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This document represents the basic layout and describes the required input for an ADD
(Acorn Design Document).

Of each project within Acorn an ADD should be provided. The ADD should be stored and made available on the Acorn platform for the stakeholders concerned. This report is drawn up in close collaboration between the local partner and Acorn staff members. The local partner is responsible for providing all required information and performing the assessments. Acorn is responsible for the quality and continuously updating of the ADD. The ADD can be requested by validation and verification bodies and certifiers for third party oversight or quality checks at any given time.

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Trees for Kenya Acorn Design Document

Kenya | Embu and Tharaka Nithi

Date of Submission: March 2023

Part A: Project Summary

Question	General Information	Answer
1	Project title	Landscape restoration and livelihoods improvements.
2	Project location - country, region & district (attach map if possible)	Kenya: Embu and Tharaka Nithi districts. Please refer to Annex 1 for a map of the project areas.
3	Ecoregion(s)	Northern Acacia-Commiphora bushlands and thickets, and East African montane forests.
4	Local partner representative (name & position)	<i>Information removed for data protection purposes</i>
5	Local partner mission statement	Restoration of Embu and Tharaka Nithi landscapes through agroforestry while improving local community livelihoods.
6	Contact details (phone, email, & address)	<i>Information removed for data protection purposes</i>
7	Main cash crop(s)	Coffee, Tea, Maize and Bananas.
8	Project target group	Both women and men smallholder farmers in Embu and Tharaka Nithi which have degraded crop landscapes and are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
9	Number of existing participants	24,474 farmers.
10	Potential number of additional participants	190,000 farmers (ambition until 2030).
11	Estimated total size of project area (ha)	10,455.38 hectares.
12	Describe the project's aims and objectives (e.g. the problems this project will address)	The project's main aims and objectives includes; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improving the livelihoods of the farmers through income diversification (tree products and carbon finance);• Improving soil fertility of the lands for higher crop yield and less inputs;• Reduction of massive soil erosions on farms from extreme weather;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving farmer nutritional intake by planting fruit trees. • Increase plant biodiversity on the farm.
13	Describe how smallholder farmers/communities were involved during the design of the agroforestry project. (Provide evidence of participation, e.g. workshops, meetings)	In 2019, approx. 300 small scale farmers were involved through mobilization and workshops carried out in partnership with government institutions like ministry of agriculture and livestock, and also local administration (see Annex 7). Unfortunately these meetings couldn't occur in 2020 and 2021 due to restrictions from the government around gathering and COVID19. During these meetings, there was a facilitator encouraging farmers to share their needs, values and worries in terms of tree planting, the long-term duration of tree planting projects, and the transition of their farms to an agroforestry system permanently. To date the mobilizations and workshops have been to help farmers familiarise with Trees for Kenya and have them involved in the agroforestry design. Topics raised include Q&A on Trees for Kenya, project design (i.e. species types, number per hectare, planting supplies needed etc.), training on agroforestry systems and best practice tree planting and after care/management, market linkages for tree products. During these mobilization workshops, every person attending had an opportunity to air his or her views and openly discuss them.
14	Provide a general description of current socioeconomic conditions in the project area (income, poverty level etc.)	The current socio economic conditions of the project are that most of these farmers live below USD \$2 a day. The level of poverty is more than 75% in the project area. They rely purely on cash crops and food crops grown from their farms. The prices of cash crops are also very low currently and the cost of inputs rising, resulting in farmers unable to take care of their basic needs (health, food, education etc.). The population in the project area is growing rapidly, especially due to its proximity to Nairobi, leading to a lack of resource in the community (i.e. food). Farmers are facing a loss of top soil and fertile land due to the increasing impacts of climate change.
15	Describe how the agroforestry intervention proposed is expected to impact the following;	a. Food security/nutritional intake: As farmers rely on consuming the food grown on their farms, the planting of fruit trees will regularly provide nutritious fruits for farmers that contain vitamins and antioxidants. Farmers may also produce more fruits than they consume in this agroforestry system and can share these in the community based on need while also selling them in markets resulting in local improvements in food availability and accessibility.

		<p>b. Farmer financial state: Farmers will receive an additional income in the form of carbon finance. Farmers crop yields should improve and tree products can be sold resulting in more farm products improved income for farmers.</p> <p>c. Gender equality: This project prioritises inclusion of both men and women and discrimination is avoided during onboarding farmers and in the training and inputs offered to farmers. It is also important for women to be included together in the same workshops and meetings to have the values of both women and men farmers represented, while farmers are desensitized to women input. During mobilization workshops, every person attending has an opportunity to air his or her views. Most of the participants are women groups who are led by women themselves which helps them feel comfortable enough to voice their opinions. Therefore, it is not expected for gender inequalities to be reinforced.</p> <p>d. Farmer access to resources: Although the carbon finance may not be a significant amount in the eyes of westerners, this is still complementary and a reliable income stream for the farmers who live in such high poverty. The increased productivity paired with carbon credits offered by this project can be the difference in farmers accessing inputs, medicine and education. Access to nutritious food and medicine will increase due to the type of agroforestry trees planted that offer this benefit.</p> <p>e. Biodiversity on farms: A diverse mix of trees will be planted under this project which increases plant biodiversity on farms. Native birds will have a habitat to seek shelter in resulting in a limit to biodiversity loss. The increased shade from these trees will be favourable to local creatures that live within the soils and on the land and offer refuge against the harsh heat and UV exposure.</p>
16	Describe any known local land degradation/deforestation processes or trends, and drives of these (e.g. population increase, fire, conversion for agriculture)	There is no known local land degradation and deforestation which has occurred within the area which is cultivated land. Although there is population increase in the area, it has not affected the lands in terms of degradation and deforestation.
17	Describe whether there is a low, medium or high risk of	There is a low risk of deforestation in the area. Even though deforestation has not been common in the

