

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	29-031
Project title	Improved Conservation and Community Benefits in Kenya's Critical Mountain Forests
Country/ies	Kenya – Aberdare Ecosystem and South Western Mau
Lead Partner	The Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust
Project partner(s)	Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Ndoinet Community Forest Association (NOCFA), Geta Community Forest Association (GECOFA)
Darwin Initiative grant value	£379,319
Start/end dates of project	May 2022 – March 2025
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2023 – Mar 2024) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	Annual Report #2 May 2023 – April 2024
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1. Project summary

Rhino Ark aims to effect lasting change in two forest ecosystems by addressing habitat degradation, biodiversity decline, engaging communities in conservation, and economically empowering them through sustainable livelihoods.

Our project aims to resolve illegal logging, restore degraded forest areas and reduced community dependence on forest resources in the Aberdare Ecosystem (See Map in Annex Four) through building a 10-km-long electrified fence, replant 20 hectares of forest, and support community guides to establish a lucrative ecotourism circuit. In South Western Mau forest (SW Mau), forest degradation and wildlife poaching will be addressed through a community-based forest surveillance, forest restoration and commercial beekeeping programmes.

Kenya's mountain forests are essential habitats for wildlife including endangered, critically endangered, or declining populations of leopard, mountain bongo, black rhino, and elephant to

name but a few. Furthermore, they act as critical water catchment areas, and are the source of major rivers that provide the much-needed water to Nairobi, which is the key contributor to Kenya's GDP. These rivers support the livelihoods of millions of households in the rural areas. They are also the lifeline of key conservation and tourism areas downstream, including key lakes. Despite their importance, forest habitat loss and degradation has continued despite various conservation interventions.

The key drivers of forest degradation are illegal activities and unsustainable subsistence use. People enter illegally into the mountain forest protected areas to offset their economic challenges. Most often, they enter for timber harvesting, logging of red cedar, over-collection of fuelwood, bush meat hunting, charcoal production, and livestock grazing (although the latter may be permitted on a sustainable basis). These activities are carried out without a thought to the future, or to the possibility of alternative choices that would minimize the negative impacts on the natural capital upon which they depend for their long-term development.

A key impediment to sustainable use of forest resources by community members is that they interact with the forest and its resources as individuals and not as a cohesive group or association that would be able to co-manage the forest with the Kenya Forest Service.

In addition, community members lack the capacity to upscale some of their conservation-based livelihood activities from subsistence to commercial levels which would enable them to increase substantially their income and detract them from unsustainable or illegal forest resources extraction. For example, communities adjacent to SW Mau are beekeepers using traditional log hives. They have no capacity and organized framework to increase production through hive modernization, market access to ensure delivery of commercial-grade honey. In northern Aberdare, community members, on occasion, take tourists to Table Mountain but they have no capacity or resources to develop and market trekking trails, and guide tourists for multi-days treks towards Ol Donyo Lesatima Peak and the Twins Peaks.

Rhino Ark can leverage our considerable experience acquired over 32 years in the conservation of Kenya's mountain ecosystems and the expertise of its public and private partners to safeguard the integrity of forests, conserve their biodiversity and maintain their ecological functions by transforming the interactions of forest-adjacent communities with their forest and its resources while alleviating poverty. This will be achieved by organizing communities into forest associations co-managing the forest, create bio-enterprises, and provide pro-conservation employment.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

Rhino Ark is extremely collaborative with our partners in the field and continues to grow meaningful relationships with our partners. We know that we could not be as effective in achieving our conservation goals without engaging with our partners. Biannual aerial surveys, jointly undertaken by Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and Rhino Ark, above the Aberdare Ecosystem and South Western Mau have helped to map out illegal red cedar logging hotspots and provide a count of livestock grazing in the forest reserve.

In this project, KFS and KWS participate in the community foot patrols in the SW Mau Forest Reserve. The KFS forest station in Ndoinet, along the eastern forest boundary, provides forest rangers from its five current outposts to support these community forest patrols. The Wildlife rangers from the KWS station in Kericho town to the north of the forest also support forest patrols in the area. KWS and KFS provide the necessary authorization and security support to protect wildlife within this Reserve. In the Aberdare ecosystem, KWS has one Fence Officer, 5 Fence supervisors and 109 Fence Attendants to repair and maintain the existing 400-kilometres electric fence. The team can be mobilized to re-align, rehabilitate or extend existing fence sections.

Our Partners KFS, KWS and Geta Community Forest Association (CFA) were involved in all the stages of the project from planning, implementation, decision making, monitoring and evaluation as follows:

Forest Restoration

Geta Tree Nursery Project (Aberdare)

- Site provided by KFS at Geta Forest Station;
- Co-sharing with KFS on tree nursery resources; for example, to water the seedlings we are using an existing water project previously done by KFS;
- Our tree nursery located next to KFS tree nursery and therefore we share resources such as water supply, security provided by KFS rangers; to collect forest soil for the nursery we use KFS tractor we are only required to provide fuel and labour to load the soil;
- Technical support, on species and seedlings husbandry, by KFS Geta Forest Station Manager (FSM);
- FSM and CFA actively participated in recruitment of the Tree Nursery Attendants;
- FSM participated in capacity building of the Tree Nursery Attendants (onsite training).

Ndoinet Community Tree Nursery Project (SW Mau)

- Site provided to community by KFS at Ndoinet Forest Station, security provided by KFS rangers;
- Technical support, on species and seedlings husbandry, by KFS Ndoinet Forest Station Manager (FSM);
- FSM and CFA actively participated in recruitment of the Tree Nursery Attendants.
- FSM participated in capacity building of the Tree Nursery Attendants (onsite training).

Forest Rehabilitation Project (Aberdare & SW Mau)

- Sites identified and mapped jointly by KFS, Rhino Ark and CFA;
- Micro-fencing done in collaboration with respective CFAs who provided the skilled and unskilled labour during the construction of the micro-fence to secure the replanting sites;
- KFS provided technical support during tree planting while the CFAs provided the labour and participate in supervising the tree planting process;
- CFA members hired to maintain the planted sites;
- Seedlings were procured from tree nurseries owned by members of the respective CFAs.

Eco-Tourism Project (Aberdare)

- All the four partners- KWS, KFS, CFA and Rhino Ark- participated in Eco-tourism training held at Dive-In, Ndunyu Njeru;
- The four partners participated in selecting the Guides, Porters, and Cooks.
- Eco-tourism training facilitators were drawn from KWS certified mountain trainers.
- Training workshop was officially opened by the KWS Assistant Director- Aberdare National Park (this is the senior most KWS manager in Aberdare National Park);
- KWS trainers recommended the appropriate camping and working gear.

CFA Rebuilding Project (Aberdare & SW Mau)

- CFA, KFS and Rhino Ark involved throughout the process from planning and implementation of community sensitization meetings in the respective landscapes.
- KFS Headquarters sent the Coordinator of CFAs in Kenya to train the CFA management on how to conduct the affairs of CFA including how to conduct Annual General Elections;

Achievements, Lessons, strengths and Challenges of Partnership

Effective partnership helped us achieve the following:

- Local Ownership of the projects:** it has been challenging and time consuming in some areas to engage with or reestablish participation of the CFA but engagement with these groups is essentially for the building project ownership and creating the foundation for enduring impact.
- Cost effectiveness and timely implementation:** use of KWS Certified Mountain trainers on eco-tourism proved to be cost effective as compared to the consultants in the corporate world. In addition, the KWS team was flexible in terms of the training programme.

- c) **Build Mutual Trust among partners:** increased engagement from the eco-tourism training held jointly with partners has been positive for the relationships between Rhino Ark and our partners as the eco-tourism associations can directly work with KWS and KFS on payment of park entry fees.

3. Project progress

Community Tree Nurseries

Geta Tree Nursery (Aberdare)

Since May 2023, we have increased the indigenous tree nursery seedlings capacity from 30,115 to 83,750. The tree nursery has helped us in transplanting seedlings to the rehabilitation site. At the tree nursery we engaged two nursery attendants (1 male and 1 female) and other local community temporary casuals in nursery activities. So far, the seedlings at the nursery are doing well with at least 35,000 seedlings ready for transplanting. The number of temporary casuals that we have engaged in this year is 15, they have been engaged in situation where there is extensive work that need to be done in a short time for instance potting and construction of nursery structures such as micro-fence and watering systems. The nursery capacity has surpassed the target by 61,750 seedlings. This is due to the use of locally available materials and recycling materials which save on costs. So far we have been able to raise 10 species of indigenous tree seedling i.e *Juniperus procera*, *Olea africana*, *Nuxia congesta*, *Podocarpus falcatus*, *Hagenia abyssinica*, *Warbugia ugandensis*, *Dombeya tortida*, *Rapanea melaphloes*, *Prunus africana* and *Yushania alpina* at the nursery. Currently we have the two nursery attendants who are engaged in nursery husbandry practices which include routine exercises such as watering, weeds control, pest control, root pruning, sorting, pricking out and seed sowing.

Since November 2023 we erected a greenhouse structure to help to propagate indigenous bamboo *Yushania alpina*. So far, the exercise is successful, and we will be planting our own bamboo in the degraded area.

