



Project Progress Report - Interim Report Year 2

Please write in a short and condensed manner. The report should be written in English or French.

1. Project information

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| Project Title: Conservation of threatened tree species in three Tropical Important Plant Areas (TIPAs) of Guinea |
| Organisation: Royal Botanic Gardens Kew |
| Contract Period: 01 Oct 2020 to 30 Sept 2023 |
| Current Reporting Period: 01 Oct 2021 – 30 Sept 2022 |

2. Project Progress

Summary of progress (Provide a brief summary of progress toward your stated objectives and any key accomplishments achieved during this reporting period - max. 2000 words)

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| <p>Due to the military coup in Sept 2021, there has been continued disruption to the project this year particularly where the Guinean government is involved in the project, including travel for both Kew and Guinean partners. We also experienced continued impact from Covid-19 on the project due to travel restrictions for the project officer, this is fully explained below in the Performance Reporting section below.</p> <p>The CEPF funded project, which was approved by Fondation Franklinia to expand the current area of impact for the project, has contributed to the objectives this reporting year, these have been accounted for in the impact report.</p> <p>Objective 1: Village nurseries</p> <p>This year we set up a new nursery at Koundinde, Moussayah near to the Kounounkan TIPA. The village was chosen after discussion by partner AGEDD with the local authorities and ecoguards. This village had no other projects associated with it. They are further from the intact part of the Kounounkan forest, but the issue of access by road has also influenced this decision. The village have really embraced the project with both men and women getting involved. We felt that this motivation was very important for the long-term vision and therefore we will concentrate reforestation activities nearer to the village, but still within the buffer zone.</p> <p>The nursery established at Tomboya next to the Kakiwondi TIPA continues to operate with Alseny Camara and Ibrahima Soumah. They have been some issues with motivation and maintaining the nursery to the best standard. The nursery had some issues with water supply in February/March and some plants were lost. Funding has been sought with a UK government funded project (GCBC) which Kew obtained to work in Guinea, Ethiopia and Sierra Leone, to install a second nursery at Saliyah on the other side of the Kakiwondi TIPA. This is partly because we want to share training with other villages but also to motivate the village of Tomboya to collaborate with the surrounding villages more. Saliyah has better water supply and there is also a classified forest nearby where an important species of Coffee was found.</p> <p>1.2 Seed collecting</p> <p>Seed was collected of <i>Apodiscus chevalieri</i>, <i>Diospyros feliciana</i>, <i>Baphia heudelotiana</i>, <i>Azelia africana</i>, <i>Neolemonniera clitandrifolia</i>, <i>Cryptosepalum tetraphyllum</i>, <i>Tessmannia baikiaeoides</i> and several other non-threatened species were collected this season. Wildlings of <i>Talbotiella cheekii</i> and cuttings of <i>Tarenna hutchinsonii</i> were also taken and grown on in the Tomboya nursery. Both villages have requested that useful plant species be grown as well, so seed will be collected of species such as <i>Beilschmiedia mannii</i>, <i>Garcinia kola</i> and <i>Piper guineense</i>. An experimental plot with <i>Neocarya macrophylla</i> plants has been set up close to Tomboya to see if they could survive in this climate. This species is being investigated by Kew for its value as an edible nut and oils, making it a potential source of future revenue.</p> <p>1.3. Tree nurseries produce seedlings of EN/CR species.</p> |
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We have had some interesting results with germination of some of the threatened tree species. *Apodiscus chevalieri* took nearly seven months to germinate, it was faster at Tomboya than at the HNG nursery in Conakry even though they were sown at the same time, but there was poor germination at Koundinde. *Tessmannia* and *Cryptosepalum* were relatively quick to germinate, but seem to grow very slowly post germination. All seed sown of *Diospyros feliciania* rotted, they may have been sown at the wrong time of year or potentially dried out too much hardening the seed coat making it difficult for water to penetrate. This is a problem in other species of *Diospyros*. We also think the seed gets attacked by ants whilst still on the tree. We had good germination of *Baphia* and *Azelia*. Cuttings worked well for *Tarena*, but the seed collected wasn't viable. *Neolemanniera* only germinated at Koundinde, so there are clearly some differences between sites, soils and microclimates which needs further exploration.