	deforestation in the region where the project is located	area, TREES FOR KENYA determined that the high poverty rate in the project area and the lack of education about the benefits of trees could be potential risk factors for this in the future. It is a low risk because of project intervention having a direct impact on the poverty rate (increasing productivity, food security, and farmer income etc.) and the training farmers receive on the benefits of trees/agroforestry, in addition to the experience they will gain first by planting and maintaining trees. Additionally, farmers use energy conservation stoves which are fuelwood efficient and smokeless and also have pre-existing trees that provided fodder leaves. In this project, we will ensure all farmers that onboard have energy conservation stoves to minimize cut down of trees. These energy conservation stoves offset 3 tonnes of carbon in a year and this will be an additional carbon offset besides the trees they have planted. The carbon offset by these stoves will not be accounted for separately but seen as a co-benefit in the Acorn project.
18	Please select the following type of land use that best describes the project area	Cultivated land where new and existing agroforestry is combined with mixed crops.
	Land Tenure	
19	Estimated average plot size per farmer (ha)	The estimated average plot size is between 0.5 and 1 hectare.
20	How is land tenure organised among participants (formal titling, informal titling or land mapping)	Land is owned by individuals on freehold title deeds. Farmers possess either a green card (if they have not processed the title deed) or a land title deed (if it has been processed). The green card will be signed by the owner of the land and his/her trustee together with administration like area chief (see Annex 2).
	The Agroforestry System	
21	Is this project new or existing agroforestry or a combination	Combination of new and existing agroforestry.
22	Type of trees that have/will be planted under agroforestry scheme (shade, fruit-bearing, medicinal)	The types of trees to be planted will include; shade, fruit bearing, medicinal that will be planted as live fences and in an intercropping style.
23	Describe how the agroforestry system is expected to impact the land (e.g. more shade, less pests, less inputs – fertilisers, presence of pollinators)	The agroforestry is expected to impact the land through; more shade, less erosion, less use of chemical fertilizers, more lands will be revitalized and increased production of both food/cash crops.

Project Additionality		
24	Is the project incorporated by any other accounting program (e.g. compliance, voluntary or national GHG program)? If yes, describe how project ensures no double counting will take place.	No, this project is not incorporated by any other accounting program.
25	In what year and season will/were the first trees planted?	The first group of 350 farmers began planting their first batch of trees in 2019 during short and long rain seasons. Trees have been planted gradually over the years, not all at once as every year since 2019 approx. 500 farmers are added to the project and begin planting their first batch of trees.
26	Was the project established with the intention of receiving carbon finance for trees planted?	The main intention of the project is biodiversity conservation and lands revitalization. Farmers did not plant trees just to receive money. However, the project would not be able to be long-lived and successful without farmers receiving compensation for their efforts and Trees for Kenya through this project will have a more secure source of revenue that can be used to scale the project rather than relying purely on temporary grant funding to help existing and new farmers access training and afford materials to plant and maintain trees. With carbon credits, farmers can add more trees on their farms beside what Trees for Kenya have already helped them plant. Also these farmers can come together and start income generating activities like beekeeping. More so, with carbon credits, more farmers will be willing to join the project and plant more trees and this will bring global benefits in terms of fighting climate change.
27	Is this project mandatory under any national or local laws? (List relevant forestry regulations, national climate change commitments etc.)	No. See National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2018 – 2022 and the Forest Conservation and Management Act, 2016.
28	Without the project's involvement, would farmers have the necessary resources, skills, knowledge, finances, or network to successfully transition to a long-lived agroforestry system?	No, farmers did not have knowledge on what an agroforestry system was, which trees should be planted for livelihood benefits, which style of tree planting is best for the land (intercropping, live fences etc.). Farmers struggle financially and did not have access to inputs (seedlings). Trees for Kenya offer farmers in house training (using photos of previous projects which include trees previously planted and beneficiaries planting those trees) and provision of inputs not only in the first years but