Ndoinet Tree Nursery (SW Mau)

In April and May 2023, we were able to conduct a series of community sensitization meetings with CFA officials to better understand the scope of the project with an aim of empowering the community get an income generating project. The community tree nursery was well established and completed before the end of July 2023. The nursery comprised of; seed beds, potting shade, perimeter chainlink fence, water storage tank (10,000lt capacity), a well, water pump machine and a solar panel. The facility will have the capacity to have 100,000 seedlings, generating enough income for the nursery to be financially self sufficient.

Labour (Aberdare & SW Mau)

The nursery in Geta runs with 2 contacted Community Forest Association members and 2 caretakers in SW Mau who take care of levelling the ground, potting of the polytubes, water seedlings during dry season, pricking-out, replacement of dead seedlings, root pruning and weeding the potted tubes and the nursery site. Occasionally we also contract other community members for short contracts when the work is much at the nursery site.

Forest Rehabilitation

Sofia (Aberdare)

Since April 2023 we planted a total of 28,950 indigenous tree species at Sofia rehabilitation site and with the annual survival count of the seedlings that took place in July 2023, we found that there was a 78% survival rate. We replaced the dried seedlings, thereby upgrading the survival rate to 93%.

At Sofia from April 2023, we have engaged 29 casual labourers (16 male, 13 female) for spot-weeding, transporting seedlings to the site for planting, bush clearing, pitting and tree planting. So far, the project is going on well with two contracted site attendants who monitors the progress of the site and repairs the micro fence in case of any challenges for example loosening of the barbed wire and replacement of droppers.

We surpassed the targeted area of rehabilitation that was 20 Ha to 30 Ha. We have been spot weeding the tree seedlings in the rehabilitation site and the planted tree seedlings are doing very well up to date.

Korabariet (SW Mau)

In the past year, we have replaced 6,600 tree seedlings to attain 70% survival rate of the planted seedlings (native seedlings species include: *Ekerbegia capensis*, *Fagara macrophyla*, *Poliscias fulva*, *Dombeya torrida*, *Olea capensis*, *Juniperus procera*, *Terbanaemontana spp*, *Hagenia abyssinica* and *Croton macrostyachus*). We have continued to clear the overgrown bushes that had surpassed the planted trees and did spot weeding to each tree planted. Monitoring and maintenance of the fence also continues. Community members were involved in spot weeding and bush clearing and cleared the whole rehabilitated site of 30 ha and did spot weeding of all the planted trees within the site which employed 50 individuals (26 men, 24 women).

Geta Ecotourism Project

Since April 2023, after we procured the hiking gears and camping gear for 29 local guides and porters, we mapped the hiking routes and erected trail markers along the hiking routes, and identified the picnic sites.

We have cleared 39.5km of hiking trails in Aberdare National Park and 17KM in Mt Kipipiri Forest Reserve and currently we are working on signage through the engagement of trained personnel and Geta CFA.

Instalment of markers along hiking trails has been completed and we are now designing the signage for key elements such as hiking summits and installing arrows to direct visitors to facilities such as picnic sites and campsites. The projects have engaged 34 casuals (19 male, 15 female) for transportation of markers, trail clearing and marking of the site. The project is ongoing and community livelihoods are being improved through this engagement.

CFA Rebuilding

Geta CFA (Aberdare)

In May 2023 we facilitated successful Geta CFA elections and proceeded with the Geta CFA leaders' induction training, and facilitated 25 CFA leaders to participate in a study visit to learn from their peers at Njukiri Muungano CFA, which established a successful ecotourism project known as *Camp Ndunda*. We were also able to support the CFA to undertake hand over between outgoing and incoming officials and help officials in legal registration process through the office of the Registrar of Societies in line with legal requirements.

October 2023, we started the registration and membership drive, to enable consolidation of membership data for planning and determining active individuals. So far, 3,800 individual members have been registered, and the exercise is ongoing. The local community members are appreciating the exercise. One positive outcome is that the illegal loggers and poachers have started to change their activities and perception through engagement in conservation efforts through Geta CFA sensitization in exercises such as Forest protection, fence protection and establishment of tree nurseries.

We created Geta Forest Community Forest Association (CFA) Membership Identification cards and have distributed more than 500 membership ID cards with the exercise ongoing in the field.

The project has benefited from more than 200 individuals who have started tree nurseries, honey projects, ecotourism groups benefiting Geta community in income and minimizing negative impact to the forest.

Ndoinet CFA (SW Mau)

After successful registration of Ndoinet Ogiek Community Forest Association (NOCFA), a meeting involving Rhino Ark, KFS and NOCFA was conducted. Following this, a Forest Level Management Agreement (FLMA) was developed. We organized and facilitated a two day workshop in June 2023, where the agreement was drafted. The FLMA of Ndoinet Ogiek community Forest Association was duly executed by the CFA and KFS in August.

50 CFA members (38 male, 12 female) were facilitated to undertake a study visit to a leading CFA, the Friends of Karura Forest in the capital, Nairobi, where they learnt more about management of the association, finance management and how to sustainably utilize forest resources.

The process of sensitizing the community on the importance of being a CFA member has already commenced and the registration of new members is currently ongoing.

10KM WANJOHI-SHAMATA CONSERVATION FENCE (ABERDARE)

The fence is built in reference to boundary beacons. Some boundary beacons were missing and therefore we invited surveyors from Kenya Forest Service to reinstate the beacons that had been removed or uprooted. We noted cases of forest encroachment where farmers had extended their boundary into the forest up to 0.25km. Boundary beacons were successfully reinstated.

Some farmers who had encroached into the forest expressed their dissatisfaction with the boundary line that was established by KFS surveyors. On 12th March 2024, officials from Ministry of Lands (comprising of Nyandarua County District Surveyor and Land Registrar) visited the disputed area and confirmed that the boundary established by KFS Surveyor was accurate. The matter has since been resolved.

We carried out actual measurement of the fence line from Wanjohi to Malewa and procured the second batch of fencing materials.

December 2023, we held a Leaders' Sensitization Workshop on the fence. The workshop was attended by representatives of the national government, county government, KWS, KFS, Geta Community Forest Association and Non-governmental organization working in the Aberdare. This meeting was significant as the leaders unanimously resolved to give full support to the project. Through the month of December, we held community sensitization meetings in the three sub-locations that the fence will cut across: namely, Mahiga-ini, Gatondo and Huhirio. The community unanimously resolved to support the fencing project. The role of the community in the fence build process was agreed upon particularly with regard to provision of unskilled labour.

We engaged KWS Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) Lead expert for compliance guidance, and received confirmation that the fence project only required periodic environmental Audits.

In February 2024 we carried out recruitment of unskilled labour for fence construction in collaboration with KWS, KFS, Geta CFA and local Chiefs. 8 men and 2 women were hired for the project. The Fence construction camp was established at Kirima and construction started in late February. There have been significant challenges with the fence construction in this area including steep rugged terrain and lack of motorable tracks to the fence building site. That meant we had to hire extra human labour to transport the fencing materials on their shoulders. We have also experienced extremely heavy rainfall which is reducing the man-hours and slightly delayed our progress.

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Forest Restoration

The sites in Aberdare and SW Mau respectively were jointly surveyed by Rhino Ark and KFS in 2022 and the fencing completed later that year. We have successfully selected, procured and planted a variety of indigenous forest seedlings with resulted in a 70-90% survival rate, depending on the weather conditions of the region. To date we have been able to reforest 60 hectares and successfully maintain the replanted sites.

CFA Rebuilding

Under the CFA rebuilding programme, the previously dormant CFAs were revived. A series of sensitization meetings were held across the two landscapes. Election of new officials was conducted and the registration with the government updated. A training for the CFA has been held to build capacity in conflict and dispute resolution; management; leadership; the CFA

mandate; and CFA structure. With some guidance, the CFAs are now fully operational. We still maintain support with the membership drive and registration of new members.

Community Livelihoods

Beekeeping (SW Mau)

A combined baseline survey/member and beehive mapping process delivered necessary GIS data and a member/hive qualitative and quantitative database was developed. The beekeeping program has been initiated. A series of community sensitization meetings has been held across the landscape but this has taken longer to implement than expected, due to the highly challenging terrain (lack of motorable roads, greatly exacerbated during the rainy season) and long distances. This has caused the process to extended longer than expected. However, we are fast tracking the activities, to ensure we remain on track.

Ecotourism enterprise (Aberdare)

We have trained members of community as guides, porters, and cooks (9 women and 20 men were trained) and equipped to undertake eco-tourism activities. Each of these members have participated in the training courses and the proper camping equipment and hiking gears have been procured so each can execute their roles effectively and safely.

The team has been able to clear 39.5 Km of trails, GPS map these trails and provide useful signage for park highlights and picnic sites for tourists to the area. The team will continue to install signage and create maps and brochures in year 3 which will enable the community and the local CFAs to promote the conservation and discovery of the area.

Community tree nurseries (Aberdare & SW Mau)

This project has gained momentum after initially having a slow start. A total of 6 attendants in the two landscapes have been permanently hired to plant and care for the indigenous seedlings. Given the proper training and equipment, the attendants have successfully prepared the land, constructed a perimeter fence and planted the seeds.

Forest Security (SW Mau)

Outposts

This programme component has greatly exceeded expectations.

Two planned forest security outposts have been completed and handed over to KFS for operations, at Korabariet and Bosta respectively. We were able to secure matching support from other partners, enabling us to establish additional outposts at Monges and Tiryta (both now completed and fully operational). Additional partner support has been secured towards establishing a further 2 new outposts, at Githima and Busiengereruk respectively.

