

ACORN ANNUAL REPORT

Solidaridad

Kenya

Annual Report Number: 1 Reporting Period: 09/2023 – 09/2024



Instruction

Acorn projects are required to provide Acorn with an Annual Report within 3 months after the end of each reporting period. This document represents the template that should be used and is intended to record project progress. It differs from the Acorn Design Document (ADD) in that the ADD captures the project design and the annual report reflects the outcome of the design.

Depending on results and developments within a project, changes must be recorded in the ADD in addition to the annual report. Please see Table 1b below in this document to guide you on what document and what section requires updating. The annual report, and if applicable together with the updated ADD, should be uploaded onto the portal. Acorn is available for assisting the local partners in drafting the required documentation. For version numbering and file naming please consult Acorn.

On a randomly selected basis, the certifier and a third-party auditor will review a project's design and progress. Therefore, these parties will require annual report(s) and an updated ADD. Annual reports can also be used for the purpose of updating (potential) buyers.



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Overview

Location:	The project area takes place in Kenya, in the western counties of:				
	- Bungoma,				
	- Kericho,				
	- Nandi, and				
	- Transzoia.				
ADD Approval Date:	The Acorn Design Document was approved on the 25/09/2023.				
Project Start Date:	The agroforestry project was first established in 09/2022. The collaboration				
	between Solidaridad Kenya and Acorn started shortly after, and the project				
	was approved in September of 2023.				
Reporting Period:	09/2023 to 09/2024				
Submission Date:	07/2025				
Auditing:	No validation and verification has taken place in the reporting period of				
	September 2023 – September 2024.				
Auditing Date:	N/A				

Executive Summary

This Acorn project implemented and led by Solidaridad Kenya has reached the end of its first year in September 2024. During this year the project has made progress in terms of onboarding participants and generating carbon removal units. The project has reached 6,773 onboarded farmers, representing a total extension of 3,969 hectares. From this, 1,327 CRUs have been generated and sold, amounting to a total of 36,784.44 EUR, of which 90% is paid to the Local Partner so that they can distribute 80% to the participants (29,427.55 EUR), and keep 10% (3,678.45 EUR) to cover their administrative costs.

Ongoing sensitisation and training efforts under the Acorn project have played a critical role in driving farmer adoption of agroforestry practices. Beyond facilitating access to carbon markets, these practices have also contributed to improvements in both the quality and quantity of coffee production. The integration of trees into farming systems not only supports climate resilience but also enhances soil health, regulates microclimates, and diversifies farmers' income streams, thereby strengthening overall farm sustainability.

The 20 established nurseries (under the TRACE Kenya Project) were supplied with seeds for Grevillea, Sesbania, Calliandra, and Cordia africana, part of the promoted agroforestry design. This enabled the nurseries to propagate high-quality seedlings locally, which were subsequently distributed to member farmers for on-farm establishment. The localized seedling production model not only ensured timely availability of planting materials but also strengthened cooperative capacity in delivering planting materials as a service to their members, creating an additional income stream for the cooperatives.

Climate change continues to manifest through excessive and erratic rainfall, disrupting the normal coffee flowering cycles and increasing the vulnerability of coffee crops to diseases. The delayed and uneven flowering resulted in reduced coffee yields, directly affecting farmers' income and financial stability. However, in hindsight, this period also presented an unexpected advantage, as seedlings planted during this time recorded exceptionally high survival rates due to the abundant moisture.

In parallel, regulatory instability further complicated the situation. The Coffee General Regulations (Amendments) 2022 were repealed by the newly established government, resulting in the cancellation of marketing licenses previously held by cooperatives and marketing agents. This regulatory vacuum

left farmers exposed to exploitation by millers, who withheld their coffee at the milling facilities. The absence of a clear policy framework to safeguard coffee that had already been delivered for processing forced farmers to incur additional transport costs as they sought alternative mills. This not only imposed unforeseen financial burdens but also compromised coffee quality due to extended storage periods and multiple handling, ultimately leading to price reductions and further loss of income for the farmers.

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Another key challenge encountered during implementation is the overwhelming demand for seedlings, which exceeds the available budgets allocated for seedling procurement and distribution. In addition, some cooperative members who neither registered for the project nor formally applied for seedlings have attempted to collect tree seedlings during distribution exercises, further complicating the equitable allocation of planting materials.