		ongoing to ensure priority is given to maintaining and upgrading agroforestry systems for optimum benefits.
29	What is the main driver encouraging farmer to transition to agroforestry?	The top drivers for the farmers include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved food security and nutrition • Improved and diversified income • Reduced erosion and improved soil fertility
30	Was the promise of carbon credits the enabling factor for farmers to transition to agroforestry?	Not in the beginning with the first 350 farmers, but it became essential to ensure its success long-term and keep motivation of farmers high to maintain and continue upgrading their agroforestry system. However, for the new farmers it does indeed offer a strong incentive to begin the transition. Therefore, it enables the scaling of agroforestry.
31	What are the biggest challenges faced by farmers? (climate change, volatility in commodity prices, low productivity, access to resources, financial security, crop damage from wildlife, human conflict etc.)	The biggest challenges faced by the farmers includes; climate change in terms of change in weather patterns and extreme weather, low productivity, access to costly resources, poor financial security, volatility in commodity prices and a lack of market.
High-over business case		
32	If existing agroforestry, how has this project been funded to date? (financed by the local partner, the farmers, grants/funding, or a combination)	Temporary start-up funds from partners and donors (Reforest Action, Treedom and Moyu) were used to help the first farmers transition to agroforestry. For 2022, Trees for Kenya have secured funds to plant 250,000 trees amounting to Euros 187,500. Acorn are working with Trees for Kenya to secure funding in additional to the carbon finance offered for the planting of trees in the years following.
33	Briefly describe the costs for the farmer in this project (e.g. seedlings, fertilisers, labour)	101 Trees plant across 2 years per hectare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seedlings = 28.40 euro for two years • Transport = 9 euro per year = 18 euro for 2 years • Labour tree seedlings = 6 euro per year = 12 euro for two years • Farmer training on agroforestry practices = 6.40 euro per year = 19.20 for 3 years <p><i>*Please note The estimated average plot size is between 0.5 and 1 hectare.</i></p>
34	Briefly describe the costs for the local partner in this project (e.g. seedlings, onboarding, data collection, training, farmer engagement, planting materials etc.)	For 2000 farmers the costs in euros are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project description and documentation = 4,000 • Farmer engagement & selection = 2,000 • Grievance mechanism establishment = 1,500 • Project Council establishment = 1,00

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agroforestry Design = 4,000 • Business Case =600 • Community engagement = 1,500 • Carbon baseline = 800 • Project Baseline = 500 • Setting up loan/in-kind/payment administration = 500 • Project Council reporting = 500 • Grievance mechanism reporting = 500 • Project reporting = 50
35	How will this project be financed and by whom during the design/implementation stage (e.g. financed by the local partner, the farmers, grants/funding, or a combination)	For 2022, Trees for Kenya have secured funds from the donors (Reforest Action, Treedom and Moyu) to plant 250,000 trees amounting to Euros 187,500. Acorn are working with Trees for Kenya to secure funding in addition to the carbon finance offered for the planting of trees in the years following.

Part B: Eligibility Checklists

Local partner eligibility checklist			
Topic	Sub-topic	Requested information	Result
	Organizational structure	Provide a description of your organizational structure and roles of each organization involved for the project (attach diagram/table in annex).	Trees for Kenya has a CEO, Project Manager, technicians, lead farmers and assistant lead farmers who help in project implementation (See Annex 3).
			<p>In most cases, in the villages where the project is being implemented, there are men's and women's groups led by lead farmers.</p> <p>This project has performed a stakeholder analysis to identify farmers groups to include in the council and members will be selected based on separate meetings with identified groups.</p>
Organizational capacity	Organizational capacity	Provide a description of your "on the ground" capacity to undertake long-term community-led project(s) and implement agroforestry.	<p>In the project area there are pre-existing men or women groups. These groups are led by capable leaders (chosen by the groups themselves) who have track records in community mobilization and also linkage between the administration and community. They qualify to be lead farmers and assistant lead farmers. They also need to be dedicated to the work and also have some basic education to read and write, knows locations of the farmers and able to reach out to more farmers.</p>
			<p>The lead farmers and assistant lead farmers are key to mobilization of farmers because they are close to the farmers. To be able to carry out long term community led project, our technicians have motorbikes which enable them to reach farmers easily. We also use administration in the mobilization of farmers where by the farmers and community can come together and learn about and contribute to the project through meetings and workshops.</p> <p>Finally, because Trees for Kenya collaborates directly with the public stakeholders in the region (i.e., Local Administration and Ministry of Agriculture) they have good reach and</p>

		capacity to undertake community engagement. These stakeholders have technical officers and agronomists that can provide the appropriate technical input for the project and can also help in resolving conflicts, as they are connected to the regional and national government.
Sustainability	The local partner agrees with the Rabobank's sustainability policy.	Yes
GDPR	The local partner's current data handling policies are compliant with GDPR regulations.	Yes
Participant organization	Describe how the project is organized, or in the process of being organized, into cooperatives, associations, community-based organizations or other organizational forms able to contribute to the social and economic development of the participants and their communities, and which is democratically controlled by the participants.	<p>Trees for Kenya started working with individual farmers by identifying them and mobilizing them, later individual farmers formed groups of 10-30 members, the group are trained and some have been producing seedlings for the organization.</p> <p>Members who started working with us earlier are now harvesting fruits like tamarillo and other products like Moringa leaves. We are now mobilizing the groups to come together forming CBOs to be able to market their products and to be able to register with export companies.</p>
Project effects	The project strives to not contribute, or does its utmost to avoid, environmental or (agricultural) biodiversity harm.	Yes
Entity	The local partner is an established legal entity that takes responsibility for the project and for meeting the requirements of the Acorn Framework for the duration of the project.	Yes
Local presence	The local partner has a strong in-country presence and the respect and experience required to work effectively with local	Yes