All seed collections were split between the two village nurseries and the HNG nursery for experimentation. Planting out of the tree species from the village nurseries took place in August whilst the rains were still quite heavy, but access to the sites was possible. 350 plants were planted at Khoundinde and 695 plants were planted out at Kakiwondi. Not all the species planted were threatened species, but all are native species from the area to increase populations generally and encourage cover to be able to plant some of the light intolerant species. In total 294 plants of VU species, 389 plants of EN species and 133 plants of CR species were planted. The remainder were LC or NE species. The activity was conducted by 79 men and 50 women (details can be seen in the report).

1.4 Firebreaks

A firebreak was installed around the forest of Kakiwondi in March before the clearance for crops started. This was put in place by the seven villages that surround the forest. This took some negotiation for all the surrounding villages to work together. The firebreak team cleared an area five metres wide and 580 m long. This was installed along the southern edge where most evidence of clearing and burning has taken place. It was decided that a firebreak was not required at Khoundindé as the climate is wetter and they are at a further distance from the Kounounkan forest. There is also not the same pressure around the forest/village as there is at Tomboya. Though the village will keep a watchful eye to make sure that there are no fires in the vicinity of the nursery and any replanting areas.

Objective 2: National action plan for threatened trees.

Meetings were held with stakeholders in Nzérékoré and the working group in Conakry on the species to be included and the level of threat to be assigned. A list of trees was obtained through the BGCI trees portal and is being refined. The list of threatened trees was discussed and updated. A list of commercial wood species was put together and a list of important socioeconomic NTFP tree species was elaborated as members thought it important that these species were also documented in some way. A meeting with a larger group of stakeholders will be held in November to discuss the threats to these species, develop a vision and goals for the action plan similar to the planning document developed by BGCI and CPSG for Kenyan Threatened Trees.

It was agreed that there was not enough data to support national red listing of these species and therefore the IUCN global threat level would be adopted. Data on several threatened tree species was gathered through fieldwork in Guinée Forestière as part of the extension to this project funded by CEPF "Expanding Guinea's protected areas network including TIPAs".

2.2. Inclusion of indigenous threatened trees in replanting programmes

The first replanting of the areas around the project's sites will serve as an important model to show that these species can be used successfully. At the last working group meeting we also discussed the idea of having model sites developed with the forestry department to conduct experiments for reforestation methods which could be used to show the government that these methods are better than using non-native species. A new nursery with the forestry service Nzérékoré was established with match funding from the UK govt. This follows on from the work on the CEPF funded extension. These plants will be shared with communities for replanting around Diécké and Mt Béro classified forests and include threatened and useful local plant species.

2.3. National Monographie includes 27 EN/CR threatened tree species.

The National Monographie update has stagnated due the retirement of the CBD focal point and the death of Sekou Moussa Keita who were steering this. We have heard that the COMBO+ project (a consortium of NGOs and consultancy group Biotope, funded by AfD) want to reanimate this process. HNG are also talking with the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development to push for this process to restart.

The forestry code that was published in 2019 was also discussed with working group members. This code is a joint CITES and national protection list, but the plant species list attached has some errors, many taxonomic. The working group have charged the national herbarium with taking this up at the ministerial level.

Objective 3: Public awareness

We did an environmental awareness morning with the primary school in Tomboya and had discussions around the types of threat to plants and forests as well as on specific species found in their local area. We have provided copies of these plant posters to the local authorities as well so that they are able recognise these species and promote their conservation.