Fencing

The 10km of conservation fence between Wanjohi and Shamata in Geta Forest Station, Aberdare has been built in reference to boundary beacons. We engaged with surveyors from Kenya Forest Service to reinstate the beacons that had been removed or uprooted and made note of the forest encroachment where farmers had extended their boundary up to 0.25km.

SW Mau Joint Surveillance Unit

8 community scouts were recruited to form the SW Mau Joint Surveillance Unit (JSU). The recruitment process (May-June 2023) interested 89 individuals to apply, and the transparent, inclusive process, selected the best applicants, comprising 6 male and 2 female community members. Following engagement on 1 August, the recruits proceeded for training in an intensive, 3-month Community Rangers certificate course at the Kenya Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Academy. The recruits were trained on diverse conservation related topics relevant to their field of work including: firefighting, GPS navigation, how to handle a crime scene, bushcraft techniques, and how to protect wildlife species. The team performed exceptionally well, achieving two of the three awards available for new graduates.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Forest Rehabilitation

In SW Mau the project is making good progress towards the expected outputs. Forest rehabilitation work is tracking above expectations with a total of 70 hectares rehabilitated against a target of 60 hectares, with a total of 77,000 seedlings planted. 667 community members (335 men and 322 women) have participated in the work. 5 community scouts are engaged in daily monitoring of the replant sites. The Aberdares are progressing as planned with 9ha out of 20ha replanted with indigenous trees and mechanisms put in place to tend to the seedlings.

The CFA rebuilding work is proceeding well. Election of new officials, updated registration with the government, receipt of government authority to open a bank account and delivery of initial training modules have been achieved during the reporting period. A total of 350 community members (237 men and 113 women) have participated in the mobilization meetings series across all locations. An initial training module for 50 community members (35 men, 15 women) was carried out.

Community Livelihoods

Beekeeping Project (SW Mau)

The groundwork to lay the foundation for this programme has been done, particularly with community sensitization across the landscape and the baseline survey and beehive GPS mapping work.

Establishment of Community Tree Nurseries (Aberdare & SW Mau)

Geta (Aberdare) and Ndoinet (SW Mau) tree nurseries have been established and are doing well. Geta tree nursery has created long term employment opportunity to two members of community and short-term employment for 15 members of community on a need basis. Ndoinet has employed 4 permanent staff with 14 casual staff to help with the initial planting and construction of the nursery.

Ecotourism Activities (Aberdare)

Pro-conservation employment and livelihood support has been established with 9 women and 20 men trained and equipped to undertake eco-tourism activities. Multiple hiking routes covering 56.5KM have been cleared (surpassing the target of 40KM) and provided with signage to promote tourism activities.

Forest Security

Establishment of outposts (SW Mau)

The first two outposts, at Korabariet and Bosta, have been constructed and officially handed over to KFS, and are fully operational. Four additional outposts have been initiated (two completed) to make a deeper impact on forest security.

Fencing (Aberdare)

Construction of Wanjohi-Shamata conservation fence is ongoing and so far 2KM out of 10KM have been completed and will secure North Western side of the Aberdare Ecosystem from illegal loggers.

Joint Surveillance Unit (SW Mau)

The 8-person team for SW Mau has been hired, trained and deployed to the area. Through their regular forest patrols, the team they have already been very successful in rooting out numerous illegal activities, resulting in four arrests.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Forest Rehabilitation

SW Mau and Aberdare 90,000ha of safer forest – We are making great progress and achieving 70ha to date of forest restoration and establishing teams to patrol the areas, providing a safer forest for the wildlife and the community

Community Livelihoods - 3 community enterprises established, 2 community forest management structures operationalized.

Beekeeping

A strong foundation has been established for the community in SW Mau to establish a viable, income generating enterprise with a beekeeping cooperative. The interest exceeded our expectations. Training for those who want to participate has exceeded 50 so we have had to adjust our training plan. More work needs to be done in year three but it is with much optimism.

Community Tree Nurseries

Two tree nurseries – one in Geta and the other in SW Mau, have been established and are thriving. The seedlings have done exceptionally well and will be available for purchase, providing a steady, predictive income for this community.

Ecotourism

Hiking routes have been created, mapped and marked for tourists. Staff have been trained to execute this enterprise and provide income for 29 community members. Marketing materials will be created in year three to help promote the area and the opportunities for tourists to visit.

Forest Security

Joint Surveillance Unit (SW Mau)

The 8 person team - 6 men and two women for SW Mau has been hired, trained and deployed to the area. They been very successful in creating a safer forest for the community and wildlife by identifying numerous illegal activities, resulting in 7 arrests, destruction of 9 illegal structures, removal of 24 wildlife snares, recovery of 12 cut trees, destruction of 28 charcoal kilns and removal of 539 head of livestock.

Outposts (SW Mau)

The two forest security outposts have been completed and handed over to KFS for operations – at Korabariet and Bosta respectively. We were able to secure support from matching donors who provided funding to establish further outposts, at Monges and Tiryta (both completed and fully operational), and pending outposts at Githima and Busiengreruk.

Electric Fencing (Aberdare)

The construction of the electric conservation fence between Wanjohi and Shamata in Geta Forest Station, Aberdare is on-going and so far 2km out of the 10km has been completed and powered. The fence is aligned in reference to forest boundary beacons. We engaged with surveyors from Kenya Forest Service to reinstate the beacons that had been removed or uprooted and made note of the forest encroachment where farmers had extended their boundary up to 0.25km into the forest. This boundary dispute has since been resolved.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: Availability of quality seeds from the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI). Note: In the first year, tree seedlings will be purchased from existing local tree nurseries while we engage the government supplier of certified seeds (KEFRI) to help secure their availability.

Comment: This holds true. The high quality of seeds available contribute to the successful survival rate of the seedlings planted.

Assumption 2: KFS and KWS rangers available to participate in joint security patrols.

Comment: This continues to hold true. The relationship with KFS and KWS is strong and we continue to value their participation as community partners.

Assumption 3: Community members desirous to be gainfully employed in pro-conservation work.

Comment: This continues to hold true. The work provided by Rhino Ark in the communities is desirable and when positions are available there continues to be strong interest. There is also very little turnover with staff once the role is filled.

Assumption 4: COVID-19 pandemic and Kenyan elections 2022 will not adversely affect tourism industry and community outreach

Comment: This holds true. The elections delayed the progress of some of the projects slightly in 2022/23 but we have since prevailed, and the project is proceeding as planned.

Assumption 5: Favourable climatic conditions will prevail to enhance seedlings survival rates at the replanting sites.

Comment: This holds true. With the increased amount of rain in the past year, we have seen a strong survival rate of the seedlings at the nursery and at the rehabilitation sites.

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

Enrichment Tree planting: 29,950 seedlings planted at Sofia and replaced 6,600 seedlings in SW Mau increase the overall survival rate. The forest restoration significantly contributes to biodiversity conservation upholding its role as a carbon sinks, and providing a home for wildlife, avifauna, and arthropods.

In 2022/23 we built a micro-fence at the Sofia restoration site to secure our replanting block from livestock and human intrusion. Also fenced in was a site that used to have a spring where the local community used to fetch water, but the spring had completely dried up. The secured spring site seems to have recharged and is oozing some water. This continues to hold and provide water which indicates that our efforts have contributed to water conservation.

With the significant increased engagement with members of the Geta and SW Mau CFA, we are encouraged by the positive attitude and perceptions towards forest conservation.

This project continues to create permanent and casual employment opportunities in both Aberdares and SW Mau. We have provided long term engagement for 6 nursery attendants, and 8 positions within the Joint Surveillance Unit in SW Mau. Additional short term opportunities are provided for community members involved in the nurseries, fence building, ecotourism, and forest restoration.

Local businesses have also benefitted from the implementation of this project. We have sourced the local market for refreshments and food stuff provided to participants of our meetings. As well, hotels and restaurants where eco-tourism training and leaders' sensitization workshop on fence building process were conducted. The hotels are direct beneficiary of the time our team has already spent in the area.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project will support the commitments made by the Government of Kenya under the following multilateral environmental agreements:

1. Convention on Biological Diversity (entered into force in Kenya on 24 Oct 1994). The project will contribute towards the implementation of Art.8 (d), (e), (f) by protecting the forest ecosystems and its wildlife (the entire South Western Mau Forest Reserve and the northern part of the Aberdare ecosystem); promoting conservation-compatible livelihoods within the forest-adjacent communities (establishment of a community-based patrol team and a beekeeping cooperative society in South Western Mau; development of a community

ecotourism association in northern Aberdares), and rehabilitating degraded forest areas (60 hectares in South Western Mau and 20 hectares in the northern part of the Aberdare ecosystem).

2. NAGOYA PROTOCOL (entered into force in Kenya 12 October 2014). The project will contribute towards the implementation of Art. 1 and 5 by operationalizing two community forest associations that will be able to enter into an agreement with KFS to secure user rights; Art. 6 by carrying out a prior informed consent process before implementing the project activities.

3. CITES (entered into force in Kenya on 13 Mar 1979). The project will contribute towards the implementation of Art. II (4) and Art. VIII (1) by helping protect species listed in CITES Appendices (Appendix I: African elephant, leopard; Appendix II: Yellow-backed duiker, *Prunus africana*).