	participants and their communities.	
Local policies	The local partner has a solid understanding of local policies and can confirm that the country's policy allows individual CRUs to be sold.	Yes
Influence	The local partner is capable of negotiating and dealing with government, local organizations and institutions.	Yes
Resources	The local partner is focused and has the organizational capability and ability to mobilize the necessary resources to develop the project (e.g. including access to seedlings, inputs, agronomic knowledge, monitoring and technical support).	Yes
Data collection	The local partner can provide reliable data (i.e. GPS polygons, phone numbers, other KYC data).	Yes
Training	The local partner has the ability to mobilize and train participants, and implement and monitor project activities.	Yes
Condition (i)	The local partner recognizes that the participant's involvement in the project is entirely voluntary.	Yes
Condition (ii)	The local partner recognizes that participants own the carbon benefits of the project intervention.	Yes
Participant payments (i)	The project coordinator ensures that payments are made in a transparent and traceable manner.	Yes
Participant payments (ii)	The project coordinator ensures that mobile payments to participants are either already possible or	Yes

		there are no foreseeable obstacles for this in the near future.	
	Contributions	The local partner does not draw more than 10% of sales income for ongoing coordination, administration and monitoring costs. Exceeding this percentage is only possible in exceptional circumstances where justification is provided and Acorn formally approves a waiver.	Yes
	Participant identity	The local partner is able to collect and provide proof of participant's identity.	Yes
Tenure & rights	Land-tenure and carbon rights (i)	Provide a description of how land tenure is organized amongst the target project participants	Land is owned by individuals on a freehold title deeds ownership and possess either a green card (if they have not processed the title deed) or land title deed (if it has been processed). See Annex 2 for sampled evidence.
	Land-tenure and carbon rights (ii)	The project applies to land over which the participant/community has (formal/informal) ownership or long-term user rights.	Yes
Sustainable land use activity	Land use	Provide a description of the current land use activities, before the start of the project intervention, within the project.	The current land use activities are tea, coffee and subsistence crop farming.
	Project design	The project is/will be designed to promote sustainable land-use and has/will have a feasible business case underwritten by agronomist(s) and community representatives.	Yes
	Deforestation	The local partner confirms that no deforestation has taken place five years before the start of the project intervention (project baseline). If this cannot be confirmed, a description of	Yes

	the cause of the deforestation is provided, including the measures that have been taken to prevent deforestation from happening again.	
Additionality	The local partner ensures project additionality and ensures a durability period of 20 years.	Yes
Existing agroforestry (i)	Agroforestry at the farm level has been implemented less than 5 years before the start of the project intervention.	Yes
Existing agroforestry (ii)	Participants and local partners confirm that previously sequestered CO ₂ on the land has not yet been monetized.	Yes
Existing agroforestry (iii)	Existing agroforestry has been funded largely by donors/grants.	Yes
New agroforestry	There is sufficient supply of seedlings, inputs, water and other required resources.	Yes
Naturalized species	The local partner promotes the use of native species. The use of naturalized species is acceptable under the conditions outlined in the Framework.	Yes
Current habitat	Provide a description of the current ecosystem and flora and fauna species of the project area (including temp, elevation, soil health etc.).	The project started working with community members neighbouring Mount Kenya forest where rains are high and a lot of Tea and coffee is grown as a cash crop. Tree species common in the area are <i>Grevillea robusta</i> , <i>Acrocarpus fraxinifolius</i> , <i>Vitex keniensis</i> , <i>Podocarpus falcatus</i> , <i>Syzygium guineenses</i> and <i>Cordia africana</i> . The project slowly was scaled out to mid altitude areas where Maize and coffee are the crops grown. The Terrain is relatively flat and the agricultural potential is high. Rainfall received is also high. The species of trees are mixed from <i>Vitex keniensis</i> , <i>podocarpus falcatus</i> , <i>Cordia africana</i> ,

Markhamia lutea, *Prunus africana* and *Ficus*. Animals neighbouring farmers include elephants, buffalos, gazelles, monkeys and different bird species common within Mount Kenya area.