Another persistent challenge lies in managing farmers' expectations regarding Carbon Removal Unit (CRU) generation and payments. While all profiled farmers anticipate receiving CRU payments, the reality is that not every farmer meets the technical criteria necessary for CRU generation due to variations in planting practices, tree survival rates, or data completeness as well as biomass generation. Considerable effort is required to continuously engage with farmers, providing repeated explanations and clarifications on the CRU generation process, eligibility requirements, and the broader mechanisms of carbon trading. This underscores the importance of sustained farmer education and transparent communication to build understanding and maintain trust in the long-term benefits of the carbon farming initiative.

It also became evident that farmers require additional inputs beyond seedlings to support their coffee production effectively. Specifically, there is a growing demand for fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides to manage pests, diseases, and nutrient needs at various stages of the coffee production calendar.

In terms of training, no significant issues were encountered. The project's ToT model proved highly effective, enabling wide-reaching farmer engagement through multiple channels. Sensitization sessions, field days, radio programs, and mobile messaging platforms collectively ensured that a large number of farmers were reached with relevant information and capacity-building support.

The overall experience of local stakeholders with the project, particularly in integrating good agroforestry designs into their farms, has been largely positive. Many farmers have expressed appreciation for the project's focus on sustainable land use, improved livelihoods, and environmental conservation. There is growing awareness among farmers about the benefits of integrating trees with coffee crops, which has enhanced soil fertility, provided shade, and introduced alternative income sources such as fruit production.

Women and youth have also welcomed the training opportunities and active involvement in nursery establishment and tree planting, which have offered both economic benefits and social empowerment. However, some challenges were observed, including reluctance by a few beneficiaries to adopt the practices fully, the need for more consistent follow-up support on tree management and survival rates, and climate-related setbacks such as droughts affecting seedling survival.

Despite these challenges, the project has fostered a strong sense of ownership among farmers and a growing commitment to maintain the agroforestry designs on their farms, producing in harmony with nature.



1 Acorn Design Document Updates

Refer to the updated ADD, titled "Solidaridad Kenya ADD_v1.1." on the Acorn Platform.

Table 1a Summary of Changes to Acorn Design Document

ADD Section	Description of Change
Part A: Project Summary	Number of existing and potential participants,
	estimated average plot size,
Part G: Project Council	Added Kericho, Nandi and Bungoma Project
	Council structure information.
Part K: Stakeholder Analysis	More detailed information regarding secondary
	stakeholders.

*Table can be left blank if no updates to the ADD were made.

Table 1b Date of Most Recent ADD Updates

ADD Section	Required Update Frequency	Date of Submission or Most Recent Update
Part A: Project Summary	When applicable	09/2024
Part B: Eligibility Checklist	When applicable	09/2023
Part C: Additionality Assessment	When applicable	09/2023
Part D: Carbon Baseline Assessment	When applicable	09/2023
Part E: Project Baseline	At least every 3 years	09/2023
Part F: Project Activities	When applicable	09/2023
Part G: Project Council	When applicable	09/2024
Part H: Organisational Capacity	When applicable	09/2023
Part I: Financial Feasibility	When applicable	09/2023
Part J: Payments and Benefit Sharing	When applicable	09/2023
Part K: Stakeholder Analysis	When applicable	09/2024
Part L: Risk Assessment	At least every 5 years	09/2023
Part N: Technical specifications	At least every 3 years	09/2023
Annexes	When applicable	09/2023

Table 1c Response to Corrective/Forward Actions Required*

No validation and verification has taken place in the reporting period of September 2023 – September 2024.

CAR/FAR	Description	Timeframe	Response	Status	Source
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Table can be left blank if no CARs or FARs are reported.

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2 Project Implementation

2.1 Carbon Regulations

Kenya has gazetted the Carbon regulations in June 2024. All project proponents of carbon projects need to register at national level at the NEMA office, the designated body. A first step to the registration process is to conduct an ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Report) per county and submit these reports to the county government with a request to provide them with a certificate. Once obtained, the formal registration process can start.

Only NEMA approved consultants are allowed to write up these reports. All Acorn Local Partners in Kenya teamed up with the same consultant to draft these ESIA reports. All reports have been submitted to the county governments early 2025.