4. RAMSAR (entered into force in Kenya on 5 Oct 1990). The project will contribute towards the protection of the northern Aberdare, which is the upper water catchment of Malewa River, a main tributary to Lake Naivasha listed as a Ramsar Site.

5. UNFCCC (entered into force in Kenya on 28 Nov 1994). The project will contribute towards Kenya's National Adaption Plan (2015-2030) by enhancing the resilience of key mountain ecosystems to climate variability and change, and support Kenya's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) by replanting degraded areas towards achieving a tree cover of at least 10% of the land area of Kenya. The project will contribute towards the following SDGs:

No 1 No Poverty: by promoting poverty alleviating conservation-compatible livelihoods (establishment of an 8-person community patrol team in SW Mau; establishment of a beekeeping cooperative society in SWM benefiting 50 beekeepers; development of a community ecotourism association benefiting 10 guides, 15 porters and 5 cooks, replanting 80 hectares providing employment for 1208 persons).

No 6 Clean Water and Sanitation: by rehabilitating critical upper water catchment areas for Malewa River (Aberdares) and Sondu and Mara Rivers (SW Mau).

No 13 Climate Action: by enhancing carbon sinks (forest protection enabling natural forest regeneration over 19,000 hectares of degraded forest in SW Mau; replanting 60 hectares and 20 hectares of heavily degraded forest in SW Mau and northern Aberdare respectively) and increased ecosystem resilience to climate variability through forest protection and restoration.

No 15 Life on Land: by protecting and restoring forest ecosystems in SW Mau and northern Aberdare that have a rich biodiversity, including threatened species (e.g. African elephant, Mountain bongo, leopard, African golden cat, Yellow-backed duiker).

5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The forest adjacent communities largely operate at subsistence level. Establishment of the tree nurseries and beekeeping initiatives will provide long term sustainable income sources for the community. As noted in prior reports are the Indigenous Ogiek community who to a significant extent cling on traditional lifestyles. Implementation of the beekeeping project will provide a direct impact by fully engaging them into a modern business-oriented approach and help them earn increased and more long-term, sustainable incomes while still providing an avenue to hold onto traditional practices.

The establishment of the outposts in SW Mau outpost has established tangible infrastructure and a permanent security presence in a previously unpoliced area. The same applies to the new forest rehabilitation sites. The presence of full-time community scouts provides an early detection system for illegal activities. This not only provides sustainable income for these new scouts but will directly contribute to increased security against crime for the adjacent communities and to enhanced forest security against illegal activities (snaring of wildlife, illegal logging and charcoal burning).

Increasing our level of engagement with the community forest associations provides the members and the community at large with the knowledge and understanding of investing in the long-term plan as opposed to short term benefits can positively affect conservation and can contribute to a reduction in poverty for themselves and their neighbours.

6. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	For the CFA, the officials are elected by the communities directly. However, for community participation, the project as a standard protocol requires that there is gender participation – this is explicitly communicated to the communities. Geta CFA – 25 officials (18 men 7 women) SW Mau Ndoinet CFA officials 15 total Men (12)/Women (3)
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 .	(note – project partners are KWS, KFS and the CFA. Representation from KWS and KFS is through the ranking officials responsible for the respective stations.

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	

As a general principle, Rhino Ark always ensures that we consider gender equality and social inclusion when implementing all of our programs. We have to take into consideration specific socio-cultural factors that can affect the work that we do, such as security limitations.

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.

We also specially seek to engage Indigenous communities with our enterprise projects. With the beekeeping initiative, the engagement with the Ogiek people have been a key factor of our success with the community interest in this project. We have also encouraged people living with disabilities to participate and we have hired two individuals with physical deficits in our nursery enterprises.

In SW Mau, we have a 31% female participation, which is in line with the national doctrine that requires inclusivity such that no gender shall exceed two thirds of the group.

We have learned to be persistent and keep engaging with all members of the community – especially marginalized groups- as diversity of staff, leaders and community members leads to better outcomes with our projects and longevity in the community.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

To maintain an effective system of monitoring the progress and achievements of the project, the partnership established with KFS remains central to our success. Field level monitoring is done through regular (weekly) meetings between the Rhino Ark team and KFS. Project activities are monitored through weekly field reports by Rhino Ark field officers, these reports are forwarded to the management for review and input as needed. If any changes or adjustments are needed, the teams address the issues immediately and find appropriate solutions.

Forest rehabilitation work is monitored through regular joint visits between Rhino Ark, Kenya Forest Service and the CFA to inspect the sites and identify any issues needing attention. Seasonal seedling survival assessments form part of the core evaluation process. The CFA rebuilding process is being monitored through field meetings with the CFA leadership, Rhino Ark and KFS. The status of project activities is discussed on a continuing basis by Rhino Ark, KFS and CFA representatives.

8. Lessons learnt

The past year we continue to experience the need for frequent engagement with the community as we deliver conservation and project activities across a wide landscape. We have provided additional administrative support to the leads to keep up with the extensive documentation (writing minutes, following up with M & E reporting, accounting for project expenditure, etc.) as it can be a highly involving task, particularly against the backdrop of field travel on very challenging roads over long distances.

With respect to forest restoration, we continue to see how the use of enclosures through micro-fencing, at replanting sites is promoting natural regeneration of other species. Germination of seeds that were previously dormant was evident.

Increased community engagement, involving all of our partners and creating a high standard of candidate selection during the recruitment process has resulted in employing exceptional members of the Joint Surveillance Unit for SW Mau. This process eliminated the potential of perception of nepotism and provided the foundation for an elite group of recruits who been highly effective.

We continue to explore ways to address the gender imbalance in a male dominated community. We have considered segregating some of the duties and to make some of the roles to purely be women only. It emerged that women are excellent in caring for the seedlings for the tree nursery project and tree planting.

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

Not applicable. No action was required following the first annual review or from the 2023 6-month review.

10. Risk Management

No new risks have arisen in the last 12 months.

11. Sustainability and legacy

Rhino Ark's commitment to the landscape is long-term. Our engagement in this ecosystem is not limited by a specific donor project or funding cycle and the long-term sustainability is reinforced by our commitment and dedication to community involvement and maintaining positive and effective partnerships. Our project team's operations, and technical support to all the interventions supported by the Darwin grant will continue. We continue to engage with other stakeholders to ensure that the work we do progresses and continues to have a positive effect on the communities in which we operate.

12. Darwin Initiative identity

Rhino is proud to be partners with the Darwin Initiative and has shared our collaboration throughout the past year consistently through our social media channels, local media and Rhino Ark supporters in our biannual publication, the ARKive.

In the second year of our collaboration, there has been 24 posts on our social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn), multiple articles covering the varied aspects of this project in our biannual newsletter publication ARKive, and two media articles in local publications where we acknowledge the Darwin initiative and the incredible impact that its making with conservation efforts in Kenya.

Visibility of Darwin Initiative is clearly imprinted on our eco-tourism signboards acknowledging the generous support by DI.

13. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No
Have any concerns been reported in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point? Yes	Valerie Gunputrav [REDACTED]
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	No
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	92% 36
<p>Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.</p> <p>Over the past year, we have learned that regular communication and training is beneficial to maintaining policies and procedures. There have been no challenges on safeguarding over the past 12 months. All safeguarding policies have been posted on the website. A dedicated email address has been established. No report has been received on safeguarding matters</p>	
<p>Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify.</p> <p>We intend to repeat the short training on safeguarding for the community scouts/trackers. We have created a safeguarding code of conduct posters written in a language for frontline staff, which are being displayed in prominent location. We provided laminated safeguarding posters to the community conservation champions.</p>	
<p>Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and number of participants.</p> <p>A half-day training session on safeguarding for community conservation champions for both Eburu (16 pax) and South Western Mau (15 pax) was organized. Community conservation champions are community leaders passionate about conservation and recipients of specific training from Rhino Ark. They engage with communities and schools in their areas.</p>	
<p>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.</p> <p>No. No concerns have been brought to the management team's attention regarding health, safety and security risks. A key risk associated with our operations are forest patrols. We have made provision for our community scouts/trackers on forest patrols to be accompanied by armed rangers from Kenya Forest Service and Kenya Wildlife Service.</p>	

14. Project expenditure

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

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				The community scouts were on the payroll from November 2023 and not from April 2023 as initially planned leading to a reduction in staff costs. In addition tree attendants were paid through allowances instead of salaries, leading to a decrease in staff cost.
Consultancy costs				The consultancy for the beekeeping in SWM from pushed from Y2/Q4 to Y3/Q1 as the consultant was overbooked during Y2/Q4.
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				The training of the SWM beekeepers was pushed from Y2/Q4 to Y3/Q1 as the consultant was overbooked during Y2/Q4.
Operating Costs				Tree maintenance was paid through allowances instead of salaries, increasing operating costs.
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	160,015	158,825		

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 (£)			Rhino Ark – Staff, costs, audit, vehicles Calgary Zoological Foundation – Staff Costs KWS – Ranger’s, fence mgr. and technician salary KFS – Ranger and station mgr. salary Outposts Financed by Finlays Sites: Monges and Tiriya are completed
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring in SW Mau, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			2 additional outposts in SW Mau finance by IDH Sites: Busiengeruk – in process Githima – not started

15. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

No additional comments.

16. 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.