Participant eligibility checklist

Topic	Sub-topic	Requested information	Result
Organizational Capacity	Smallholder labour force	Participants are not structurally dependent on permanent hired labor, and manage their land mainly by themselves with the help of their families.	Yes
	Smallholder farm size	The cultivated land of participants does not exceed 10 ha.	Yes
	Resources	Participants, with the support of the local partner, have the ability to mobilize the necessary resources to implement the project.	Yes
	Data collection	Participants can allow reliable data to be collected for the project (i.e. GPS polygons, phone numbers, other KYC data).	Yes
	Condition (i)	Participants are aware that their decision to participate in the project is entirely voluntary.	Yes
	Participant identity	Participants are able to provide proof of their identity.	Yes
Tenure & rights	Land-tenure and carbon rights (i)	Provide a description of how land tenure is organized.	Land is owned by individuals on a freehold title deeds ownership and possess either a green card (if they have not processed the title deed) or land title deed (if it has been processed). See Annex 2 for sampled evidence.
	Land-tenure and carbon rights (ii)	The project applies to land over which the participant/community has (formal/informal) ownership or long-term user rights.	Yes

Sustainable land use activity

Land use	Provide a description of the current land use activities within the project.	The current land use activities are tea, coffee and subsistence crop farming.
Deforestation	Participants confirm that no deforestation has taken place five years before the start of the project intervention (project baseline). If this cannot be confirmed, a description of the cause of the deforestation is provided, including the measures that have been taken to prevent deforestation from happening again.	Yes
Additionality	Participants ensures project additionality and is aware that the project has a durability period of 20 years.	Yes
Existing agroforestry (i)	Participants confirm agroforestry at the farm level has been implemented less than 5 years ago.	Yes
Existing agroforestry (ii)	Participants confirm that previously sequestered CO ₂ on the land has not yet been monetized.	Yes
Current habitat	Provide a description of the current ecosystem and flora and fauna species of the project area (including temp, elevation, soil health etc.).	The project started working with community members neighbouring Mount Kenya forest where rains are high and a lot of Tea and coffee is grown 12 as a cash crop. Tree species common in the area are <i>Grevillea robusta</i> , <i>Acrocarpus fraxinifolius</i> , <i>Vitex keniensis</i> , <i>Podocarpus falcatus</i> , <i>Syzygium guineenses</i> and <i>Cordia africana</i> . The project slowly was scaled out to mid altitude areas where Maize and coffee are the crops grown. The Terrain is relatively flat and the agricultural potential is high. Rainfall received is also high. The species of trees are mixed from <i>Vitex keniensis</i> , <i>podocarpus falcatus</i> , <i>Cordia africana</i> , <i>Markhamia lutea</i> , <i>Prunus africana</i> and <i>Ficus</i> . Animals neighbouring farmers include elephants, buffalos, gazelles, monkeys and different bird species common within Mount Kenya area.

Part C: Additionality Assessment

Positive list	Demonstrate that the project meets requirements (a) and (b) and at least one of the requirements (c) and (d).	
	(a) The project area is located in a country or region with a recent UNDP Human Development Indicator ¹ below or equal to 0.8.	The HDI score of Kenya is below 0.8, measuring 0.575.
	(b) The project shall not be mandatory by any law or regulation, or if mandatory, the local partner shall demonstrate that these laws and regulations are systematically not enforced.	This project is not mandatory under any law/regulation. See the UNFCCC nationally determined contribution of Kenya, National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2018 – 2022 and the Forest Conservation and Management Act, 2016.
	(c) The project is located in a region with a mean annual precipitation of less than 600 mm.	No, the precipitation is higher than 600mm, measuring 1032 mmf in Embu and Tharaka Nithi.
	(d) The project area is (predominantly) located in a country or region with a recent UNDP Human Development Indicator below 0.6.	The HDI score of Kenya is below 0.6, measuring 0.575.
Barrier analysis	Demonstrate that the project intervention would not have taken place due to a least one of the following barriers.	
Type of barrier	Situation without project	Situation with project
Financial/economic barrier	In the project area, farmers live below \$2 with a poverty level of more than 75%. They rely purely on their cash crops for income and subsistence crops grown on their farms for food. The prices of cash crops are also very low currently and the cost of inputs are significantly rising due to COVID and the war in Ukraine, resulting in farmers unable to afford the resources and training necessary to transition to an agroforestry system. Farmers are unable to obtain credit or loans to invest in such a change and were unable to connect to the carbon market for compensation due to lack of knowledge and capacity to network. The farmers also encounter technical barriers before the project due to their lack of access to reliable nurseries and inability to afford planting materials such as seeds and polybags.	As part of this project, Trees for Kenya is helping farmers overcome their financial barrier and transition to agroforestry by offering the necessary in-house (on farm) training (species selection, spacing, shading, after planting management, value addition, marketing etc.), planting materials (seedlings, polybags etc.) that was too costly and confusing for them to seek on their own. Trees for Kenya currently rely on temporary grant funding to offer this assistance to farmers but are only able to continue this in an optimal manner with additional financial support from carbon finance. Field visits and demo farm visits are also undertaken at farmer’s level. With their 10% portion of the carbon finance they ensure trainings and field visits are occurring more frequent and in an ongoing manner. They will also invest into providing higher quality planting materials for farmers, creating and

implementing an ongoing strong and inclusive decision making structure, partnering with more local nurseries, and onboarding more farmers who are eager to transition in their network. The current decision-making structure involves consideration of multiple sets of data on farmers needs/challenges, tree cover, food security from farmers, community, environment and government databases. With the CRU income this decision-making structure will be more inclusive and engaging with at least two farmer meetings a year where decisions can be made together in person. Acorn are connecting these farmers to the carbon market, overcoming their barrier of limited knowledge and access in such a poverty ridden area. The carbon income offered by Acorn will provide an additional and more stable source of income for farmers that can be used to create, maintain and upgrade their agroforestry systems. This carbon revenue offered by Acorn and the increased profit from tree 16 products (fruit, medicine, etc.) act as a financial safeguard to ensure that farmers have a buffer to keep their agroforestry system intact while affording to eat three meals a day and keep their children in school when facing financial hardship.

