon markets. However, our project is small scale with respect to carbon credits, focusing more on diversity rather than number of trees planted. BGCI has developed partnerships with Climate Impact Partners, Plan Vivo, Global Evergreening Alliance and AirImpact, and is exploring partnerships with other organisations focused more on biodiversity and livelihoods rather than simply carbon sequestration. We are also looking into the potential for entering the biodiversity credits market.

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

This project aimed to have a positive impact on biodiversity by promoting the incorporation of native and threatened species into ecosystem restoration, agroforestry projects and tree planting projects. It also aimed to provide benefit biodiversity, including threatened species of fauna and flora, via enhanced connectivity, directly and further through seedlings sales and planting by other stakeholders. Developing a County Indigenous Tree Planting Policy also aimed to improve protection of additional forest fragments, reducing the risk of further negative impact on biodiversity from large-scale exotic monoculture planting and invasive species planting.

Positive impacts on biodiversity are being realised. This project is having a positive impact on biodiversity by enhancing protection of mature native and threatened trees via increased survey and monitoring efforts for seed collection. All partners in the project have also been trained to collect seeds rather than wildlings, which can damage forest health, so there is also a positive impact on forest health in areas where wildlings were previously being collected. The project is facilitating and promoting the incorporation of native and threatened species into ecosystem restoration, agroforestry projects and tree-planting projects, demonstrating that results can be achieved quickly with native species and busting the common myth that all native species are too slow for planting. The project is also created a viable model for a carbon credits project, that focuses on native species, and provides a practical restoration example to support the numerous studies that are coming out that show that natural forests with high biodiversity and complex fauna and flora systems are better at storing carbon than plantations.

The project aimed to provide direct contributions to poverty reduction by identifying community groups and farmers to involve in the project, by training and employing 136 people and by planting native trees on homesteads. Positive impacts on poverty alleviation are being realised. This project is employing 141 people and has also built the business acumen of project beneficiaries who are making sales and have infrastructural support and technical knowledge on building and running successful restoration enterprises. Trees have been planted on farms for multiple benefits. Over the long term, the project aims to reduce poverty, increasing opportunities for local communities to economically benefit from restoration employment, carbon credits, payment for ecosystem services.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project is contributing to national policy, specifically:

Kenya's NBSAP (2019–2030) Goal 2, Strategic target 22 which calls for ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks to be enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030. This project will make a significant contribution by bringing sites under restoration using a high diversity of native and threatened species, increasing supply of good quality seed and seedlings, and establishing mechanisms to continue scaling up best practice restoration in Kilifi and the EACF;

Kenya's 5.1 million ha Bonn Challenge pledge by bringing 180 ha under restoration, planting trees at 1,000 homesteads and 10 schools, supplying an additional 240,000 seedlings for restoration. Kenya's national-level restoration potential map designates large areas of degraded EACF in Kilifi for plantations and bamboo, but Kenya's NBSAP flags that, whilst plantations have increased in cover in recent years, all types of natural forest have decreased over the same period. This project is demonstrating that more appropriate restoration methods can be carried out in Kilifi, contributing to the 5.1m pledge and generating biodiversity and economic benefits;

Kenya's Vision 2030, by rehabilitating and protecting indigenous forest (our target is 180ha by the end of year 3 and good progress has been made). And also by mapping forest fragments for protection and ensuring they are formally recognised in the county-level tree planting policy, and as KBAs or AZEs;

Kenya's NDC by growing a target of 400,000 trees by the end of year 3, regenerating an additional estimated 30,000 trees through Assisted Natural Regeneration. Good progress has also been made to

engage a carbon financing partner to quantify and formalise the contribution and ensure benefits go to communities;

And finally, Kenya's national vision and goals for tree conservation, co-developed by the jointly led BGCI-KFS Kenya Threatened Trees Consortium, by providing *in situ* protection of threatened tree species, raising awareness of the need to conserve Kenya's threatened trees and including them in planting programmes.

The project is also contributing to the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework targets, particularly:
- Target 2, by bringing degraded land under restoration and ensuring connectivity of EACF.
- Target 3, by conserving important biodiversity areas that incorporate threatened trees as well as other important species, ensuring their effective and equitable management, and integrating biodiversity into wider landscapes by planting native trees on farms.
- Target 4, by enabling the recovery and conservation of species and genetic diversity of 40 threatened tree species, including ex situ seed banking.
- Target 8, by mitigating and adapting to climate change through ecosystem-based approaches and ensuring that all future tree-planting mitigation and adaptation efforts within Kilifi avoid negative impacts on biodiversity.
- Target 10, by ensuring areas under agriculture and forestry are managed sustainably and include native trees.

The project also contributes to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation targets, which sits under the CBD.

This project contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly:
- Target 1, by providing employment opportunities to 141 people to reduce poverty.
- Target 13, by capturing carbon through restoration activities.
- Target 15.1 by ensuring the improved conservation of Kilifi's forests, 15.2 by restoring degraded forests and increasing reforestation in Kilifi County, and 15.5 by taking urgent action to halt biodiversity loss and prevent the extinction of threatened tree species.

5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The project is contributing to poverty reduction by ensuring that local community members are project beneficiaries, including community forest associations, farmers, and other groups. We have provided training on monitoring phenology and seed collection, propagation, nursery management and business skills, restoration techniques, after care and monitoring, species management, recovery, and reintroduction to 174 people. In this reporting period, the project has provided employment to 141 people who have regularly earned an income from various working categories at the rate of KES 750 per working day, which is above the minimum wage for Kenya. We have also built the capacity of the local communities by providing nursery infrastructure and knowledge needed to build successful restoration enterprises. Currently, some of the nurseries have started making sales from their nurseries and seed collectors are also selling sustainably sourced seeds, which adds to their income. Even when the project wraps up, these skills and income generating capabilities will remain with the project beneficiary, thereby contributing to poverty alleviation.

We have also planted and will continue to plant native trees on homesteads and farmlands which will provide benefits of ornamental trees, medicinal, fruits and timber and in the long term, these trees have the potential to provide them with income. Farmers have also been taught how to collect seeds from their trees and they have been connected to nurseries within Kilifi. This has enabled them to be part of the seed supply chain as the trees on their land mature and give them further incentive to maintain trees on their farms.

6. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board[1].	100%: Referring to the leadership of the project 50%: Referring to the Project Steering Committee membership
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].	50%

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

Internally, within BGCI, the project is being led by all women from the project leader to the project manager. At the Project Steering Committee level, 50% of the members are women. 50% of the partner organizations are either led by or have women in a senior leadership position. At the beginning of the project, we held two gender mainstreaming trainings. The first one was delivered to the project partners to ensure that they are providing equal opportunities to women and are sensitive of gender issues. The second one was at the community and stakeholder level that enabled the selection of project beneficiaries to be gender sensitive. We have managed to achieve 40% direct women project beneficiaries and 55% youth in a community that is still largely patriarchal and where older generations, especially in the Kaya communities, tend to be more active in issues related to forest management and tree planting, than the young people.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation are led by the project team (Project Leader and Project Manager). Quarterly progress and budget checks are carried out, and biannual meetings are held with the Steering Committee (SC), to evaluate the project progress against the log frame and indicators. To ensure high attendance and minimise expenditures, the SC meetings are taking place on-line. Regular meetings are

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[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.

also held between the BGCI team and the different partners to assess the progress and provide support if any challenges arise. The ecological baseline survey and the socio-economic baseline established in year 1 also allows assessment of indicators in year 2 and 3.

We follow a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan to monitor the achievement of project indicators. For restoration and biodiversity, we have developed a monitoring form that was used in the second year to monitor the planting impacts with the farmers and in the restoration sites. The monitoring results are available ▉▉▉ Partners are also part of the monitoring activities as they conduct quarterly monitoring and reporting throughout the year, and report on the assigned indicators to the project leader. Nursery production figures are provided monthly to the BGCI team to enable us to keep track of progress towards production targets.

8. Lessons learnt

We have experienced a challenge during the distribution of seedlings for planting to the farmers. During the first year of the project, when registering the farmers, we did an initial round of sensitization about the benefits of planting indigenous trees and getting information from them on their preferred species of indigenous trees. However, during the distribution, some of the small holder farmers rejected the indigenous trees and mentioned exotic trees that they wanted to plant. This showed us that more education is needed with the local communities to shift their mind towards planting indigenous trees in their farms. To remedy this, we are developing more in-depth education and outreach materials, and plan to do more in depth engagement, including connecting them to the model farm foresters for demonstration of the benefits of native tree planting in farms like theirs. This issue didn't have a significant impact on the project since the trees the farmers didn't accept to plant have been planted in the schools.

The carbon component of the project is proving to be more resource intensive than we initially anticipated and budgeted for. The additional funds we redirected from year 1, after approval of the change request submitted last year, has enabled us to engage a consultant and begin the certification process. We have also started a new partnership with AirImpact, a digital platform connecting developers, investors and buyers in the nature-based carbon market. This partnership will help us bring the project into the carbon market and thus finance a future expansion and ensure the sustainability.

Not all coastal indigenous plants grow well in every location along the Kenyan coast. Some species are endemic to specific locations. For example, *Erythrophleum sauveolens* does well in south coast but not in the north coast. Much of this information is new, as many species have not been grown and planted before, and records of previous species distributions can be patchy. This highlights the importance of using reference forests to guide planting, an approach which has been used in this project.

Neem tree leaves have an allelopathic behaviour when they fall on potted plants, inhibiting the growth of some seedlings. This has been observed in some nurseries. This can help to inform the placement of future nurseries, by avoiding using neem as shade for indigenous plants at the nursery.

Another positive lesson learned by Green Heart of Kenya, is that adopting a more concentrated planting style akin to the Miyawaki style, as opposed to a low density even distribution of seedlings across the target restoration area, can be almost as cost effective in the coastal area, while bearing significant additional advantages from a growth perspective. In fact, proximity of a mixture of shrubs and tree seedlings support early establishment and creation of suitable forest-like conditions. They have noticed impacts even in the very short term and this will be explored further in year 3 of the project and going forwards

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

The comments provided on award were addressed in the past half year report and reported here below, in addition to the feedback received on the previous review:

- The risks identified are appropriate and mitigated, though not exhaustive (e.g. climate variability impacts on seedlings/seed collection are not sufficiently accounted for):

Response: the risk register has been updated and a new risk considering the climate variability has been added.

- similarly, the assumptions in the logframe are somewhat limited. For example, in Output 2, there is no assumption about peoples' willingness to take jobs, or attend training;

Response: A new assumption has been added.

- the pathway to benefit 1,000 additional households is not clear and it does not seem supported by the actions for Output 2.

Response: A new activity (2.4.1) has been added under Output 2.

- the logframe could be strengthened:

- some indicators are not measurable – for example, 'more secure' under indicator 0.5;
- clarification of the number of seedlings planted would be welcomed, as the number appears to vary between indicators, and consider using measures related to seedling survival rather than just planting;
- some indicators (e.g. 2.2) could be simplified or split into sub-indicators as they are measuring multiple things.

Response: the log frame has been updated, addressing all comments.

- The change in carbon finance specialist may make it more difficult to deliver this aspect of the project. Terraformation were also identified as a contributor of match funding (£95,000) so it would be useful to have some explanation/consideration of the risks related to this change in the next report.

Response: despite the decision of Terraformation to draw back from their commitment to provide a quote for registering the project for carbon credits, we are progressing on this project component. We engaged the services of a consultant in year 2 and have developed a Project Idea Note (PIN), which has been submitted to Plan Vivo and it is currently under review. We are in the process of getting all the relevant agreements and documentation in place to proceed with the full application. We have also partnered with AirImpact, and we are using their platform to assist in development of the carbon project and calculation of the potential sequestration.

The gap created by Terraformation's lack of support in installing a high-tech seed bank at one of the project sites has already been filled by the project. We were able to use some of the infrastructure budget to establish a lower-tech facility, without any negative impact on the efficiency of the system or other project components. We were able to create links with the technicians of one of the project partners who had previously received a high-tech seed bank by Terraformation in a facility in another region of Kenya (out of this project). They have trained the seed technicians on the coast, and they are assisting with technical advice and sharing experiences.

10. Risk Management

No additional risks were highlighted or added to the risk register during year 2. The current version of the register has been attached to this report as Annex 19. The risks will be reviewed again at the next project Steering Committee meeting that will take place in May 2024, and if any additional risks are added or existing risks amended, an updated version will be shared with the next mid-year report.