The team has been very busy and successful this past year with the implementation of the Darwin Initiative grant funding, and we have documented extensively through our social media channels. We are particularly proud of the increased and meaningful community engagement with the Community Forest Associations and the great strides that we have taken with moving that piece of the project forward.

Rhino Ark is also very pleased with the 8 scouts recruited for SW Mau. After three months of intensive training, this group was awarded 2 of the 3 awards upon graduation and were deployed immediately. Very quickly they have proven to be an elite team and very effective combating illegal activities in the forests. This could not have been accomplished without involving key partners, smart recruitment practices, and strong community engagement.

Video https://www.instagram.com/p/Cz5SglYlddl/	Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook	SWM forest foot patrol		
Image https://www.instagram.com/p/CzqW2GHoltD/?img_index=1	Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook	Joint Surveillance Unit		
Picture https://www.instagram.com/p/CzSvurUI1Us/	Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook	Community led conservation at Geta		
Reel https://www.instagram.com/p/CzQRp4LoUJy/	Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook	Graduation of 8 dedicated Rhino Ark community scouts from the Kenya Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Academy in Manyani, Taita Taveta County.		
Picture https://www.instagram.com/p/Cyh4XAHlcM1/	Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook	Growing a greener future		
Reel https://www.instagram.com/p/CycpwmyoWfW/	Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook	We're delighted to announce that Rhino Ark has recruited 8 dedicated scouts to support the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) in forest patrols and combatting illegal activities 14that harm our forests.		
Video https://www.instagram.com/p/CyKI3AlooS4/	Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook	Rhino Ark has officially handed over the newly constructed Bosto forest outpost to the		

		Kenya Forest Service (KFS).		
Picture https://www.instagram.com/p/CyC_G7Xoz3n/	Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook	Geta Forest indigenous nursery		
Testimonial https://www.instagram.com/p/Cw1ryillclY/?img_index=1	Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook	Testimonial		
Testimonial https://www.instagram.com/p/Cw1ryillclY/?img_index=1	Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook	Testimonial		
Picture https://www.instagram.com/p/CwzFCcII5M-/	Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook	Watering, weeding and planting; Geta forest tree nursery milestones		
Picture https://www.instagram.com/p/CwUg1VslXwY/?img_index=1	Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook	Transforming landscapes with Geta forest seedlings		
Video https://www.instagram.com/p/CwSXLcm11EQ/	Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook	Construction posts delivered.		
Reel https://www.instagram.com/p/CvO3sMVIU8m/	Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook			
Picture https://www.instagram.com/p/CvG_K7LI1C_/?img_index=1	Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook	Ongoing initiative to restore the Aberdares forest ecosystems		
Picture https://www.instagram.com/p/CuyYITNoQJc/?img_index=1	Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook	A green milestone		
Picture https://www.instagram.com/p/CtYvoekIJFH/?img_index=1	Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook	Indigenous tree establishment		
Picture https://www.instagram.com/p/CsiuoQGokdw/?img_index=1	Instagram, Twitter,	The Geta Forest Tree Nursery		

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

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><i>Impact</i></p> <p>Kenya's vital mountain forest ecosystems protected and restored, contributing to improved biodiversity and human welfare while serving as a scalable model for conservation of other montane forests.</p>		<p>Rhino Ark continues to protect the biodiversity of Kenya's mountain ecosystems. The first year has seen great steps towards improving the way in which communities interact with the forest with the integration of action, education and improved livelihoods for those living in the region.</p>	
<p>Outcome Forest conservation</p> <p>Through integrated community engagement in SW Mau and Aberdare resulting in 90,000ha of forest safer, 80ha restored, 3 community enterprises established, 2 community forest management structures operationalized</p>	<p>0.1 80 hectares of forest replanted across two mountain ecosystems by end of 2024.</p> <p>0.2 90,000 hectares of forest safer for biodiversity by end of 2024 through 20-days per month joint community / government anti-poaching, de-snaring and biodiversity monitoring foot patrols.</p> <p>0.3 Community Forest Association (CFA) co-management governance structures operationalized in Geta (Aberdare) and Ndoinet (South Western Mau) by 2024 as evidenced by zonal elections and official registration with Registrar of Societies in 2023, and membership drives completed in 2024.</p> <p>0.4 Pro-conservation employment and livelihood supports through establishment by 2024 of:</p> <p><u>In South Western Mau:</u></p> <p>a) 8-person (6 men; 2 women) community ranger team, resulting in an average income increase of £160 per person per month; and</p>	<p>Although the project was initially delayed a few months, it is on track to achieve the predicted outcomes.</p> <p>0.1 Rehabilitation area in the Aberdares increased from 20Ha to 30Ha and SW MAU has completed clearing of 30Ha</p> <p>0.2 Aerial surveillance conducted in SW Mau in Oct and April which resulted in a 4 arrests and removal of cattle. Joint ground operations also continue successfully in the Aberdares.</p> <p>0.3 Held CFA elections in Geta in May 2023, facilitated training and learning opportunities from their peers, helped to coordinate a membership drive, producing over 500 membership cards with the project benefitting over 200 community members.</p> <p>Successful registration of Ndoinet Ogiek CFA, workshop and facilitation exercise to develop a forest management agreement. Community sensitization continues.</p>	

	<p>b) one commercial honey enterprise benefitting 50 individuals and beekeeping groups;</p> <p><u>In Aberdare:</u></p> <p>a) 40km of mountain hiking trails; and b) one community hiking association comprised of 10 women and 20 men as guides (10), porters (15) and cooks (5);</p> <p><u>In both ecosystems:</u></p> <p>a) one tree nursery benefitting all duly registered CFA members; and b) the employment of 8 community tree caretakers in forest restoration re-planted areas resulting in an average income increase of £ 80 per person per month.</p> <p>0.5 Project outputs documented and shared with target audiences, including:</p> <p>a) annual project progress reports and final results presented to CFAs at their AGMs;</p> <p>b) progress report to KFS and KWS for South Western Mau at the bi-annual aerial surveillance meetings; and for Aberdare at the monthly Fence Technical Committee meetings;</p> <p>c) annual community barazas (meetings);</p> <p>d) progress report to our national and international partners and supporters through the biannual ARKive newsletter and Rhino Ark social media channels; and</p> <p>e) PowerPoint presentations at science conferences in East Africa (e.g. ICCB, Pathways).</p>	<p>0.4 The 8 person ranger team was trained and hired for SW Mau. Very successful team.</p> <p>b) Honey enterprise project is on track and on time. 55 beekeepers are engaged (48 men and 7 women)</p> <p><u>Aberdare – ecotourism</u></p> <p>Employed 19 males and 15 females as casual labour</p> <p>Procured gear for 29 local guides and porters</p> <p>Mapped hiking routes, erected trail markers, identified routes and picnic sites</p> <p>As of May 2023, cleared 39.5km of hiking trails in Aberdare and 17km in Mt. Kipipiri forest reserve</p> <p><u>Both ecosystems</u></p> <p>Tree nurseries have been established in both areas and are thriving.</p> <p>6 adults are permanently employed as nursery attendants. (3 men and 3 women)</p> <p>On track with aerial surveillance, monthly fence meetings, annual meetings with the communities and progress reports through ARKive and social media.</p>	<p>PowerPoint presentations planned for conferences in Year 3</p>
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<p>Output 1</p> <p>Forest restoration – 80 hectares heavily degraded mountain forest secured, replanted and maintained in SW Mau and the Aberdare providing job opportunities to 604 female and 604 male community members.</p>	<p>1.1 60 hectares (66,000 KFS-recommended indigenous tree species) of forest replanted in Tirigoi area, microfenced and maintained in South Western Mau by end of 2024.</p> <p>1.2 20 hectares (22,000 KFS-recommended indigenous tree species) of forest replanted in Sophia area, micro-fenced and maintained in the Aberdare by end of 2024.</p> <p>1.3 1,200 tree planters (600 woman and 600 men) hired to plant 88,000 seedlings by the end of 2024.</p> <p>1.4 8 (4 women and 4 men) community tree caretakers (1 caretaker/10ha x 80ha) hired to safeguard and maintain the re-planted areas up to end of 2024</p>	<p>Geta Community Forest Association (CFA) Rebuilding Project</p>	
<p>Activity 1.1 Survey and secure restoration sites</p>	<p>Site at Sofia, Geta Forest station identified. Surpassed the projected 20Ha for a total area of 30Ha. Korabariet has completed 30Ha of restoration in the SW Mau. Activity executed and completed.</p>		
<p>Activity 1.2, Micro-fence the restoration sites.</p>	<p>Perimeter fence built. 1594 m made of gum posts and barbed wire 40 pax (23 men and 13 female) hired for 15 days. As planned and completed. Repairs are ongoing as needed.</p>		
<p>Activity 1.3 Identify through the CFAs the tree planters</p>	<p>Sofia tree planters 29 casual labourers - (male 16 and 13 female) identified and hired. As planned and on time.</p>		
<p>Activity 1.4 Select, procure and plant indigenous forest seedlings</p>	<p>Increased seedlings from 30,115 to 83,750, surpassing the projected 61,750, with 35,000 ready to be planted. Exceeded plan and on time.</p>		
<p>Activity 1.5 Monitor and maintain the replanted sites</p>	<p>2 site attendants hired in 2022 and they continue to do an exceptional job (1</p>		