Ecological barrier

Before project intervention farmers were facing a rapid and significant loss of top soil and fertile land that was leading to dry conditions and a high risk of bushfire due to the increasing impacts of climate change (extreme temperatures, wind and water erosion). The degradation of soil and risk of bushfire threaten both the plant and animal biodiversity in the project area. Due to farmers limited financial state, they were unable to invest in training to learn how improve land quality or techniques such as applying fertilisers and planting shade trees.

During this project, farmers will be supported to restore their lands in terms of fertility and use of organic fertilizers instead of chemical fertilizers, reduce massive soil erosions, reduce the risk of bushfire and loss of biodiversity. This will be achieved by the technical support that Trees for Kenya will provide throughout the life of the project using their 10% of CRUs generated such as training that includes preventing bushfires and other climate disasters, type and amount of fertilizers needed or use of mulching, manual pest prevention instead of pesticide use, tree species and spacing for optimal shade and protection from heavy wind and rain etc. With the additional income farmers receive from the CRUs generated they can if they

choose invest this in high quality fertilizers, the creation of live fences, seeking labor for creating fire breaks, or the planting of further trees to upgrade their agroforestry system and improve soil health further depending on the conditions and size of their farm. This increase in soil health and shade provided will contribute to crop health and protection from climate extremes, therefore increasing in yield and farm productivity. The trees planted will offer shade and shelter for wildlife seeking refuge from the extreme temperatures, and allow important microbial life in the soil to thrive.

Overall conclusion:

This assessment aims to prove that the agroforestry project, coordinated by Trees for Kenya, and the trees planted during this project are additional. This document explores the concept of additionality at the tree level, farmer level, and project level, emphasizing the importance of the latter.

Tree Level

This agroforestry project led by Trees for Kenya was established in 2019. When engaging with farmers about what they wanted or needed to transition to an agroforestry system in mobilizations and workshops with support of local government, farmers found carbon finance an ideal manner of compensation for their behaviour change and maintenance of their agroforestry system long-term. Although the promise of carbon credits is not what enabled the first farmers to plant their trees in the short and long rainy seasons of 2019, it ensures farmers can continue their efforts and continue planting, maintaining, and upgrading their agroforestry systems and that Trees for Kenya can continue encouraging and support these sustainable changes in farming practices. The agroforestry design for this project and the technical assistance offered by Trees for Kenya educates farmers and provides them with the necessary resources to plant their trees over a minimum period of 2-3 years. Currently, 2000 farmers have begun the transition to agroforestry in the project area with the support of Trees for Kenya, 500 per year from 2019 to 2022. Trees for Kenya continue planting more trees with new farmers every planting season, approx. 500 farmers planting between 200-350 trees on their farm depending on the size of the farm and capacity of the farmer. The carbon credits farmers receive for the trees planted in the project are ex-post based and will only be derived from one year before CRU issuance. To ensure additionality in response to the first trees planted by these farmers, the adjustment factor for pre-project trees will be applied as per the Acorn methodology.

Farmer Level

In the project area, farmers live below \$2 with a poverty level of more than 75%. They rely purely on their cash crops for income and subsistence crops grown on their farms for food. Farmers face financial barriers due the low prices of their cash crops and the rising costs of inputs due to COVID and the war in Ukraine, resulting in farmers unable to afford the planting materials and training necessary to transition to an agroforestry system. Farmers are unable to invest in such a change of practices due to their lack of access to and knowledge on how to obtain credit/loans or connect to the carbon market for compensation. This financial barriers goes hand in hand with the technical barriers farmers face, not able to afford or access planting materials and inputs needed

for such a transition. In addition to the financial and technical barriers, farmers are experiencing a rapid and significant loss of top soil and fertile land, resulting in degraded and dry soil that increases the risk of bushfire. Due to farmer financial hardship, they are unable to invest in training and measures to build resilience to the impacts of climate change that are destroying their land such as extreme temperatures, wind and rain.

This project and the carbon finance offer to both farmers and Trees for Kenya will help overcome all three barriers described. Acorn connect farmers to the carbon market and provide them with an additional income that can be used to continue to upgrade their agroforestry system, implement more farm protection measures (i.e. live fences), afford organic and high quality fertilisers, obtaining labour to help with bushfire prevention, and adapting on farm infrastructure to be resilient against the impacts of climate change. The additional income stream from carbon finance will also aid in transforming the economic status of these families and their communities in such a poverty ridden area of Kenya. The reward of carbon finance provides a tangible and regular incentive for farmers to continue to maintain and upgrade their agroforestry system in the long-term (20+ years).