11. Sustainability and legacy

The Kaya Connect project includes a diversity of partners from the government, CSOs and the private sector. In all the capacity building workshops and trainings that the project has carried out, we have had representation from government officials, the private sectors and CSOs and we have shared all our capacity building materials. The project has also attracted the interest of executive authorities at the county level including the governor and the county executive committee members. This has led to BGCI co leading the amendment of the Kilifi County Forest Management and Tree Growing Policy which will leave a legacy in Kilifi and will enable a stronger focus on native tree species protection and restoration in Kilifi in all future landscape restoration and rehabilitation programs.

The sustainable benefits envisioned beyond the project are still valid. We have begun connecting the nurseries with markets for the seeds and seedlings and they have begun making sales, thereby generating income that will enable them to be sustainable after project funding has ended. We are also seeking match funding and partnerships that will scale up the project and aid the community in further alternative livelihoods to keep pressure from the community members off the restoration sites and the forest fragments. We are in the process of engaging with Plan Vivo on the carbon markets and we envision a successful registration of the project for carbon, and we are exploring the potential for the project to act as a pilot for biodiversity credits as well. However, the proceeds from these will only be possible a few years past project funding, therefore on this front, we are being careful to not overpromise to the project beneficiaries and partners.

We are continuing to build the capacity of all the project beneficiaries and making all the materials available to them for future reference. As we aim for behaviour change towards indigenous tree planting, and forest landscape restoration practices, we intend to ensure that the communities can continue executing the best practices at the grassroots level.

The project is producing a model that is well documented and can be replicated across the EACF and other counties of Kenya. The project will therefore have a strong legacy, as we envision that the impact will continue to scale in future.

12. Darwin Initiative identity

The project has publicized the Darwin Initiative through the information and education materials that have been developed. This includes infographics and flyers; signages for the project, plaques that have been designed for the nurseries; a project banner that is used in all gatherings for the project, and T-shirts given to project partners and some project beneficiaries. All of these include the Darwin logo. In all project meetings and gatherings, we ensure that we credit the contribution of the UK government. There is good understanding and recognition of the Darwin Initiative as the funding entity for this projects. We also mention and tag the Darwin Initiative, and BCF in all social media posts across our platforms and those of the project partners.

13. 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 *Name: Ane* ▮▮▮▮▮▮ *Email:* ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮
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% core project staff [3 at BGCI Africa and all BGCI Global staff] Planned: Project partners
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. All the project documents signed by BGCI's partners require them to adhere to BGCI's code of conduct including the safeguarding policy. This will be stressed more in the coming agreements with the partners and IF there is need for any safeguarding training, we will plan for it to be delivered to the partners as well.	
Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and number of participants. Community sensitization in the past 12 months has been with regards to tree planting and the benefits of planting indigenous trees. Since this is directly linked to economic, social and cultural issues, the connection of trees to these factors was also addressed in the community sensitization meetings.	
Have there been any concerns around Health, Safety and Security of your project over the past year? If yes, please outline how this was resolved. No, there haven't been any health safety, or security issues in any of the project sites.	

14. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure <u>during the reporting period</u> (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)				Draft figure
Consultancy costs				Draft figure
Overhead Costs				Draft figure
Travel and subsistence				Draft figure
Operating Costs				Draft figure
Capital items (see below)				Draft figure. A change request was submitted to carry some infrastructure funding to year 3 for one nursery partner, but they decided that the items were needed earlier, and so funding was provided to ensure they did not miss their seedling production

					targets or lose momentum for the project. This overspen has been offset by slight underspends on other budget lines.
Others (see below)		████████████████			Draft figure. A change request was submitted to provide additional funding for a carbon consultant. An appropriate consultant for the next phase of support required was identified, but an agreement on costs was not reached before the end of year 2. BGCI intends to submit a change request to ask if this funding can be carried forwards and used in Q1 year 3.
TOTAL		**185,022**	**178,315**		

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 (£)	████████████		Global Genome Initiative – Gardens Award, Seedling sales Darwin Innovation
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)	████████████		International Climate Initiative Darwin Innovation

	Tanzanian coast (and elsewhere in Tanzania).		

15. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere.

We realized that pests and diseases were causing a problem in some nurseries which was leading to high mortality of affected species. To mitigate this, we distributed monitoring forms for pests and diseases to each nursery to track symptoms and impact. Using this information, we will seek the assistance of BGCI's staff who have more expertise in this area to issue training to the nurseries on management of the pests and diseases in year 3 of the project.

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).

In this section you have the chance to let us know about outstanding achievements of your project or significant strides towards attaining a particular goal so far that you consider worth sharing with the wider Biodiversity Challenge Fund community.

This could relate to achievements or considerable progress already mentioned in this report, on which you would like to expand further, or achievements that were in addition to the ones planned and deserve particular attention. It may also include advancements towards any Darwin Initiative Programme Objectives such as support to conventions, agreements or treaties, biodiversity, poverty reduction or gender equality and social inclusion. We may use material from this section for various promotion and dissemination purposes, including for example, publication in the Defra Annual Report, Darwin Initiative promotion material, or on the Darwin Initiative website. **Please limit text to 400 words.**

Please also include an engaging high resolution image, video or graphic* that you consent to be publicised alongside the above text. Please ensure:

- that you have left the above agreement clause to indicate your consent. Text without this will not be used

- any images or videos are sent as separate files and not embedded in the body of the report

*If you have no photos or videos for reasons of sensitivity, then please state that clearly and the BCFs Comms team can work to create an alternative graphic.

Image, Video or Graphic Information:

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

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

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact Patches of Eastern Africa Coastal Forest are re-connected providing conservation of threatened species and employment for local people who are working to protect, manage and restore this global biodiversity hotspot.	The project is progressing well with the restoration actions that are aimed at reconnecting the East African Coastal Forests. The project is restoring degraded forest fragments covering 176ha of land, creating buffer zones with the local communities and planting trees in households and farmlands. The project is protecting and conserving 45 threatened and near threatened species and has employed 141 people from the local communities.	███████████
Outcome Kilifi County provides a scalable model of best practice restoration for the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest hotspot providing employment to 136 local people and conservation of 40 threatened species		
0.1 County-level restoration model is developed and published by end of year 3	All project interventions are underway, and the impacts have started being realized. All the processes, challenges, results and lessons are being documented, which will be included in the restoration model.	Drafting the restoration model, review and publishing it.
0.2 By end of year 3, the model is scaling up in Kilifi County, with matched funding raised and additional sites under restoration	The project has started engaging restoration actors and potential partners on the restoration model and expressing interest for scaling up within and beyond Kilifi.	Development of a scaled phase 2 of the project that will enhance the impacts realized. Developing partnerships and resource mobilization for matched funding.
0.3 By end of year 3, the model has been shared with at least 40 organisations from across the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest hotspot	The model is under development, and potential organizations for sharing the model have been identified.	Finalizing development of the model and sharing with the identified organizations.
0.4 136 people trained and employed in restoration enterprises from year 1 - year 3	174 people trained, 141 employed and earning regular income from the project.	Continuing to provide employment to the community members and empower them to run successful restoration enterprises.