		male and 1 female). As planned and on time.	
<p>Output 2.</p> <p>Community livelihoods – Through Geta and Ndoinet CFAs, 3 community enterprises established (forest honey, ecotourism, and tree nurseries), creating 90 jobs and benefiting forest edge communities while supporting the conservation of 90,000 hectares in South Western Mau and Aberdare.</p>	<p>2.1 CFA forest co-management governance structures operationalized in Geta (Aberdare) and Ndoinet (South Western Mau) by 2024 as evidenced by zonal elections and official registration with Registrar of Societies in 2023; and membership drives completed in 2024.</p> <p>2.2 50 beekeepers (woman and men) trained in modern honey production techniques and established within a honey cooperative society concerned with commercial grade honey production.</p> <p>2.3 10 women and 20 men registered in an ecotourism association and trained as guides (10), porters (15), and cooks (5) using 40kms newly documented and signposted mountain hiking trails.</p> <p>2.4 10 tree nursery attendants (5 women and 5 men) hired in Geta and Ndoinet CFAs, including the establishment of 2 model tree nurseries (potting sheds, stone seedbeds, perimeter chain-link fences, water tanks, shade netting and KEFRI certified seed species stock and tools including wheelbarrows, rakes, water-cans, etc.)</p>	<p>2.1 We facilitated successful Geta CFA elections, and CFA leader training.</p> <p>August 2023 CFA leaders had training on how to a develop a CFA,</p> <p>Study visit to New Njukiri Muungano CFA, met with its leadership to learn how to establish an ecotourism project.</p> <p>We also facilitated handing-over of powers and helped the officials in legal registration process through the office of the Registrar of Societies according to the Kenyan law.</p> <p>October 2023, we started the registration and membership drive where the present Geta CFA regime. We have registered 3,800 individual members and is ongoing.</p> <p>March 2024 we created Geta CFA Membership ID cards. Currently we have done more than 500 membership ID cards with the exercise ongoing in the field.</p> <p>2.2 Beekeeping</p> <p>Beekeepers in SW Mau have been selected and logistics for training will occur in year 3</p> <p>2.3 Ecotourism has employed 29 local guides and porters, established 56.5 km of hiking trails exceeding the 40 km target</p> <p>2.4 Tree Nursery</p> <p>Geta – 35,000 seedlings are ready to plant. Increased overall capacity of the nursery to accommodate 83,750 seedlings going forward</p> <p>Ndoinet – fully established 20,000 seedlings, 2-3 months until they can be sold</p>	
Activity 2.1. CFAs re-building programme			
Activity 2.1.1. Conduct community CFA sensitization meetings across all administrative zones		15No. community sensitization meetings held across the 15No. forest blocks in Geta Forest Station. Completed and will continue with new members added.	

Activity 2.1.2 Facilitate election of CFA board representatives	Successful election occurred in May 2023. And the transition process of changing the office bearers. The training was facilitated by Coordinator of CFAs in Kenya from KFS HQs. Completed.	
Activity 2.1.3 Support the legal registration process	This was initially delayed and moved to year two as it was discovered that the process involved additional work with bringing the teams together. The legal process through the office of Registrar of Societies has been completed and the official process of handing over of power has occurred. This has been completed.	
Activity 2.1.5 Conduct membership drive and registration of members	This has been started and is ongoing with 3,800 registered members so far. Very positive response.	
Activity 2.2 Commercial Forest honey enterprise	The community was slow to get orientated but has gotten back on track.	
Activity 2.2.1 Carry out survey to gather data on individual beekeepers and beekeeping groups	Community sensitization done – 177 community members reached directly (men 154; women 23). Baseline survey and beehive mapping work combined into 1 assignment 104 respondents captured; 1,863 beehives mapped, with GIS.	
Activity 2.2.2 Undertake GPS mapping for all hives belonging to individual beekeepers and beekeeping groups.	Completed. See Annex 4 for a detailed map	
Activity 2.3 Establish beekeeping cooperative with constitution and bylaws through negotiation meetings with representatives from all constituent beekeeping groups and individuals including selection of 10-member pioneer committee to lead the group to 1st official cooperative meeting and elections.		Planned to be completed in Year 3

Activity Conduct beekeeping training programmes with the National Beekeeping Institute (in Nairobi and in situ at SW Mau) on modern beekeeping methods (hive construction and maintenance, colony management, use of beekeeping suits, harvesting techniques, adaptations to cold weather conditions, etc.)	The program was oversubscribed. Currently working on the logistics to accommodate a larger group.	Planned to be completed in Year 3
Activity 2.2.5 Select suitable location and acquire a rental property to commence honey processing activities; purchase honey processing equipment including Extractors and bottling machines		Planned to be completed in Year 3
Activity 2.3 Ecotourism enterprise Activity 2.3.1 Convene meetings with Geta CFA to identify candidates to participate in the guides, porters, and cooks training programme	Completed.	
Activity 2.3.2 Contract a certified mountain guide consultant to carry out training courses for guides, porters and cooks.	Completed, as planned and on time. We sought for KWS certified mountain trainers who facilitated the training. 29 members of CFA trained - 20 male and 9 female.	
Activity 2.3.4 Equip community ecotourism staff with branded uniforms, raingear, backpacks, sleeping bags, and other camping equipment	Assorted hiking and camping gears procured. Teams fitted the hiking gears to confirm the sizes. Rhino Ark has made payment for 10no. additional tents and the supplier is shipping the items. Completed, as planned and on time.	
Activity 2.3.5 GPS replace map all trails and document useful landmarks and natural features towards the creation of tourist brochure/maps	The trails have been GPS marked and working on creating the brochures and maps for tourists.	Planned to be completed in Year 3
Activity 2.3.6 Clear and maintain all trails, camp and picnic sites through contracted labour	Clearing of the Geta-Kipipiri hiking route completed 17km. By 9no.CFA member (m=6; F=3) Days 15days Clearing of Wanjohi-Table Mountain- OI Donyo Lesatima completed 39.5 Km.	

	Hired 10 CFA members (M = 6; F=4) Completed as planned in 2022/23.	
Activity 2.3.7 Design and erect trail markers and signage	Trail markers are complete.	Working on design elements to include hiking summits and installing directional arrows in Year 3
Activity 2.3.8 Official commissioning of trails network and community ecotourism association		Planned to be completed in Year 3
Activity 2.3.9 Support the CFA in promoting trails network and community ecotourism programme via social media and national media houses		Planned to be completed in Year 3
Activity 2.4 Community Tree Nurseries		
Activity 2.4.1 Identify through the CFAs, the tree nursery attendants and issue contracts	Two nursery Attendants selected in Geta and hired (M=1; F=1) Four nursery attendants selected in SW Mau and hired (M=2, F=2) Completed, on time and is working well.	
Activity 2.4.2 Train tree nursery attendants in nursery management by KFS	Geta Forest Station Manager trained the Nursery attendants of various aspects. Completed, as planned and is working well.	
Activity 2.4.3 Prepare land and seedbeds, construct perimeter fence and other nursery structures	Land and seedbeds preparation completed; Perimeter Fence built around the tree nursery; Forest soil collected and potting of polytubes done; Water tank procured and delivered to site. Local artisan contracted to construct a platform for the water tank. Completed and on time.	

Activity 2.4.4 Procure seeds and tree nursery tools	Seeds procured from Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI); Assorted tools and equipment procured. Completed, as planned and on time.	
Activity 2.4.5 Official public launch of nurseries, and promotion on social and other media	The seedlings are now large enough to sell. The promotion of the nursery will begin in May 2024.	Planned to be completed in Year 3
Activity 2.4.6 Biannual review of tree nursery performance	Mid and end-year evaluation of the nursery conducted. As planned and on time.	
Output 3. Forest security – 3 new forest security infrastructural elements established, and capacity built for 8 community rangers to undertake joint government / community forest patrols.	3.1 2 forest outposts (uni-huts housing 7 government rangers) built near forest crime hotspots in South Western Mau by end of 2023. 3.2 10 kilometres of conservation electric fence built (Wanjohi to Shamata) in north-western Aberdare by the end of 2023. 3.3 8 community scouts (6 men; 2 women) hired, trained and equipped in South Western Mau by the end of 2023.	3.1 The two forest outposts were constructed and an additional two were also done because of matching funds acquired because of the Darwin funding. 3.2 2KM out of 10KM Conservation Electric Fence completed between Wanjohi and Shamata. Materials procured and construction commenced on February 20 th , 2024. 3.3 SW Mau scouts – 8 hired and trained. They are very effective in locating illegal activities and already made 4 arrests.
Activity 3.1. Leaders and community sensitization meetings	Completed in December 2023	
Activity 3.1. Procure fence construction materials, tools and equipment	Completed	
Activity 3.2 Establish forest boundary beacons by KFS surveyors	Completed – beacons successfully reinstated	
Activity 3.2.4 Recruit community labour and establish fence construction camp at Wanjohi	Completed in February 2024	
Activity 3.2.5 Official launch of the fence project “Placement of the First Post ceremony”	Completed on February 2024	