Extra funds obtained through matched funding from a UK government GCBC funded project have enabled us to hire a dedicated person through Guinee Ecologie until March 2023 to push the environmental education and tree gardens/ tree planting groups to forward. A letter has been sent to the ministry in charge of secondary education to formally ask for permission to go into schools. Schools have recently gone back after the summer break (01 July to 4 Oct), so we hope to start this programme in November. Due to the delays with this part of the project, we are unlikely to have a competition do design a logo for the project, but this might transform into logos for the individual school groups.

65 improved cookstoves were distributed in Tomboya and the surrounding villages (50 cookstoves) and Khoundindé (15 cookstoves) the numbers were dependant on the size of the village (see the reforestation report). Due to a lack of materials, the manufacturers were unable to fulfil the full order of cookstoves. Stoves in Kindia and further stoves in the other villages will be distributed later once a new manufacturer has been found. These stoves will reduce the impact on the surrounding forest for wood supply and since it takes less time to prepare meals on them, this will enable women to have more time to pursue other activities.

Community awareness activities were carried out the villages surrounding Kakiwondi and Kounounkan. In addition 6 villages around Mt Béro and Diécké also awareness built in the importance of protecting the forests and the benefits they gain from them, as well as in threatened tree species.

Concrete results *(Briefly summarise any concrete conservation results/impacts achieved during this period. Did the project stabilize or improve the conservation status of the target species? Did the project improve the quality or condition of target species' critical habitat? Did the project stop or reduce important direct threats to target species? Did the project contribute to improving, or worsening enabling conditions that facilitate future successful conservation for target species)*

In total 294 plants of VU species, 389 plants of EN species and 133 plants of CR species were raised and planted out in areas around Kakiwondi TIPA and Khoundinde (Kounounkan TIPA). Not all these plants were grown from seed. It was noted that cuttings worked well for *Tarenna hutchinsonii* and seed was not viable, also wildlings of *Talbotiella cheekii* survived better than attempting to get germination in the nursery. Along with other plants species to assist natural regeneration of the forest area. The VU species were mostly *Azelia africana* and *Baphia heudelotiana* both species grow relatively quickly and can be used to form a canopy before planting out more light sensitive species.

A fire break was installed for direct protection of Kakiwondi forest, and the 3 EN, 1 CR and 3 VU species it contains. Research as part of the extended CEPF project detailed populations of *Tarenna hutchinsonii* CR. We will monitor these populations to gather seed and potentially cuttings for the nursery at CFZ. Threats to these populations were documented. In the extension of the project in Guinee Forestière, we also discovered a large area of the classified forest of Diécké which has been deforested by the community illegally, this forest has the largest population of *Allophylus samaritouri* EN. The forestry service are now looking into this and the team are doing more awareness training with the communities following the Conservation Action Plan for plants for this area that was written and amended after consultation with the communities and local authorities.

65 improved cookstoves were distributed to communities in Tomboya and Khoundinde to reduce the pressure on cutting of wood and charcoal for cooking and therefore reducing the pressure on the surrounding forests.

Products (List any formal products that have been produced as a result of the project during this period, such as publications)

Species identification sheets for 18 species have been produced so that researchers and fieldworkers can identify the threatened tree species concerned. These are all freely available to download from the National Herbarium website. We updated the site to have a resources section to bring all the materials together in one place for researchers to find easily. <http://www.herbianguinee.org/ressources.html>.

Full conservation action plans (CAPs) for three tree species and draft CAPs for a further nine threatened tree species have been completed. The three full CAPs were for inclusion in the Conservation Action Plans for plants in the Diécké and Mt Béro Classified Forests. These CAPs are being included in the government management plans for these two areas to improve the level of plant data included. <http://www.herbianguinee.org/cepf-documentation-du-projet.html>.