2.2 Project Council

In Kenya, Solidaridad has already identified 14 cooperatives which will be represented by different farmers. Based on this, Solidaridad will use the established farmers structures on top of which governance will be developed to put in place both project council and lead farmers. In this way, it is expected for lead farmers to act as agent of change and transfer information in both ways. At the same time, lead farmers will be key in applying the training of trainers' approach to ensure capacitation and the project itself can be scalable.

The selection of lead farmers begins by these showing an outstanding performance at their farms and teaching centres. Once selected, the project participants are informed who the lead farmers are, so they can reach out to them and communicate their question, opinions or concerns.

To achieve an effective governance of this Acorn project, Solidaridad has supported the creation of four different project councils. One located in Trans Nzoia County, one in Nandi County, one in Kericho County, and another one in Bungoma County. The selection procedures was done by voting of the different lead farmers nominees. In both cases, roles were defined and people assigned to these. The respective reports detailing the selection process have been provided by Solidaridad Kenya.

Date project council took place	Project Council	Representation of council	Number of people present	Attendance rate (%)	Location (region)
August 2023	Transnzoia	Representation of farmers (men and women), youth and the local community. Present in the meeting were: Solidaridad representatives, the Cooperative Board members and staff, the Local	21 (of which 10% were women)	100%	Transnzoia County

Table 2.2 Project Council overview





-					1
		government			
		administration,			
		the Local council			
		officials, and the			
		lead			
		farmers/ToTs.			
March 2024	Transnzoia	Representation	21 (of which	100%	Transnzoia
		of farmers (men	10% were		County
		and women),	women)		
		youth and the			
		local			
		community.			
		Present in the			
		meeting were:			
		Solidaridad			
		representatives,			
		the Cooperative			
		Board members			
		and staff, the			
		Local			
		government			
		administration,			
		the Local council			
		officials, and the			
		lead			
		farmers/ToTs.			
August 2024	Transnzoia	Representation	21 (of which	100%	Transnzoia
		of farmers (men	10% were		County
		and women),	women)		
		youth and the			
		local			
		community.			
		Present in the			
		meeting were:			
		Solidaridad			
		representatives,			
		the Cooperative			
		Board members			
		and staff, the			
		Local			
		government			
		administration,			
		the Local council			
		officials, and the			
		lead			
		farmers/ToTs.		1000/	
November	Nandi	Representation	24	100%	Nandi
2023		of farmers (men			County
		and women),			
1		youth and the			
1		local			





		community, including local authorities.			
May 2024	Nandi	Representation of farmers (men and women), youth and the local community, including local authorities.	24	100%	Nandi County
November 2023	Kericho	Representation of farmers (men and women), youth and the local community, including local authorities. Present were 4 cooperatives, 7 7 officials and 2 staff from Solidaridad.	24 (of which, 25% were women)	100%	Kericho County
April 2024	Kericho	Representation of farmers (men and women), youth and the local community, including local authorities.	24 (of which, 25% were women)	100%	Kericho County
August 2023	Bungoma	Representation of farmers (men and women), youth and the local community. Present in the meeting were: Solidaridad representatives, the Cooperative Board members and staff, the Local government administration, the Local council officials, and the	46 (of which 37% were women)	100%	Bungoma County



		lead			
March 2024	Bungoma	farmers/ToTs. Representation of farmers (men and women), youth and the local community. Present in the meeting were: Solidaridad representatives, the Cooperative Board members and staff, the Local government administration, the Local council	52 (of which 23% were women)	100%	Bungoma County
		officials, and the lead farmers/ToTs.		1000/	
August 2024	Bungoma	Representation of farmers (men and women), youth and the local community. Present in the meeting were: Solidaridad representatives, the Cooperative Board members and staff, the Local government administration, the Local council officials, and the lead farmers/ToTs.	45 (of which 36% were women)	100%	Bungoma County

2.3 Grievances

So far, 2 main grievances have been reported between September of 2023 and September of 2024, during the Project Council Meetings.