0.5 40 threatened species more secure *in situ,* and incorporated into restoration by end of year 3	The project has surpassed the target on species protected and incorporated in restoration. So far, 180 species (45 threatened and near threatened) have been located and protected in situ and are growing in nurseries. 143 species (22 threatened) have been planted in restoration sites.	Expanding into additional forest fragments within Kilifi to locate and protect more threatened trees. Planting more native and threatened trees in the restoration sites.
Output 1 Remaining forest fragments mapped and their potential as seed sources or tree islands better understood		
Output indicator 1.1 1.1 Existing information on coastal forest patches collated by end of Q2	The report on existing forest fragments was developed and shared in year 1.	Any additional forest fragments expanded into as seed sources will be documented and their information added to the existing report.
Output indicator 1.2, 1.2 Satellite imagery, drone imagery and site visits used to identify and verify important sites and mother trees, select project sites by end of year 1, and extended across coastal Kilifi by end of year 2	Extension of the restoration sites was done in year 2 towards the Arabuko Sokoke area, where an additional restoration site of 44ha was identified, and baseline ecological survey has been conducted on it. Refer to annexe 14 for the report.	Potential areas to extend the project will be identified and well documented.
Output indicator 1.3 County map of remnant forest patches, mother trees, priority sites for protection & restoration published, using IUCN ROAM map as base layer and indicating restoration approach, by end of year 2	There is a draft map that is currently under development. Refer to annex 1 for the map.	Finalizing and publishing of the restoration map.
Output 2. 136 people from marginalised groups in Kilifi County have improved capacity to engage in forest restoration and protection activities and are employed in new or expanded restoration enterprises and 1,000 additional households are benefitting from trees on farms		
Output indicator 2.1. Based on restoration site selection (Output 1), and working with Kenya Forest Service (KFS), kaya elders, Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and other partners, 136 people (target at least 50% women and 50% youth) identified to be trained and employed,	All community project workers were identified in Year 1. Currently, the project has 40% women workers, 60% men and 55% youth.	Performance assessments done by the project partners to explore avenues of achieving better gender balance.
Output indicator 2.2. At least 1,000 homesteads for planting identified by end of year 1	1300 farmers were identified by end of year 1.	Additional farmers to be engaged in tree planting.
Output indicator 2.3. Training delivered to 136 people delivered (target at least 50% women and 50% youth), by end of year 2	Training has been delivered to 174 people (40% women, 60% men and 55% youth).	Training needs assessment conducted to determine the

		capacity gaps for the workers and top up training offered.
Output indicator 2.4. All 136 trainees employed by restoration enterprises and receiving higher than average daily income of 725 Kenyan Shillings by end of year 1, and in years 2 and 3	141 people employed in the project (40% men, 60% women and 55% youth) as seed collectors, nursery workers, restoration workers, education officers, seed technicians, community scouts, enumerators, botanists, assistant botanists. Refer to table 3 for the breakdown of workers and annex 3 for the records of people engaged in the project.	Continuing to provide employment and building the capacity of the partners to be able to retain the employees even after project funding comes to an end.
Output indicator 2.5. 1,000 additional households benefiting from trees on farms (useful species and woodlots) and guidance on how to manage them, by end of year 3	960 farmers were outreached on useful species and woodlots, benefits of planting indigenous trees and how to manage them, proper planting techniques, and seedlings were distributed to 400 of them to plant.	Establishment of a community woodlot and planting trees in over 600 additional homesteads.
Output 3.		
Supply of and demand for seed and seedlings of native and threatened species increased in Kilifi County		
Output indicator 3.1. Required infrastructure improvements for each nursery carried out by end of year 1	Infrastructure improvements continued in year 2. Highlights included installing a seed bank at Gede Tropical Nursery and providing shade net and water tanks to nurseries to improve their seedling production capacity.	No further infrastructure improvement budget is available in year 3, but consumables will be provided to nurseries to enable them to reach seedling production targets.
Output indicator 3.2. Based on identification of priority sites for survey and collection (Output 1), 150 species, including 40 threatened species, monitored *in situ* and seed collected from year 1 to year 3	Surveys and seed collection continued in year 2. So far, the project has located and collected seeds from 180 indigenous tree species of which 45 are threatened and near threatened species.	Survey and seed collection work will continue in year 3 to provide planting material to nurseries.
Output indicator 3.3. Seed of 150 species stored & planted in nurseries, with storage and propagation protocols developed, and total 400,000 seedlings grown by end of year 3	15,000 seeds of 19 species are stored in the project seed bank so far. 145,145 seedlings of 180 species have been propagated so far. Propagation information is being recorded, following training and a template provided for this.	Additional species and accessions will be added to the seed bank. Nurseries will continue to scale up seedling production. Propagation information will be collated so that protocols can be developed.

Output indicator 3.4. 160,000 seedlings of 150 species supplied to project restoration sites (140,000), schools (10,000) and homesteads (10,000) (Output 1) by end of year 3	A total of 40,699 seedlings have been planted so far. 1,000 seedlings were planted at school sites. 10,162 seedlings were planted at farm and homestead sites, and an additional 1,600 at the model farm site. The remaining seedings were planted at restoration sites. Preparations were made for further planting in the next rains (May – June 2024).	The main project planting activity will take place in May – June 2024. Further planting will take place in the short rains, October – December 2024. Due to the timing of the rainy seasons in Kilifi, this target will likely not be reached within the year 3 project timeframe, but during the months just afterwards (May – June 2025) when the subsequent big rains come.
Output indicator 3.5. 86,000 seedlings of 100 species sold from nurseries by end of year 2 and a further 154,000 seedlings of 150 species by end of year 3 (240,000 total seedlings sold during the project)	16,773 seedlings have so far been sold, generating 2,138,961 KES for nurseries (c. £12,700). Nursery workers were trained in business skills, including to give advice on which seedlings to sell to customers based on their location and planting needs.	Nurseries will be further supported to increase seedling sales in year 3 and the project team will aim to engage large-scale seedling purchasing partners by the end of year 3.
Output 4 Restoration demonstration sites established that follow best practice, trial and monitor different restoration approaches, promote the use of native and threatened species and act as demonstration sites		
Output indicator 4.1. Restoration advisory group formally established by end of Q2 year 1 and meeting at least twice per year	The Restoration advisory group met once as a group in year 2, but all members have been individually actively engaged in the project throughout year 2, visiting the restoration sites and providing advice to the restoration planning, implementation and monitoring.	Another meeting of the group will be held in Q1 year 3 to review restoration progress. The restoration consultant will provide further training and monitoring support. A second meeting will be held before project completion. The group will assist with development of the restoration manual (Output 5.4)