Although. To date, Trees for Kenya have trained over 657 farmers on in house trainings. Currently, those farmers received a once off in house (on farm training) where farmers learning about species selection, spacing, shading and after planting management. With the carbon revenue, Trees for Kenya will offer higher quality training (including value addition, marketing, storing products, advise on fertilizer, etc.). The goal is to provide this to all farmers on a quarterly basis in an ongoing fashion.

This carbon finance will ensure Trees for Kenya can partner with more local and reliable nurseries, farmers are well educated beyond basics (tree species selection and spacing requirements) including what type of fertiliser to apply and how much/often, how to prevent bushfires, how to reduce post-harvest loss for products like mangoes which can be dried and stored for longer time or converting bananas into flour and Crips, manual pest prevention techniques, how to prune trees and avoid competition over the life of the project etc. Trees for Kenya are also investigating whether they can extract fibres from banana stems to reduce wastage on farms. This increase in quality and frequency of training will ensure the project is successful in the long-term and doesn't fail due to poor capacity and knowledge of farmers.

Project Level

Trees for Kenya have the goal to ensure the success of this project at a large scale, expanding to include all the smallholder farmers in their network and more, with an additional 500 farmers being onboarded each year. Trees for Kenya's aim for this project is to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and their communities through income diversification (tree products and carbon finance), enhancing soil health for higher crop yield and less costly inputs, reduce massive soil erosions on farms, and improving farmer nutritional intake and biodiversity. The first 350 farmer who began planting their first batch of trees in 2019 are few compared with the trees farmers are still eager to plant and all the new farmers to be onboarded with the scaling of the project. The Acorn project in the region will act as an eye opener to many farmers on how they can access the carbon market and carbon credits and understand the importance of ecosystem services offered by trees and how they can be integrated onto farms in a way that benefits farmer and community livelihood. Only focusing on the initial farmers who planted their first batch of trees in 2019 doesn't consider the additionality of the full project over its lifetime. If farmers who transitioned to this long-term agroforestry system are not are not rewarded with income from the carbon credits as promised to them for their efforts, they may be discouraged from maintaining and scaling up their agroforestry interventions after all their hard work and lack of

tangible benefits before all trees are mature. This lack of reward will result in a barrier to scaling up.

The success of the first farmers who will be financially compensated for the carbon they have sequestered will work as an extra stimulus to increase the participation of the wide range of farmers that Trees for Kenya could reach with the support of Acorn. Acorn provides carbon finance to the farmers and Trees for Kenya to overcome their financial barriers on a larger scale. The receipt of carbon finance by farmers will also work as a proof of and faith in the carbon credit system as a payment for investment for organisations willing to invest in the project as a whole to enable significant scaling in the future. Providing carbon finance to compensate Kenyan farmers is the only practical way to achieve scale and proof of concept.

Part D: Project Baseline Assessment

Number of participants surveyed	Total number of project participants	Percentage of total participants included in baseline			
100	24,474 (2,000 at the time of survey completion)	0.7% (5% at the time of survey completion)			
Area	Indicator	Metric	Source	SDG	Result
Local livelihood	Farmer income from carbon finance	Revenue from CRU sales	Survey (information collected on the Acorn platform)	1, 2, 8	383,030.88 Euros
	Nutritional variety	Number of food groups in the diet (see Appendix 7.9)	Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) index survey ²	1, 2	Farmers consume on average 1.7 food groups.
	Agricultural land use and productivity	Farm output value per hectare per crop type [kg/ha/crop]	Survey (information collected on the Acorn platform), FAO TAPE Tool ³	1, 2, 8	Coffee = 102,243 kg/ha Tea = 34,150 kg/ha Maize = 11,820 kg/ha Bananas = 9,450 kg/ha
Environmental improvement	Agricultural biodiversity	Crop/animal/pollinators count	Gini-Simpson Index survey ⁴	2, 15	50% (unsustainable)

1. Farmer income from carbon finance

- I.) Describe the current financial state of farmers and how project intervention is expected to positively/negatively impact these.

Most farmers (over 60% in the project area) live below \$2 per day. This creates a high dependency on cash crops for income and food crops for self-consumption, which is unsustainable due to the rising costs of inputs. Access to bank loans is non-existent as farmers can't meet the banks' requirements, such as collateral. This financial barrier is also reflected in the survey, where the majority of participants stated that they endure financial hardships (37%), that they lack resources (36%), or in some cases, have just enough resources or finances (22%).

² [Swindale & Bilinsky, 2006](#)

³ [FAO, 2019](#)

⁴ [Izsák & Papp, 2000](#)

Therefore, they cannot take care of their basic needs, such as health, food and education. In addition, the project area's demographic is facing rapid growth, contributing to a lack of resources in the community. About 79% of surveyed participants said they could only partially afford education for themselves and their families, while 12% couldn't afford this at all.