Table 2.3a Summary Grievance Register

Grievances raised	Grievances resolved	Grievances unresolved



2	0	2
2	0	2

Table 2.3b Grievances and Resolutions

Date	Channel	Grievance	Mitigation plan	Mitigation action	Status	Time taken to solve
August 2023, 2024 November 2023, March, April and May 2024,	Transnzoia, Nandi, Kericho and Bungoma Project Councils	Farmers were not satisfied with the first payment being made after two years and are raising questions on the timelines and amount to be received.	The Solidaridad team, during the Project Council meetings, has explained to participants that the payments for both year one and year two will be combined and be paid at once. After the first verification is complete (January of 2024), new payments can be made.	The mitigation action is currently taking place.	Unresolved	-
March and August, 2024	Transnzoia, Kericho and Bungoma Project Councils	Some farmers have not been properly onboarded as the polygons were not properly taken by data collectors	Both Solidaridad Kenya and Acorn are performing quality checks on the invalid polygons. The Local Partner has recently started using the DCT app which is expected to	The mitigation action is currently taking place.	Unresolved	-



improve the
onboarding
process in
the future.
The invalid
polygons
will be sent
back to the
data
collectors
for
recollection.





2.4 Other Stakeholder Consultations

Table 2.4 Stakeholder Consultation Activities

Date	Activity	Stakeholder group	Description	Attendees
Mar 2024	Project Launch	County Government KCP,KCPA, Rep Coops, CRI,KPCU, KENAFF,	Project Launch to Builds Stakeholder Buy- In and Support	M=85 F= 33 Total =118
July 2024	Participating in ASK SHOW Kisii	County Government, Agrochemical companies, seed companies, other NGOs and CBOs, Financial and learning Institution	Exhibiting at Kisii ASK show to create awareness about the activities of the project.	Not applicable (exhibition)
Feb 2024	Sensitization meeting	Farmers' cooperative Societies, County Government	Creating awareness about the project, laying plans for the project implementation	503
Aug 2024	Consultative meeting	Rainforest Alliance	learning about the activities of RA, the lessons and challenges and recommendations going forward.	M = 4 F=1 Total =5
June 2024	International World Day against Child Labour 2024	ILO, Min for Labour, County Government. NGOs	Celebrating and condemning child labour	Primary and secondary schools Over 1,000 learners attended
March 2024	International Women Day 2024 p2p launch	Cooperative County Government, Stakeholders,	Celebrating the women in coffee by creating awareness and empowering them in the position of leadership in the coffee sector. Farmers and government officials were present.	157 women attended from 4 cooperatives launch of P2p project
May 2024	meeting lead farmers	CECM agriculture and Coop director and lead farmers	Lead farmers' training	Government officials and lead farmers M=46





				F= 21 Total =67
June 2024	EUDR compliance sensitization	Stakeholders meeting	Stakeholders meeting in Trans Nzoia to discuss EUDR and coffee marketing	Marketers, county officials, farmers, coffee brokers, input suppliers and Solidaridad M=375 F= 129 Total =504
July 2024	Agroforestry forestry training workshop	REC Europe and County officials	Training on Agroforestry design	Staff, farmers representatives and county government officials M=34 F= 25 Total =59
August 2024 August 2024	partners meeting GESI	KENAFF Genders champions	Joint field days to farmers Training on Gals and GESI	Farmers and county officials Solidaridad and gender champions
September 2024	AGM -Mucharage fcs	Farmers, BoD, County officials	Annual General Meeting	Farmers, BoD, County official s M=51 F= 37 Total =88

2.5 Training

A training session on agroforestry design was conducted, followed by an in-depth analysis to identify suitable tree species for integration into farming systems. The recommended agroforestry species include *Grevillea*, *Cordia africana*, *Calliandra*, *Sesbania*, *Leucaena*, Avocado, and Macadamia. Each species offers distinct ecological and economic benefits that support both farm productivity and environmental sustainability.

Grevillea robusta serves multiple roles as an effective windbreak, a nitrogen fixer, and one of the most efficient species for carbon sequestration, significantly contributing to climate mitigation. *Cordia africana* plays a vital role in microclimate regulation through shading, reducing surface temperatures, and contributing organic matter through leaf litter, which enhances soil fertility and moisture retention. *Calliandra, Sesbania,* and *Leucaena* are particularly valuable for their nitrogen-fixing capabilities, improving soil fertility while also providing high-protein fodder for livestock and sustainable sources of wood fuel for household energy needs. Avocado and Macadamia offer

important economic diversification opportunities, generating additional income for farmers through the production of fruits and nuts.