Output indicator 4.2. Sites confirmed for restoration, permission to restore obtained, baseline surveys carried out, appropriate restoration approaches identified and monitoring plan defined for each site by end of year 1	An additional 44ha site was identified for restoration. Permission to restore all project restoration sites has been obtained, as well as permission to plant on farmer's land. For each site a restoration plan has been developed or is in development, which includes a monitoring plan.	Restoration plans will be completed in year 3, appropriate restoration approaches will continue to be implemented and monitoring will continue.
Output indicator 4.3. 180 ha brought under ecological restoration, including planting at least 140,000 seedlings of 150 species from Q3 year 1 to project end	176 ha has been brought under ecological restoration. 40,699 seedlings of 135 species have been planted.	Remaining target areas will be brought under restoration, expanding the coverage to at least 180ha. Planting will be scaled up to reach seedling and species targets.
Output indicator 4.4. 1,000 homesteads trialling planting of native and threatened trees, with at least 10 trees each (10,000 total) to further enhance connectivity, including useful species, alongside woodlots for income, by end of year 3 and 10,000 trees planted in schools to further enhance connectivity, with 1,000 students involved in planting and education activities by end of year 3	400 homesteads are trialling planting of native and threatened trees. So far, 10,162 seedlings have been planted on farms and homesteads, of 35 species. Model farmers have been identified to promote native tree planting to their peers. 1,000 seedlings of 10 species have been planted at 11 schools. 1,335 students have been directly involved in the project education programmes, and 10,200 students total have been involved in other activities including tree planting.	The number of homesteads and farms planting native trees will be scaled up to reach at least 1,000 homesteads with at least 10 trees each. Additional trees will be planted at schools, and more students engaged even though the engagement target has been met.
Output indicator 4.5. Approximately 60% - 70% of the trees planted surviving by the end of the project.	Current seedlings survival rate is 70%.	Monitoring will continue across all planting sites.
Output indicator 4.6. At least 300 people from at least 50 organisations visiting restoration sites by project end	The 11 partner nurseries have hosted 150 people from 15 organizations over the last year.	Additional visits will be organised to restoration sites throughout year 3, to reach a total of at least 300 people from at least 50 organisations.
Output 5: Mechanisms in place to ensure long-term sustainability of project outcomes, scalability within Kilifi County and replicability across the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest hotspot		
Output indicator 5.1. Connections made with tree planting organisations and private landowners from day 1 and throughout the project, and a county-level marketing campaign launched to	Connections have been made with additional local organisations not directly involved in the project, including government entities, CBOs and private sector. The	The campaign will continue in year 3 and additional

promote planting native and threatened trees and availability of seed and seedlings from nurseries, from year 1 to year 3	marketing campaign continued in year 2, with training and development of marketing materials.	organisations will be targeted, particularly for seedling sales.
Output indicator 5.2. Carbon financing partner secured by end of year 1 to ensure continued economic benefits for communities beyond the timeframe of the project.	A carbon consultant was appointed to support development of the carbon project. The Project Idea Note (PIN) has been submitted to Plan Vivo. Communities have been sensitised about the potential for the project to provide them with income from carbon credits. So far, 365 farmers have signed onto the carbon project.	The full Project Development Document (PDD) will be completed and submitted. We hope to engage a funder for the project in year 3. The plan is to increase the number of farmers to 2,500 farmers and collectively cover an area of 2000 ha.
Output indicator 5.3. Public sensitized about the value of protecting native trees, via county media channels in years 1, 2 and 3.	The project has been publicised through social media platforms (X, Linkedin, and Facebook) run by both BGCI, BGCI Africa and project partners. The project achieved television coverage on KTN (national media channel), focusing on the policy workshop and the need to focus on native and threatened trees.	An environmental reporter is engaged and following the project. The project will continue to sensitise the public via various media channels in year 3 as the project outputs become even more tangible.
Output indicator 5.4. Restoration approaches documented and made available in an open access manual, and training on Ten Golden Rules for Reforestation delivered to KFS staff across Kilifi County and 20 additional tree planting organisations working in Kilifi by end of year 3.	Restoration approaches have been documented, from mapping, to site identification, baseline assessment, restoration approach selection, implementation and monitoring. Two restoration trainings were carried out. The first training was delivered by BGCI to the project partners and the restoration workers (32 people, 13 women and 19 men). The second training was delivered by the restoration consultant from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and was attended by 35 people (14 women and 21 men). The training topics that were covered included going over the Ten Golden Rules for Reforestation, site management and aftercare techniques.	The manual will be completed in year 3 and published as an open access resource.
Output indicator 5.5. County-level tree planting policy developed with local and national government for large scale tree planting or rehabilitation projects, and zoning of areas for continued protection and future restoration by end of year 3.	A workshop was held with the County Government to draft rewording of the Kilifi County Forest Management and Tree Growing Policy and Act. 30 participants attended, representing local communities, the private sector, civil society organizations, academia and government	The Policy will be fully redrafted and submitted for formal review. Three soft tools will be produced to support policy implementation.

	organizations. Improved text was drafted, to have a stronger focus on native species. A number of soft tools and resources were also prioritised for development, which will support policy implementation.	
Output indicator 5.6. Restoration model and project outcomes shared with at least 40 additional organisations from across the EACF hotspot by end of year 3	The project process has been documented and will be fully written up as a model project in Year 3. Organisations have been identified to share the model with.	The model will be fully written up and shared via webinars to at least 40 additional organisations from across the EACF hotspot.