A threat risk register and registration system were developed as part of the extended project in Guinée Forestière. This will be rolled out to the Guinée Maritime sites in the coming year. This will enable us to record and monitor threats to specific species and the wider forest ecosystem. <http://www.herbianguinee.org/cepf-ztips-guinee-forestiere.html>

3. Project Performance Reporting by Component (Please use additional sheets as necessary and compile according to Objectives, Results, Activities listed in the project Logical Framework. Add as many rows as needed to include all the Objectives, Results and Activities listed in the Logical Framework (including those activities not implemented during the reporting period or already completed))

Objective 1: By growing trees at the HNG-UGANC nursery and in school and village nurseries, increase by 10% in 3 yrs, the numbers of known individuals of, and reduce threats by fire to species by 50% for 13 globally EN/CR tree species in three Tropical Important Plant Areas in Guinea.

| Result | Activities | Progress during reporting period |
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| R.1.1 Three tree nurseries established in schools and villages of local communities that border each of the three target TIPAs, and the nursery enhanced at HNG-UGANC, by end Yr 1. | A.1.1.1 Local communities consulted, agree, and designate areas in schools and villages for tree nurseries, agree terms to provide labour, and construct. | One community consulted and inducted into the project near the Kounoukan TIPA. Nursery set up and contracts signed. Due to limitations of the coup, travel restrictions the third site was not put in place this reporting year, however it is underway. Contracts at Tomboya site maintained and managed. |
| | A.1.1.2 Equipment and materials for constructing nurseries bought by the project and supplied to communities. | Equipment and materials purchased for one village nursery. |
| | A.1.1.3 Training given to communities in nursery construction and maintenance, correct use of materials and plant propagation, supported by RBGK and AGEDD. | Training given for staff of the new nursery and continued training given to existing nursery staff. |
| R.1.2 Seed collecting of 13 EN/CR tree species delivers 1800 seeds for propagation in nurseries by end Y1 and end Y2. | A.1.2.1 Existing data reviewed and used to plan location and timing of seed collection of 13 CR/EN tree species. | Phenology calendar produced in Y1. Updated following data gathered last year and is being used to plan seed collections trips. |

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| | A.1.2.2 Authorisation obtained to collect seed, collection missions executed, seed obtained and delivered to nurseries. | All authorisations granted via the partnership agreement with the National Herbarium of Guinea. 1076 seeds of CR/EN species were collected and distributed between the 3 nurseries. 3 seed collecting trips were undertaken. A total of 1948 seeds were collected. |
| R.1.3 Tree nurseries produce 250-300 seedlings of EN/CR trees annually at yr 1.5 and yr 2.5 for enrichment planting with protection from firebreaks in habitat, for incorporation in reforestation programmes, for planting in arboreta, botanic gardens, local schools (with interpretation to educate), and for sale to the gardening public. | A.1.3.1 Local community nurseries monitored weekly by phone reports and monthly inspections during propagation phase January-June to ensure plants available for planting in June of Y2. | Phone and credit provided to community liaison at Tomboya and Khoundinde provides regular updates. AGEDD staff have weekly telephone reports and visit monthly to check on progress and propagation. In addition spot checks have been carried out at Tomboya after some issues with watering of the plants was detected. |
| | A.1.3.2 Germination patterns and growth rates monitored at the HNG-UGANC nursery to develop protocols for use in future propagation. | Germination rates have been recorded for 6 species to date. This data is being analysed to assist with changing methods and practices. 64 EN plants were planted from seed, plus 383 from wildlings and cuttings. |
| R.1.4 Fire breaks installed and maintained to protect further losses at key sites of CR/EN trees species within the 3 TIPAs in the first 6 months and monitored annually in November before the main fire season. | A.1.4.1 Community meetings to agree to accept fire-breaks held at project inception; agreement on which community members designated to create the fire breaks with advice and supervision from project staff and partners, location of fire-breaks agreed, implementation schedule agreed (MEEF, AGEDD) and progress monitored during monthly visits. | Implemented at Kakiwondi. The village installed a firebreak for 580 m along the edge most at threat from fire encroachment. Awareness raising was done with the community to demonstrate the importance of this for the protection of the forest. This will be monitored and maintained going into the next dry season. Discussions with the village to reduce field encroachment near the forest is ongoing. |
| | A.1.4.2 Equipment and training supplied by project to local communities to enable creation of fire-breaks. | Provided to the communities around Kakiwondi. Members from all seven villages surrounding the forest were involved in creating the firebreak. |