Table 2.5 Training Activities

Date	Training	Stakeholder	Topics	Attendees	Trainer
	type	group			
05/07/2024	Staff training on agroforestry and carbon farming	Solidaridad staff, carbon enumerators, farmers, government staff and forestry staff.	Carbon farming, agroforestry designs, climate change, recommended tree species and population	63	Solidaridad Kenya staff

2.6 Project Scaling

During the reporting period, 332 farmers from Bungoma and Transnzoia counties, were onboarded to the project.

Table 2.6a New plots & participants

Project area	Ecoregion	Agroforestry design & business case	Project council	Number of newly added participan ts /farms	Numb er of new plots	Total projec t size (ha)
Bungoma and Trans- Nzoia counties	East African montane forests and Victoria Basin forest- savanna mosaic	Agroforestry_Design_Templ ate_3.0 - Coffee - Solidaridad Kenya; Annex 5_Solidaridad Kenya Business Case Coffee	Bungoma Project Council, and Transnzoi a Project Council	332	332	3.943 ha

Table 2.6b Changes to adjustment factors

Adjustment factor	Initial factor (%)	Current factor (%)	Reason for change
Leakage	0 %	0 %	-
Uncertainty	41 %	41 %	-
Pre-project	25 %	50 % after recalculation	The number of years for the proportion of the growth of pre-existing trees above ground



	biomass was recalculated
	to take into account the
	moment of the project
	for a more conservative
	approach.

*Table can be left blank if no changes were made to the adjustment factors.

Table 2.6c Changes to business case

Business case tab & name	Row & column number	Description of change
The # of new participating	The # of new participating	Solidaridad Kenya Business Case
farmers to onboard (E5 - I5): all	farmers to onboard (E5 - I5):	Coffee 22 12 15 FINAL (OLD
from 5500 to the current	all from 5500 to the current	TEMPLATE).xlsx
numbers.	numbers.	
E-G5 based on actuals, H and I5	E-G5 based on actuals, H	
based on projections.	and I5 based on projections.	

*Table can be left blank if no changes were made to the business case.

2.7 Frauds

No cases of fraud have been reported.

Table 2.7b Summary Fraud Register

Fraud received	Frauds settled	Frauds unsettled
NA	NA	NA

Table 2.7a Frauds and Settlements

Date	Channel	Description	Resolution action	Status	Time taken to solve
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

*Table can be left blank if no frauds were received.



3 Project Finances

Table 3a Summary of Project Finances Since the Start of the Acorn Project

Provided. Concealed for data protection purposes.

Table 3b Summary of Project Finances for the Reporting Period

Provided. Concealed for data protection purposes.

4 Carbon Monitoring

4.1 Carbon Removal Units

For real-time CRU information see our website: https://acorn.rabobank.com/en/projects/solidaridad-kenya/

Table 4.1 Summary of CRUs throughout the project period. (*This table will be prefilled by Acorn*).

		Calculation Period	ł
	Historic	Reporting Period	Total
Status			
CRUs generated	1,946 CRUs	1,946 CRUs	1,946 CRUs
CRUs sold	1,327 CRUs	1,327 CRUs	1,327 CRUs
CRUs reserved	Provided. Concealed	Provided. Concealed	Provided. Concealed for
	for data protection	for data protection	data protection purposes
	purposes	purposes	
CRUs available	Provided. Concealed	Provided. Concealed	Provided. Concealed for
	for data protection	for data protection	data protection purposes
	purposes	purposes	
BRCUs generated	Provided. Concealed	Provided. Concealed	Provided. Concealed for
	for data protection	for data protection	data protection purposes
	purposes	purposes	
BCRUs reserved	Provided. Concealed	Provided. Concealed	Provided. Concealed for
	for data protection	for data protection	data protection purposes
	purposes	purposes	

4.2 Carbon Benefit Losses

No event generating significant losses of carbon benefits occurred during this reporting period. *Table can be left blank if no carbon benefit losses were observed.

Table 4.2 Summary of Events Generating Losses of Carbon Benefits

Event number	NA
Project area(s)	NA
affected	
Participants affected	NA
Description	NA
CRU impact	NA
E&S impact	NA
BCRUs	NA
Response	NA

*Table can be left blank if no carbon benefit losses were observed.