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
Impact: Patches of Eastern Africa Coastal Forest are re-connected providing conservation of threatened species and employment for local people who are working to protect, manage and restore this global biodiversity hotspot.			
Outcome: Kilifi County provides a scalable model of best practice restoration for the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest hotspot providing employment to 136 local people and conservation of 40 threatened species	0.1 County-level restoration model is developed and published by end of year 3. 0.2 By end of year 3, the model is scaling up in Kilifi County, with matched funding raised and additional sites under restoration. 0.3 By end of year 3, the model has been shared with at least 40 organisations from across the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest hotspot. 0.4 136 people trained and employed in restoration enterprises from year 1 - year 3. 0.5 40 threatened species identified and monitored In situ and incorporated into restoration by end of year 3.	0.1 Best practice manual, county-level tree planting policy, restoration demonstration sites 0.2 Grant agreements, partnership agreements for carbon finance, map, and satellite/drone imagery of sites under restoration 0.3 Webinar recordings, minutes from meetings 0.4 Assessment of skills before and after training for all trainees; Records of payments made to 136 employed people. 0.5 Monitoring reports, photos, and survey points for trees / populations *in situ;* Records of seedlings of each species propagated and planted.	Proposed activities are still possible under COVID-19 restrictions (helped by the fact that the majority of project activities can be done outside)
Output 1 Remaining forest fragments mapped and their potential as seed sources or tree islands better understood	1.1 Existing information on coastal forest patches collated by end of Q2. 1.2 Satellite imagery, drone imagery and site visits used to identify and verify important sites and mother trees, select project sites by end of year 1, and extended across coastal Kilifi by end of year 2.	1.1 Report on status of remaining forest patches published in Q2. 1.2 Annotated satellite and drone imagery and reports from site visits	

	1.3 County map of remnant forest patches, mother trees, priority sites for protection & restoration published, using IUCN ROAM map as base layer and indicating restoration approach, by end of year 2.	1.3 Map published and available online.	
Output 2 136 people from marginalised groups in Kilifi County have improved capacity to engage in forest restoration and protection activities and are employed in new or expanded restoration enterprises and 1,000 additional households are benefitting from trees on farms	2.1 Based on restoration site selection (Output 1), and working with Kenya Forest Service (KFS), kaya elders, Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and other partners, 136 people (target at least 50% women and 50% youth) identified to be trained and employed. 2.2 At least 1,000 homesteads for planting identified by end of year 1. 2.3 Training delivered to 136 people (target at least 50% women and 50% youth), by the end of year 2. 2.4 All 136 trainees employed by restoration enterprises and receiving higher than average daily income of 725 Kenyan Shillings by end of year 1, and in years 2 and 3. 2.5 1,000 additional households benefiting from trees on farms (useful species and woodlots) and guidance on how to manage them, by end of year 3.	2.1 Records of people engaged in project and project role. 2.2 Assessment of skills before and after training for all trainees; Training resources; Training course attendance records and certificates 2.3 Records of regular salary payments to all employed staff; Baseline and end of project socio-economic surveys carried out by an independent consultant. 2.4 Baseline and end of project socio-economic surveys, including questions on recognised benefits of native species.	Training is still possible under future COVID-19 restrictions (helped by the fact that the majority of training can be done outside) Peoples' willingness to attend trainings and take jobs in restoration enterprises (working with local partners and institutions closed to the communities, will help to engage people)

Output 3 Supply of and demand for seed and seedlings of native and threatened species increased in Kilifi County	3.1 Required infrastructure improvements for each nursery carried out by end of year 1. 3.2 Based on identification of priority sites for survey and collection (Output 1), 150 species, including 40 threatened species, monitored *in situ* and seed collected from year 1 to year 3. 3.3 Seed of 150 species stored & planted in nurseries, with storage and propagation protocols developed, and total 400,000 seedlings grown by end of year 3. 3.4 160,000 seedlings of 150 species supplied to project restoration sites (140,000), schools (10,000) and homesteads (10,000) (Output 1) by end of year 3. 3.5 86,000 seedlings of 100 species sold from nurseries by end of year 2 and a further 154,000 seedlings of 150 species by end of year 3 (240,000 total seedlings sold during the project)	3.1 Photos of nursery sites; Receipts to show material purchases. 3.2 Data capture forms from seed collecting trips; GPS points added to map. 3.3 Seedling production records; Seed bank records; Published propagation & storage protocols 3.4 Nursery records of number of seedlings of each species supplied to each site. 3.5 Nursery records of who is purchasing seed or seedlings, how much and for what purpose.	Access will be given to additional sites for seed collection (permission of many sites already obtained). Water supply is available at nurseries (mitigated by working with existing nurseries but the risk could increase if rains are poor). Costs of native seedlings are appealing to purchasers.
Output 4 Restoration demonstration sites established that follow best practice, trial and monitor different restoration approaches, promote the use of native	4.1 Restoration advisory group formally established by end of Q2 year 1 and meeting at least twice per year. 4.2 Sites confirmed for restoration, permission to restore obtained, baseline surveys carried out,	4.1 List of restoration advisory group members and minutes of advisory group meetings. 4.2 Delineated restoration sites; Written agreements demonstrating permission to restore; Baseline reports;	Water is available at sites for planted seedlings (mitigated by careful site selection and planning but the risk could increase if the rains are poor).

and threatened species and act as demonstration sites	appropriate restoration approaches identified, and monitoring plan defined for each site by end of year 1. 4.3 180 ha brought under ecological restoration, including planting at least 140,000 seedlings of 150 species from Q3 year 1 to project end. 4.4 1,000 homesteads trialling planting of native and threatened trees, with at least 10 trees each (10,000 total) to further enhance connectivity, including useful species, alongside woodlots for income, by end of year 3 and 10,000 trees planted in schools to further enhance connectivity, with 1,000 students involved in planting and education activities by end of year 3. 4.5 Approximately 60% - 70% of the trees planted surviving by the end of the project. 4.6 At least 300 people from at least 50 organisations visiting restoration sites by project end.	Published restoration and monitoring plans. 4.3 – 4.4 - 4.5 Photos and satellite / drone imagery showing restoration sites and change over time; Monitoring data from each site (including number of seedlings planted and surviving, number of seedlings naturally regenerating, and all indicators defined in 1.2). 4.6 Records of number of people, organisation, role in organisation, from each site	Permission will be given to restore additional sites.
Output 5 Mechanisms in place to ensure long-term sustainability of project outcomes, scalability within Kilifi County and replicability across the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest hotspot	5.1 Connections made with tree planting organisations and private landowners from day 1 and throughout the project, and a county-level marketing campaign launched to promote planting native and threatened trees and availability of seed and seedlings from nurseries, from year 1 to year 3.	5.1 Records of nursery visits; Newspaper articles; Recorded radio shows; Leaflets; Records of organisations purchasing and planting native and threatened trees	Carbon markets remain strong during and after the project period (predictions look good) and interested buyers of carbon credits will be identified in the voluntary market