Objective 2: Through ongoing close cooperation with the Guinean government's Ministère de l'Environnement des Eaux et Forêts (MEEF) and our other in-country partners, achieve policy change on in situ conservation of globally threatened tree species in Guinea through the creation and acceptance of a National Action Plan which will provide official protected status for the 27 globally threatened (CR and EN) tree species in Guinea, and which will include them in forest reforestation programmes. As part of the proposed project, we will ensure direct implementation of this National Action Plan in the Guinée Maritime region.

| Result | Activities | Progress during reporting period |
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| R.2.1 National Action Plan to recommend inclusion of indigenous tree species including EN/CR species nationwide in reforestation programmes, by end Yr1.5 | A.2.1.1 The existing Working Group for Conservation Action plans (CAP) and TIPAs to write a CAP for each of the 27 threatened trees species in Guinea to international standards, with recommendations to plant | Full CAPs for 3 tree species were written for inclusion in larger CAPs for Mt Béro and Diécké classified forests. Nine draft CAPs have been developed. A larger CAP for threatened trees of Guinea has been |

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| | threatened EN/CR tree species as part of current reforestation programmes run by MEEF. | discussed as a more efficient way to treat all the species. Meetings were held to discuss this with the working group in Nzérékoré and Conakry. A meeting with a larger group of stakeholders will take place in Nov 2022 to discuss a vision and goals. |
| R.2.2 Inclusion of indigenous CR/EN tree species in three Guinée Maritime province tree replanting programmes, agreed with managers, by end Yr 1, implementation begun, by end Y2. | A.2.2.1 CAP advise on and negotiate channels to gain acceptance of action plan by reforestation programmes. | Due to the change of government and several of the key players changing, there is a delay to this. However, the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation (HNG umbrella ministry) were particularly enthusiastic about the projects reforestation in August and are keen to promote this action within government. |
| | A.2.2.2. Engage local forestry units and NGOs to propagate threatened indigenous species and include in their plantation mixes. | We have been engaging with the local forestry centre in Nzérékoré on this as an extension of the project in Guinée Forestière. A new nursery for threatened species and useful plant species has been established with match funding from GCBC (UK govt). |
| R.2.3 National Biodiversity Strategy (Monographie National) includes the 27 EN/CR threatened tree species and national protected status provided, both by end Yr 2, to protect them nationally in law, enforcement invigilated by MEEF. | A.2.3.1 List of 27 threatened EN/CR tree species with justification developed for inclusion in National Biodiversity Strategy and for national protected status. | Due to changes in government after the Sept 21 coup, there has been some delay in this part. However, the working group is looking at how to revive updating of the National Biodiversity Strategy and national protected status of plants in Guinea. |
| | A.2.3.2 Workshops held by CAP at HNG-UGANC to develop documents needed for incorporation by government into legislation. | Due to the above delays, this will be pushed to Y3. |