5 Monitoring Indicators and Risk Safeguards

5.1 Livelihood Monitoring

The project has carried out its first farmer survey in 2023, providing input for the baseline metrics. The next farmer survey will be done in 2026.

Table 5.1a Mandatory Livelihood Monitoring Results

Indicator	Metric	Baseline metric value	Current metric value	Causes and adjustments (If applicable)
Farmer Income from CRUs	Carbon revenues	36,784.44 Euros	36,784.44 Euros	N/A
Nutritional Variety	Average number of food groups consumed	7 food groups on average, per farmer	7 food groups on average, per farmer	N/A

Table 5.1b Additional Livelihood Monitoring Results*

Indicator	Metric	Baseline metric value	Current metric value	Causes and adjustments (If applicable)
Agricultural land use productivity	Average cash crop output value per hectare [kg/ha/crop].	Coffee yield = 377 kg/ha/year	Coffee yield = 377 kg/ha/year	N/A

*Only the additional indicators chosen at project design need to be completed.

5.2 Ecosystem Monitoring

Table 5.2 Ecosystem Monitoring Results

Indicator	Metric	Baseline metric value	Current metric value	Causes and adjustments (If applicable)
Agricultural Biodiversity	Gini-Simpson Index value.	36% (unsustainable)	36% (unsustainable)	N/A

5.3 Risk Monitoring

The project has performed its first risk assessment in 2023, and it will reassess this after five years (in 2028). So far, two high risks were identified, that of political instability and logging.

Table 5.3 Risk Monitoring Overview

Risk category	Identified Risk Areas or Potential Negative	Mitigation action	Monitoring action	Status
	Impacts			



Political	In the area both TV	Having someone	Project Officers are	High
instability	and radio are used to	appointed for	based in the specific	
	be up to date with	ensuring the project	counties, this allows	
	national and local	is aware of	for regular weekly	
	events and conditions.	developing	visits to the	
	Next to that,	instability in the	cooperatives. Any	
	Solidaridad's	country and keeping	looming instability is	
	relationship with local	the government and	therefore	
	authorities provide an	authorities aware of	communicated	
	additional source of	the project to keep	immediately to the	
	information to	a method of	beneficiaries and	
	monitor any	communication	stakeholders.	
	developments at a	open in this regard.		
	political level.			
Logging	Logging risk is high in	Providing	Regular sensitisation	
	the project region due	sensitization of	forums are planned	
	to land expansion for	farmers and	within the project	
	agriculture and	capacity	implementation	
	demand for wood	development as	plans.	
	products. However,	well as provision of	Tree logging is also	
	both of them can be	tree seedling	being monitored	
	prevented through	germplasm. Next to	closely by the	11:00
	sensitization and	this, through the	government as there	High
	capacity development	implementation of	are restrictions that	
	as well as provision of	efficient cook stoves	are being	
	tree seedling	the project aims to	implemented.	
	germplasm.	reduce even further		
		the requirements		
		and use of timber		
		for fire wood.		

*Table can be left blank if no medium/high risks or potential negative impacts were observed.

5.4 Leakage Monitoring

Leakage has not been reassessed (i.e., when the project has scaled into new ecoregion(s)) during this reporting period.

Table 5.3 Risk Monitoring Overview

Identified leakage source	Mitigation action	Monitoring action
NA	NA	NA

*Table can be left blank if no leakage identified.



Annexes

Annex 1 – Project Council Report(s)

Provided. Concealed for data protection purposes.

Annex 2 – Other Stakeholder Consultations and Training

Provided. Concealed for data protection purposes.

Annex 3 – Sample Signed Agreements

Provided. Concealed for data protection purposes.

Annex 4 – Ecoregion Maps

Provided. Concealed for data protection purposes.

Annex 5 – Agroforestry Design

Please note, this project is under Acorn Framework 1.0 and has a detailed agroforestry design in the ADD (Part F).

Annex 6 – Business Case

Provided. Concealed for data protection purposes

Annex 7 – Benefit Sharing Mechanism

Please note, this project is under Acorn Framework 1.0 and has a detailed Benefit Sharing Mechanism in the ADD.