	5.2 Carbon financing partner secured by end of year 1 to ensure continued economic benefits for communities beyond the timeframe of the project.	5.2 MOU/similar between partner organisations, communities, and carbon financing partner
	5.3 Public sensitized about the value of protecting native trees, via county media channels in years 1, 2 and 3.	5.3 Newspaper articles, recorded webinars, recorded radio shows, information leaflets, posters
	5.4 Restoration approaches documented and made available in an open access manual, and training on Ten Golden Rules for Reforestation delivered to KFS staff across Kilifi County and 20 additional tree planting organisations working in Kilifi by end of year 3.	5.4 Published and online tools and number of copies distributed / downloaded; Assessment of skills before and after training; Training course attendance records and certificates.
	5.5 County-level tree planting policy developed with local and national government for large scale tree planting or rehabilitation projects, and zoning of areas for continued protection and future restoration by end of year 3.	5.5 Minutes from meetings; Published policy and zoning plan
	5.6 Restoration model and project outcomes shared with at least 40 additional organisations from across the EACF hotspot by end of year 3.	5.6 Attendance records for webinars; Recordings of webinars; Presentations given at Kenya National Landscape Scaling Conference and other similar forums; Poll results and Q&A from webinars measuring how many organisations intend to adopt the model; Follow-up surveys with attendees.

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

Output 1   Remaining Forest fragments mapped and their potential as seed sources or tree islands better understood.

1.1.1   Collate existing maps and species lists for forests of Kilifi County, including analysis of herbarium vouchers.

1.1.2   Write a report on the status of remaining forest patches.

1.2.1   Obtain satellite imagery and drone images for remnant forest patches and potential restoration sites.

1.2.2   Visit sites for verification, identify and obtain GPS points for mother trees and populations.

1.2.3   Share data with project team and refine list of project sites before end of year 1

1.2.4   Scale up activities 1.2.1 – 1.2.3 across the whole of Kilifi County

1.3.1   Publish map for review.

1.3.2   Publish final version of map online and open access.

Output 2   136 people from marginalised groups in Kilifi County have improved capacity to engage in forest restoration and protection activities and are employed in new or expanded restoration enterprises and 1,000 additional households are benefitting from trees on farms.

2.1.1   Carry out gender mainstreaming training with KFS, kaya elders and other partners prior to selection of communities and homesteads to be involved in the project.

2.1.2   Hold meetings with KFS, kaya elders and other partners to identify 136 people to train and employ through the project and determine their roles based on proximity to sites and interests.

2.2.1   Provide theory and practical training on monitoring phenology and seed collection including Access and Benefit Sharing best practice to 60 people close to seed collection sites, on propagation, nursery management and business skills to an additional 40 people close to nursery sites, on restoration techniques, aftercare and monitoring to an additional 30 people close to restoration sites, on education and outreach to 3 additional people and on seed handling, germination testing and storage to an additional 3 people

2.2.2   Assess employees work and provide top-up training to all trainees as required at the start of each project year.

2.2.3   Provide certificates to each trainee for each completed course.

2.3.1   Appoint a consultant to carry out baseline socio-economic survey.

2.3.2   Provide each trainee with an employment contract specifying expected number of days work depending on the role.

2.3.3   Provide regular payments to each employee throughout the project.

2.3.4   Provide continued employment contracts to as many employees as possible before project end (depending on matched funding and success of seedling marketing) and provide reference letters to employees whose employment cannot be continued

2.3.5   Consultant repeats socio-economic survey.

2.4.1   Sensitisation with farmers about the benefit of planting economically viable native trees in their farm

2.4.2   Carry out and repeat surveys in years 1, 2 and 3 at 100 selected homesteads recording number of trees planted, recognised benefits, and change in demand for native species.

Output 3   Supply of appropriate seed and seedlings of native and threatened species increased sufficiently in Kilifi County to support restoration of project demonstration sites (Output 1) and planting in additional sites.

Note for activities under Output 3, recent survey work has already been carried out Kaya Kauma, Kaya Fungo-Giriama, Kaya Mtswakara, Kaya Rabai, Kaya Chonyi, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and permission to collect from all these sites has already been obtained. The following activities will expand the survey and seed collection area and species mix.

3.1.1   Procure and install equipment for nursery improvements, including installation of a seed bank.

3.2.1   Obtain permission from relevant authorities, traditional leaders and private landowners to carry out survey work and collect propagation material from additional sites.

3.2.2   Survey team from NMK carry out survey of additional reference forests, recording and mapping species present and recording phenological information, supplement survey data with herbarium record data, and produce target species list for each site.

3.2.3   Trained seed collectors assigned to continue survey, monitoring and recording phenology of each target species, collecting seed when available and taking it to nurseries.

3.3.1   Trained nursery workers plant seed, care for seedlings and document propagation protocols

3.3.2   Trained seed technicians carry out germination and storage testing on a portion of seed, and document germination and storage protocols.

3.4.1   Maintain records of seed and seedling availability and provenance, price (for 3.5) and utility of each species at each nursery.

3.4.2   Using target species lists and provenance of propagation material, supply the most appropriate seedlings for planting at each project restoration site.

3.5.1   Nursery workers meet with potential seedling purchasers at nurseries, and visit their planting sites, to provide guidance on appropriate species for planting.

3.5.2   Maintain records of seedlings sold, to who and for what purpose.

Output 4 Restoration demonstration sites established that follow best practice, trial, and monitor different restoration approaches, promote the use of native and threatened species and act as demonstration sites.

4.1.1   Formally invite identified representatives to sit on the restoration advisory group via phone calls, emails and requesting each member to sign a project agreement.

4.1.2   Hold meetings of the advisory group at least twice per year to review restoration progress.

4.2.1   Continue analysis and delineation of candidate sites for restoration using satellite / drone imagery and site visits.

4.2.2   Hold meetings with government, kaya elders, private landowners including farmers and schools, to obtain written permission to restore selected sites.