Activity 3.2.6 Fence alignment, construction of the fence and energizer house	The fence alignment is completed, construction of the fence and the energizer house is ongoing.	Planned to be completed in Year 3
Activity 3.2.7 Fence construction committee field inspection and site meetings	First inspection was December 2033. This will be ongoing.	More rigorous process to be completed in Year 3
Activity 3.2.8 Official Commissioning of the fence “Placement of Final Post ceremony”		Planned to be completed in Year 3
Activity 3.2.9 Establish fence maintenance system including recruitment of 2 Fence Attendants		Planned to be completed in Year 3
Output 4 Communications Project outputs documented and shared with target audiences (CFAs, Kenyan government partners, community stakeholders, and international conservation community).	<p>4.1 Annual project progress reports and final results presented to CFAs at their AGMs.</p> <p>4.2 Progress report to KFS and KWS on South Western Mau at the bi-annual aerial surveillance meetings; Progress report to KFS and KWS on Aberdare at the monthly Fence Technical Committee meetings.</p> <p>4.3 Annual community barazas (meetings).</p> <p>4.4 Progress report to our national and international partners and supporters through the biannual ARKive newsletter and Rhino Ark social media channels.</p> <p>4.5 PowerPoint presentations at science conferences in East Africa, (e.g. ICCB, Pathways)</p>	
Activity 4.1. Convene community barazas (meetings) and CFA briefings	Multiple meetings to advance the CFA relationships	
Activity 4.2 Provide briefings to field-level partner staff during periodic joint project inspections	Ongoing	

Activity 4.3 Present project reports at executive level partner meeting (including aerial surveillance meeting, fence technical committee meetings)	Completed and ongoing	
Activity 4.4 Issue quarterly project updates through Rhino Ark Mailing list e-shot updates	Completed and ongoing	
Activity 4.5 Publish project reports through Rhino Ark's biannual ARKive newsletter and website	Completed and ongoing	
Activity 4.6 Publish social media story posts	Completed and ongoing	
Activity 4.7 Organize media (journalist) field trips	2 media stories for this past year and is ongoing.	
Activity 4.8 Produce periodic mini-documentary (short video) for wide distribution		To Be completed in year 3

Annex 2: Project’s full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: Kenya’s vital mountain forest ecosystems protected and restored, contributing to improved biodiversity and human welfare while serving as a scalable model for conservation of other montane forests.</p>			
<p>Outcome: Forest conservation through integrated community engagement in South Western Mau and Aberdare resulting in 90,000ha of forest safer, 80ha restored, 3 community enterprises established, 2 community forest management structures operationalized.</p>	<p>0.1 80 hectares of forest replanted across two mountain ecosystems by end of 2024.</p> <p>0.2 90,000 hectares of forest safer for biodiversity by end of 2024 through 20-days per month joint community / government anti-poaching, de-snaring and biodiversity monitoring foot patrols.</p> <p>0.3 Community Forest Association (CFA) co-management governance structures operationalized in Geta (Aberdare) and Ndoinet (South Western Mau) by 2024 as evidenced by zonal elections and official registration with Registrar of Societies in 2023, and membership drives completed in 2024.</p> <p>0.4 Pro-conservation employment and livelihood supports through establishment by 2024 of:</p> <p><u>In South Western Mau:</u></p> <p>a) 8-person (6 men; 2 women) community ranger team, resulting in an average income increase of £160 per person per month; and</p> <p>b) one commercial honey enterprise benefitting 50 individuals and beekeeping groups;</p>	<p>0.1 Annual seedling survival reports for 2022, 2023, and 2024 from 2 mountain ecosystems.</p> <p>0.2 Annual Forest security reports from 2 mountain ecosystems for 2022, 2023, and 2024.</p> <p>0.3 AGM minutes from Geta and Ndoinet CFA for 2022, 2023, and 2024.</p> <p>0.4 In South Western Mau:</p> <p>a) employment contracts for 8 people, and quarterly GPS maps of forest patrolling activities and results in 2022, 2023, and 2024; b) certificate of registration for beekeeping co-operative society.</p> <p>In Aberdare:</p> <p>a) trail markers and signage for 40kms of mountain hiking trails, and paper and digital maps of hiking trails; and b) training certificates for guides, porters, and cooks; In both ecosystems: a) annual seedling inventory from tree nurseries; and b) employment contracts for 8 community tree caretakers</p>	<p>0.1 Availability of quality seeds from the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI). Note: In the first year, tree seedlings will be purchased from existing local tree nurseries while we engage the government supplier of certified seeds (KEFRI) to help secure their availability.</p> <p>0.2 KFS and KWS rangers available to participate in joint security patrols.</p> <p>0.3 Community members desirous to be gainfully employed in pro-conservation work.</p> <p>0.4 COVID-19 pandemic and Kenyan elections 2022 will not adversely affect tourism industry and community outreach</p>

	<p><u>In Aberdare:</u></p> <p>b) 40km of mountain hiking trails; and b) one community hiking association comprised of 10 women and 20 men as guides (10), porters (15) and cooks (5);</p> <p><u>In both ecosystems:</u></p> <p>a) one tree nursery benefitting all duly registered CFA members; and</p> <p>b) the employment of 8 community tree caretakers in forest restoration re-planted areas resulting in an average income increase of £ 80 per person per month.</p> <p>0.5 Project outputs documented and shared with target audiences, including:</p> <p>a) annual project progress reports and final results presented to CFAs at their AGMs;</p> <p>b) progress report to KFS and KWS for South Western Mau at the bi-annual aerial surveillance meetings; and for Aberdare at the monthly Fence Technical Committee meetings;</p> <p>c) annual community barazas (meetings);</p> <p>d) progress report to our national and international partners and supporters through the biannual ARKive newsletter and Rhino Ark social media channels; and</p>		
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	e) PowerPoint presentations at science conferences in East Africa (e.g. ICCB, Pathways).		
Output 1 1. Forest restoration – 80 hectares heavily degraded mountain forest secured, replanted and maintained in South Western Mau and the Aberdare providing job opportunities to 604 female and 604 male community members.	1.1 60 hectares (66,000 KFS-recommended indigenous tree species) of forest replanted in Tirigoi area, microfenced and maintained in South Western Mau by end of 2024. 1.2 20 hectares (22,000 KFS-recommended indigenous tree species) of forest replanted in Sophia area, micro-fenced and maintained in the Aberdare by end of 2024. 1.3 1,200 tree planters (600 woman and 600 men) hired to plant 88,000 seedlings by the end of 2024. 1.4 8 (4 women and 4 men) community tree caretakers (1 caretaker/10ha x 80ha) hired to safeguard and maintain the replanted areas up to end of 2024	1.1 Annual seedling survival reports for 2022, 2023, and 2024 from South Western Mau Forest. 1.2 Annual seedling survival reports for 2022, 2023, and 2024 from the Aberdare. 1.3 Payment schedules for community tree planters. 1.4 Employment contracts for 8 community tree caretakers.	Availability of quality seeds from the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI). Note: In the first year, tree seedlings will be purchased from existing local tree nurseries while we engage the government supplier of certified seeds (KEFRI) to help secure their availability.
Output 2 2. Community livelihoods – Through Geta and Ndoinet CFAs, 3 community enterprises established (forest honey, ecotourism, and tree nurseries), creating 90 jobs and benefiting forested communities while supporting the conservation of 90,000 hectares in South Western Mau and Aberdare.	2.1 CFA forest co-management governance structures operationalized in Geta (Aberdare) and Ndoinet (South Western Mau) by 2024 as evidenced by zonal elections and official registration with Registrar of Societies in 2023; and membership drives completed in 2024. 2.2 50 beekeepers (woman and men) trained in modern honey production techniques and established within a honey	2.1 AGM minutes from Geta and Ndoinet CFAs for 2022, 2023 and 2024. 2.2 Ethnographic survey report of all beekeeping groups and individuals including GPS maps of all established beehives. 2.3 Training course certificates for 50 beekeepers. 2.4 Training course certificates for 30 community members involved in the ecotourism programme; trail	2.1 Honey harvesting groups and individuals are willing to work together under a single cooperative society umbrella

	<p>cooperative society concerned with commercial grade honey production.</p> <p>2.3 10 women and 20 men registered in an ecotourism association and trained as guides (10), porters (15), and cooks (5) using 40kms newly documented and signposted mountain hiking trails.</p> <p>2.4 10 tree nursery attendants (5 women and 5 men) hired in Geta and Ndoinet CFAs, including the establishment of 2 model tree nurseries (potting sheds, stone seedbeds, perimeter chain-link fences, water tanks, shade netting and KEFRI certified seed species stock and tools including wheelbarrows, rakes, water-cans, etc.)</p>	<p>markers, signage, paper / digital maps for 40kms of mountain hiking trails.</p> <p>2.5 Biannual nursery evaluation reports, and employment contracts for 8 community tree caretakers</p>	
<p>Output 3</p> <p>3. Forest security – 3 new forest security infrastructural elements established and capacity built for 8 community rangers to undertake joint government / community forest patrols.</p>	<p>3.1 2 forest outposts (uni-huts housing 7 government rangers) built near forest crime hotspots in South Western Mau by end of 2023.</p> <p>3.2 10 kilometres of conservation electric fence built (Wanjohi to Shamata) in north-western Aberdare by the end of 2023.</p> <p>3.3 8 community scouts (6 men; 2 women) hired, trained and equipped in South Western Mau by the end of 2023.</p>	<p>3.1 Completed structures; annual forest security reports from 2023 and 2024.</p> <p>3.2 Completed electric fence officially launched by the end of 2023.</p> <p>3.3 Employment contracts for 8 people; quarterly GPS maps of forest patrolling activities; and annual forest security reports from 2022, 2023, and 2024.</p>	<p>3.1 Construction permits secured for building inside the forest.</p> <p>3.2 Fencing materials procured in a timely fashion.</p> <p>3.3 KFS and KWS rangers available to participate in the joint security patrols.</p>
<p>Output 4</p> <p>4. Communications Project outputs documented and shared with target audiences (CFAs, Kenyan government partners, community</p>	<p>4.1 Annual project progress reports and final results presented to CFAs at their AGMs.</p> <p>4.2 Progress report to KFS and KWS on South Western Mau at the</p>	<p>4.1 Minutes of the AGMs.</p> <p>4.2 Minutes of the aerial surveillance meetings and Fence Technical Committee meetings.</p>	<p>Aerial surveillance flight and meetings are convened at the planned intervals; Fence Technical Committee meetings are convened at planned intervals</p>