| Objective 3: Create public awareness, especially amongst schoolchildren, to the fact that: (1) Guinean rare and endemic tree species exist, and (2) are highly threatened by human activities and should therefore be protected to ensure a healthy environment which provides ecosystem services. | | |
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| Result | Activities | Progress during reporting period |
| R.3.1 Incorporation of key facts on Guinea's 27 EN/CR tree species in a new expanded and revised edition of the Guide to the Threatened species and Habitats for Secondary School Teachers, by end Yr 2. | A.3.1.1 Project team, with input and review from the Working Group for Conservation Action Plans, in consultation with the Guinean Ministry of Secondary Education, draft text for revised edition. Engage designer and printer to produce copies for dispersal through secondary schools. | Discussions had with partner Guinée Ecologie on how best to intervene with the government on this. The consultant director has a background in education. We also now have a dedicated member of staff for delivering on environmental education until March 2023 from matched funding from the UK Govt. A letter has been formally sent to ask permission to go into secondary schools. |
| R.3.2. Awareness built in local schools and communities by creating gardens of rare plant species and | A.3.2.1. Creation of three school gardens and tree planting groups to plant and care for newly planted areas. Improved cook stoves | School gardens delayed due to changes in government and Covid-19 having affected the school timetables in 2021. |

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| distribution of improved cook stoves. | distributed to reduce wood consumption for cooking. | 65/ 200 improved cookstoves distributed in villages around Tomboya and Khoundinde. Price and a lack of materials reduced the number made. |
| | A.3.2.2. Competition to create an emblem for the project based on the target tree species with the local schools, with the aim to use this emblem for t-shirts etc. to promote the project and engagement with the target species. | Delayed and may be modified as a result. We may change this to designing a logo for the school garden/tree planting groups. |

Performance Reporting *(Describe any delays or changes in activities’ implementation, any problems that have led to this and any actions taken to adjust the plan in order to achieve stated results. Include details on any staff turnover that occurred during the reporting period, which affected the project)*

Due to the military coup in September 2021, there has been continued disruption to the project this year where government have been involved. Following the coup, Guinea closed its borders for some time, so international travel was not possible. The government also retired many key members of staff and the appointment of new people to ministerial posts took several months. This change of government also resulted in a loss of experienced staff that were replaced with inexperienced or less experienced staff. Some of our main partners also changed departments, and some of the working group members were retired and we have had to replace many of these members which has delayed some of the parts that they were designated to undertake in the project. All the administration at prefecture and sous prefecture level were replaced with members of the military government which meant that no travel to project sites could be undertaken whilst the replacement process concluded which took nearly two months. These administrative links then needed to be reformed to be able to work in the focus communities.

Covid-19 continued to impact the project since the Project officer was unable to travel to Guinea until March 2022. She also visited in May for 7 wks and Sept for 8 wks to push the project forwards. The project officer was also managing one day a week a CEPF funded project relating to this project (approved by Fondation Franklinia). This project took more management time than expected, particularly towards the end of the project due to the government disruption as one of the project staff was promoted and therefore wasn’t able to properly fulfil his role. However, the outcomes of the CEPF project have benefitted this project in terms of data collected and tools developed. It also led to some match funding from the UK government which enabled the setting up of a new nursery for threatened and useful tree species at CFZ in Guinee Forestière, funding of a second nursery at Kakiwondi TIPA to boost production and the appointment of a dedicated environmental education staff member until March 2023.

Due to the disruption in Government and the delays in teaching due to Covid-19 in schools, it was not possible to launch the programme in the secondary schools this year. However, our new dedicated person hired through Guinee Ecologie will push this part of the project forward. A letter has been sent to the ministry in charge of secondary education to formally ask for permission to go into schools. Schools have recently gone back after the summer break (01 July to 4 Oct), so we hope to start this programme in November 2022.

We had envisioned the distribution of 150 cookstoves this year. However, there was a problem with supply and materials. Our manufacturer was only able to make 66 and indicated that the price of production would increase 3-fold for the next batch due to subsidies that they were benefitting from being removed. We kept one stove back as the template and are looking for an alternative manufacturer. If not found we may have to distribute fewer stoves or reallocate funds from another part of the project to make up the shortfall.

Generally all costs have gone up in Guinea due to increased energy, fuel and food prices. Many materials are imported so both covid-19, economic slowdown in China and the war in Ukraine have added to the costs of imported goods.