4.2.3   Survey team from the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) carry out baseline ecological surveys at each restoration site, documenting number of remaining natural regenerants, presence of invasive plants, current and past land-use, and level of degradation (following methodology from Restoring Tropical Forests: A Practical Guide")

4.2.4   Hold meetings with NMK survey team, landowners, kaya elders, local communities, other stakeholders, and restoration advisory group to determine appropriate restoration methodology at each site and develop monitoring plan for each site.

4.3.1   Procure equipment required to support restoration activities, including for water supply, planting, and monitoring.

4.3.2   Community members (trained in Output 2) carry out initial site preparation, including invasive plant removal, and hole digging for sites that require planting.

4.3.3   Plant seedlings out on sites (except those where Assisted Natural Regeneration is identified as the most appropriate restoration approach) aligning with rainy seasons (quarters shaded align with expected rainy seasons, but rain at the coast can be variable)

4.3.4   Carry out site maintenance, including watering, removal of invasive species.

4.3.5   Collect and analyse monitoring data from all restoration sites at least twice per year (following the plan and indicators defined in 1.3)

4.4.1   Work with kaya elders and government to identify 1,000 homesteads and schools within the restoration area to plant trees.

4.4.2   Carry out focus group discussions to identify which trees farmers and schools are interested in (specific tree species and what uses they are interested in, e.g. timber, fodder, etc.)

4.4.3   Establish five demonstration homesteads and 1 demonstration school.

4.4.4   Host meetings at demonstration homesteads and demonstration schools to engage additional farmers and schools and promote the benefits of planting native and threatened species.

4.4.5   Provide interested homestead owners within the project area and schools with trees, guidance, and planting support.

4.4.6   Collect and analyse monitoring data from homesteads and schools at least twice per year (following the plan and indicators defined in 1.3)

4.5.1   Identify target organisations, groups, and influential people to invite to visit sites.

4.5.2   Host visits to Kenya Forest Service staff, county government staff, tree planting organisations and corporates to demonstrate different restoration techniques and the benefits of planting native and threatened species.

Output 5   Mechanisms in place to ensure long-term sustainability of project outputs, scalability of best practice restoration within Kilifi County and replicability across the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest hotspot.

5.1.1   Work with marketing consultant to develop a marketing plan and carry out review of who to target to purchase seed or seedlings.

5.1.2   Aligning with marketing plan, develop marketing and outreach materials for all nurseries, promoting the native and threatened species available, including printed materials, online and via media channels.

5.1.3   Host talks and tours at nurseries to show availability and diversity of native and threatened species available.

5.1.4   Monitor success of marketing work, including number of people reached, number of new partners purchasing native or threatened trees who weren't before and seedling sales (3.4)

5.2.1   Connect restoration sites and partners to register the carbon project with Plan Vivo

5.2.2   Ensure a fair, equitable and fully understood mechanism for sharing income is in place.

5.2.2   Ensure monitoring approach provides all relevant data required for obtaining carbon credits, adapt where needed, and share monitoring data with carbon financing partner.

5.3.1   Work with project marketing consultant to identify target audiences and appropriate channels for raising awareness of the value of native and threatened trees and develop key messages.

5.3.2   Based on results of 5.3.1 run media campaign via various channels (newspapers, radio, etc.)

5.4.1   Work with KFS to identify key staff to train (target 50 KFS staff), identify and approach target tree planting organisation in Kilifi that require training (target 20 organisations) and carry out baseline knowledge assessment.

5.4.2   Deliver training course on Ten Golden Rules for Reforestation

5.4.3   Collate and review monitoring data from restoration sites (Output 1), document methodology and lessons learnt in an open access manual / similar (determined by 4.3.1)

5.4.4   Manual reviewed by restoration advisory group and trialled with focus group prior to publication.

5.5.1   Work with County Government and KFS to determine which stakeholders to be involved in county-level plan development and formally invite them to be part of the process.

5.5.2   Hold initial workshop to develop aims, timeframe, and content of the plan.

5.5.3   Hold additional workshops to develop plan, collaboratively draft and review plan in between workshops, including zoning of areas using map produced in 4.4.

5.5.4   Publish plan and hold workshop to share plan with stakeholders across Kilifi County

5.6.1   Identify tree planting and conservation organisations, corporates supporting tree planting, from across the EACF who would benefit from project model and resources.

5.6.2   Identify relevant forums for promoting the model, including the Kenya National Landscape Scaling Conference (assuming follow up sessions will occur)

5.6.2 Hold webinars and meetings to share model and project outcomes, assessing audience engagement via polls and follow-up surveys.

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	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-A01	[DI-A01] Number of people from local communities completing structured and relevant training	People	Women	53	70		70	68
			Men	64	104		104	68
			Youth	64	90		90	68
DI-B02	[DI-B02] Number of new/improved species management plans available and endorsed*.	Number	Species identified	141	180		180	150
			Threatened species and monitored *in situ*	28	45		45	40
			Species with seed collection	56	180		180	150
DI-C01	[DI-C01] Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed	Number	Species with propagation protocols developed	10	20		30	50
DI-D01	[DI-D01] Hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices	Hectares	Hectares	0	176		176	180
DI-D03	[DI-D03] Number of policies with biodiversity provisions that have been enacted or amended	Number		0	1		1	1
DI-D12	[DI-D12] Area of degraded or converted ecosystems that are under active restoration	Area (Hectares)		0	326		326	580
		Number of homesteads			400		400	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)

Annex 4: Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

Annex 1: Draft Map for review
Annex 2: Training resources and attendance lists
Annex 3: Record of people engaged in the project.
Annex 4: Records of regular salary payments.
Annex 5: Photos of nursery sites and receipt of purchase
Annex 6: List of species being monitored in situ and produced in the nurseries.
Annex 7: Data capture forms and GPS points added to map.
Annex 8: Seed bank and seedling production records
Annex 9: Propagation protocols
Annex 10: Record of species supplied to restoration sites.
Annex 11: Proceedings of restoration advisory group meeting
Annex 12: Restoration plans for the sites
Annex 13: Monitoring plans for the sites
Annex 14: Baseline survey
Annex 15: Monitoring report
Annex 16: IEC and media materials
Annex 17: Carbon project PIN
Annex 18: Policy workshop report, participant lists and photos.
Annex 19: Risk register

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?	Y
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	Y
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.	N/A
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.	Y
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	Y
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Y
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	