<p>stakeholders, and international conservation community).</p>	<p>bi-annual aerial surveillance meetings; Progress report to KFS and KWS on Aberdare at the monthly Fence Technical Committee meetings.</p> <p>4.3 Annual community barazas (meetings).</p> <p>4.4 Progress report to our national and international partners and supporters through the biannual ARKive newsletter and Rhino Ark social media channels.</p> <p>4.5 PowerPoint presentations at science conferences in East Africa, (e.g. ICCB, Pathways)</p>	<p>4.3 List of attendances.</p> <p>4.4 Articles in the ARKive newsletter; Posts on Rhino Ark social media channels.</p> <p>4.5 PowerPoint presentations</p>	
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Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

Output 1: Forest Restoration

- 1.1 Survey and secure restoration sites
- 1.2 Micro-fence the restoration sites
- 1.3 Identify through the CFAs the tree planters
- 1.4 Select, procure and plant indigenous forest seedlings
- 1.5 Monitor and maintain the replanted sites

Output 2: Community Livelihoods

- 2.1 CFAs re-building programme
 - 2.1.1 Conduct community CFA sensitization meetings across all administrative zones
 - 2.1.2 Facilitate election of CFA board representatives
 - 2.1.3 Support the legal registration process
 - 2.1.4 Conduct membership drive and registration of members
 - 2.1.5 Support the convening of the AGMs and review progress made over the past year
- 2.2 Commercial forest honey enterprise
 - 2.2.1 Carry out survey to gather data on individual beekeepers and beekeeping groups
 - 2.2.2 Undertake GPS mapping for all hives belonging to individual beekeepers and beekeeping groups .
- 2.3 Establish beekeeping cooperative with constitution and bylaws through negotiation meetings with representatives from all constituent beekeeping groups and individuals including selection of 10-member pioneer committee to lead the group to 1st official cooperative meeting and elections

2.2.4 Conduct beekeeping training programmes with the National Beekeeping Institute (in Nairobi and in situ at South Western Mau) on modern beekeeping methods (hive construction and maintenance, colony management, use of beekeeping suits, harvesting techniques, adaptations to cold weather conditions, etc.)

2.2.5 Select suitable location and acquire a rental property to commence honey processing activities; purchase honey processing equipment including Extractors and bottling machines

2.3 Ecotourism enterprise

2.3.1 Convene meetings with Geta CFA to identify candidates to participate in the guides, porters, and cooks training programme

2.3.2 Contract a certified mountain guide consultant to carry out training courses for guides, porters and cooks

2.3.3 Equip community ecotourism staff with branded uniforms, raingear, backpacks, sleeping bags, and other camping equipment

2.3.4 GPSreplace map all trails and document useful landmarks and natural features towards the creation of tourist brochure/maps

2.3.5 Clear and maintain all trails, camp and picnic sites through contracted labour

2.3.6 Design and erect trail markers and signage

2.3.7 Official commissioning of trails network and community ecotourism association

2.3.8 Support the CFA in promoting trails network and community ecotourism programme via social media and national media houses

2.4 Community tree nurseries

2.4.1 Identify through the CFAs, the tree nursery attendants and issue contracts

2.4.2 Train tree nursery attendants in nursery management by KFS

2.4.3 Prepare land and seedbeds, construct perimeter fence and other nursery structures

2.4.4 Procure seeds and tree nursery tools

2.4.5 Official public launch of nurseries, and promotion on social and other media

2.4.6 Biannual review of tree nursery performance

Output 3: Forest Security

3.1 Two forest security outposts established (knowing that we already have

a) KFS approval; b) a known standard outpost design template; c) secured forest locations 3.1.1 Procure construction materials for forest security outposts

3.1.2 Build 2 forest security outposts

3.1.3 Officially hand over the 2 forest security outposts to Kenya Forest Service

3.2 Ten kilometers of conservation fence built between Wanjohi and Shamata in Geta Forest Station, Aberdare

3.2.1 Leaders and community sensitization meetings

3.2.2 Procure fence construction materials, tools and equipment

3.2.3 Establish forest boundary beacons by KFS surveyors

3.2.4 Recruit community labour and establish fence construction camp at Wanjohi

3.2.5 Official launch of the fence project "Placement of the First Post ceremony"

3.2.6 Fence alignment, construction of the fence and energizer house

3.2.7 Fence construction committee field inspection and site meetings

3.2.8 Official Commissioning of the fence "Placement of Final Post ceremony"

3.2.9 Establish fence maintenance system including recruitment of 2 Fence Attendants

3.3 Community forest patrols established

- 3.3.1 Develop standard operating procedures for the community forest patrols
- 3.3.2 Recruit, train and equip the 8-member community ranger team
- 3.3.3 Establish patrolling schedule; supervise and manage community rangers

Output 4: Communications

- 4.1 Convene community barazas (meetings) and CFA briefings
- 4.2 Provide briefings to field-level partner staff during periodic joint project inspections
- 4.3 Present project reports at executive level partner meeting (including aerial surveillance meeting, fence technical committee meetings)
- 4.4 Issue quarterly project updates through Rhino Ark Mailing list e-shot updates
- 4.5 Publish project reports through Rhino Ark's biannual ARKive newsletter and website
- 4.6 Publish social media story posts
- 4.7 Organize media (journalist) field trips
- 4.8 Produce periodic mini-documentary (short video) for wide distribution
- 4.9 Make PowerPoint presentations at science conferences in East Africa

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
E.g. DI-A01	E.g. Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	People	Men	20			20	60
E.g. DI-A01	E.g. Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	People	Women	30			30	60
E.g. DI-B01	E.g. Number of new or improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	Number	New	1			1	2
E.g. DI-B01	E.g. Number of new or improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	Number	Improved	1			1	3

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)
Forest restoration under Darwin Initiative	Newsletter	Rhino Ark, May 2023	N/A	N/A	Rhino Ark	file:///C:/Users/KateMwangi/Downloads/Arkive-May-2023.pdf
Nyandarua trees create jobs for local communities	Newsletter	Rhino Ark, May 2023	N/A	N/A	Rhino Ark	file:///C:/Users/KateMwangi/Downloads/Arkive-May-2023.pdf
Ecotourism training delivered in Geta Forest Station	Newsletter	Rhino Ark, May 2023	N/A	N/A	Rhino Ark	file:///C:/Users/KateMwangi/Downloads/Arkive-May-2023.pdf

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)
Rhino Ark supports Community Forest Associations	Newsletter	Rhino Ark, May 2023	N/A	N/A	Rhino Ark	file:///C:/Users/KateMwangi/Downloads/Arkive-May-2023.pdf
Fresh patrol team at work in South Western Mau	Newsletter	Rhino Ark, November 2023	N/A	N/A	Rhino Ark	file:///C:/Users/KateMwangi/Downloads/Arkive-Nov-2023.pdf
Outpost an antidote for forest destruction	Newsletter	Rhino Ark, November 2023	N/A	N/A	Rhino Ark	file:///C:/Users/KateMwangi/Downloads/Arkive-Nov-2023.pdf
Tender care for Geta forest tree nursery	Newsletter	Rhino Ark, November 2023	N/A	N/A	Rhino Ark	file:///C:/Users/KateMwangi/Downloads/Arkive-Nov-2023.pdf
Darwin Initiative supports the construction of a 10-km fence in Shamata to deter cedar loggers	Newsletter	Rhino Ark, November 2023	N/A	N/A	Rhino Ark	file:///C:/Users/KateMwangi/Downloads/Arkive-Nov-2023.pdf
Community scouts complete KWS training	Newsletter	Rhino Ark, November 2023	N/A	N/A	Rhino Ark	file:///C:/Users/KateMwangi/Downloads/Arkive-Nov-2023.pdf
Ogieks get help to add value to forest products	Newsletter	Rhino Ark, November 2023	N/A	N/A	Rhino Ark	file:///C:/Users/KateMwangi/Downloads/Arkive-Nov-2023.pdf

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)
Why conservationists are against Sh4.4bn Aberdare Forest road deal	Newspaper	Joseph Kipsang, 4 th June 2023	Male	Kenyan	Standard Media	https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/amp/environment-climate/article/2001474366/why-conservationists-are-against-sh44bn-aberdare-forest-road-deal
President Ruto commits to protecting water towers across the country	Television	Citizen TV, 4 th June 2023	Male	Kenyan	Royal Media	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2LX4_wd0us