Lessons Learned *(Describe any lessons*

learned during this period)

Having a project assistant based in-country for the CEPF project has proven how helpful this was to achieve the outcomes since the travel of the TIPA project officer was limited until March 22. Although we have a part-time horticultural assistant for the Franklinia project, the majority of the admin, budgeting and work organisation is undertaken by the project officer. Having a dedicated project assistant to support the partner organisations in their tasks as well as organising meetings and workshops would be very useful.

Motivation of the nursery staff is key and spot checks were required at Tomboya to ensure plants were being watered and cared for properly. Funding for a second nursery in the village of Saliyah or Yattarayah is planned for Y3 to boost production and hopefully increase motivation of the Tomboya staff.

More awareness raising is needed with the local authorities as well as the villages around the Kakiwondi TIPA. It is not clear that the benefits to the local communities are fully understood still, so this will be a focus of Q1,Y3.

Revised Programme for next year's work *(Describe major changes. Please attach a revised logical framework with changes highlighted)*

R.1.1 Establishment of tree nurseries in buffer zones of 3 TIPAs will extend into Y3 Q1, due to pandemic travel restrictions in Y2. A second nursery will be established at Kakiwondi in Y3 to boost production. Some activities within this section will therefore also be pushed into Y3.

R.1.2 Seed collecting will continue throughout the project and not be restricted to the end of Y2, due to seasons missed in Y1.

R1.3 will enlarge to including VU species. A.1.3.2: germination patterns and growth rates monitored at HNG nursery will extend to the end of the project.

R.1.4 specifically A.1.4.2: equipment and training for firebreaks will extend into Y3 for Kindia part of project.

R.2.1 National Action Plan activities will extend to Q2 Y3 due to changes resulting from the military coup.

R.2.2 Inclusion of indigenous CR/EN/VU tree species in 3 Guinée Maritime province tree replanting programmes, agreement with managers and implementation begun will extend to end of Y3 due to changes in government.

R.3.1 Incorporation of key facts on Guinea's 27 EN/CR tree species in new expanded and revised edition of the Guide to the Threatened species and habitats for Secondary School Teachers will be extended to end Yr 2.5.

R.3.2 Awareness built in schools all activities will extend into Y3 and we will aim to outreach to as many schools as possible around the TIPAs, specifically A.3.2.2. creating an emblem for the project might change to logos for the school gardens following delays.

4. Sustainability *(Describe how you have managed any external assumptions or risks during this period that were identified during the planning stage. Have any new risks or opportunities developed? Please address all assumptions and risks listed in the project proposal)*

We have had good reception from the focus villages to date, though some motivation issues with care of the nursery had to be addressed at Tomboya. This led to putting in bid for funding a new nursery at one of the other villages surrounding Kakiwondi into a project that was successfully funded by the UK government. This will back up production of plants in this area and potentially boost production.

Due to the change in government in Guinea, some of the members of the working group were retired and replacements were needed. However, the government took time in replacing key members of staff and some of our partners also moved departments. The working group did not meet as often as usual during this year as a result of the upheaval, though they were kept informed of progress and events via email. New members of the working group have been appointed to include the wider stakeholders for the CEPF funded project. Meetings that were held were done in two locations (Conakry and Nzérékoré) to enable maximum participation with the addition of funding from the CEPF project.

The government has continued to support TIPAs and many have been incorporated into the new park and reserve network which was exposed at the African Parks Congress in Rwanda. They have also been highlighted in the recent funding received by the Guinean government by the World Bank. The partners remain committed to the project and outcomes.

Travel was restricted for the project officer until the beginning of March 2022 following the outbreaks of Ebola and Marburg diseases and the continuing issue of Covid-19. The project officer continued to manage the workflows from the UK and liaise with partners to deliver the project.



5. Additional comments *(Provide any additional comments you feel have not been captured in the previous sections of this report)*

additional comments you feel have not been