As part of the project intervention, farmers will plant more trees yearly and receive a more stable and reliable income from carbon credit and income diversification through selling tree-derived products such as fruits, and medicine.

II.) Fill in the table below based on the carbon credits received by farmers.

This table will be complete when farmers received their first CRU payment, it is not applicable in the year one Acorn Design Document.

Number of farmers	Number of credits received	Time period credits were received	Total income from carbon credits
4,919	11,460	2023	383,030.88 Euros
49	152	2024	5,433.00 Euros
TOTAL CREDITS	11,612	TOTAL INCOME	388,463.88 Euros

2. Nutritional Variety

I.) Describe farmer nutritional intake currently and how project intervention is expected to positively/negatively impact this.

A typical project-area farmer's diet is heavily based on maize with 90% of surveyed farmers reported having eaten cereals, vegetables (26% of surveyed farmers), beans (9% of surveyed farmers), and fruits (10% of surveyed farmers) in the last 24 hours. Because some farmers raise livestock, they can integrate beef, chicken, eggs, and milk into their diets. Nevertheless, their access to diverse foods is sometimes limited due to financial limitations and they can only buy a few products in the markets (64% of surveyed farmers). In addition, the majority of respondents reported having to skip meals (63% of surveyed farmers). Therefore, the participant's nutritional variety is generally very poor, as seen with the average number of food groups consumed at 1.7 in the HDDS survey table in question ii.).

Integrating an agroforestry system within the current subsistence farming will increase food and cash crop production, increasing income and improving nutrition (e.g. from fruit trees). In addition, the extra revenue from the sale of CRUs will also allow farmers to increase their nutritional variety.

II.) HDDS Index Survey Results.

Food group type	Amount of farmers consuming each food group (%)
Cereals	90
Root and tubers	9
Vegetables	26
Fruits	10
Meat, poultry, offal	7
Eggs	5
Fish and seafood	0
Pulses, legumes, nuts, and seeds	4
Milk and milk products	12

Oils and fats	1
Sweets	1
Spices, condiments and beverages	1
Average number of food groups consumed per farmer: 1.7 food groups	

3. Agricultural Land Use and Productivity

- I.) Please describe your current productivity level, challenges around productivity and yield from farm outputs.

Most farmers (93%) identify their productivity as being average, although not stable for reasons of i) drought (71% of surveyed farmers), ii) high input costs (63%), iii) diseases (44%), and iv) high planting costs (43%). These survey results align with the main barriers identified for farmers (Project Summary – Q31), including climate change (leading to droughts), low productivity, access to costly resources, poor financial security and volatility in commodity prices. Low or unstable productivity is especially concerning as farmers rely purely on cash and food crops grown from their farms.

The impact of project intervention is expected to be positive due to the promotion of sustainable land use through a well-designed and equipped agroforestry system, as Trees for Kenya will provide farmers with the necessary planting materials and training and partnering with more local and reliable nurseries to promote their transition to agroforestry, which in turn will promote an increased yield of crops. In addition, the trees planted will contribute to the overall farm productivity after the trees are fully productive by acting as sources of food, windbreaks, attracting pollinators, and by its nitrogen-fixating properties.

- II.) Please fill in the survey below depending on the yield of your cash crop and total farm yield, including the percentage of productivity that accounts for crops other than the cash crop.

Cash crop type	Yield of cash crop (kg/ha)	Amount of farmers cultivating cash crop (%)	Other crops contributing to productivity and their amount (%)
Avocados	13,120	12	Vegetables, tomatoes, potatoes, cassava, arrowroot, cabbage, pigweed, and Sukuma wiki contribute to approx. 4.3% of total productivity.
Bananas	9,450	13	
Beans	11,850	11	
Coffee	102,243	48	
Kat	5,500	7	
Kale	321	4	
Macadamia	9,640	13	
Maize	11,820	15	
Mango	32,455	26	
Miraa	9,770	10	
Orange	2,200	3	
Passion fruit	200	1	
Pawpaw	1,801	4	
Tea	34,150	10	
Tobacco	30	1	

4. Agricultural Biodiversity

- I.) Describe the current state of biodiversity and how project intervention is expected to positively/negatively impact this.

The project area is characterized by subsistence crop farming, as farmers rely purely on cash and food crops grown from their farms. This practice alone places a lot of pressure on the land's soil, which already faces continuous erosion of the earth and the consequences of climate change that bring about extreme dry conditions, increasing the risk of bushfires and, consequently, degradation of the land and unstable crop yields. These land changes negatively impacts native flora and fauna through loss of suitable habitat.

Most surveyed farmers (65%) report having a medium level of biodiversity in their farms, a result of growing between 3 to 5 different crops, the presence of 6 to 15 other plant/tree species and occasional to a moderate sighting of wild animals. In addition, most farmers (43%) report having less than 25% of their productive farm area covered by natural or diverse vegetation, demonstrating the agricultural pressure put on their agricultural ecosystem.

In general, the biodiversity of this project's area is "acceptable", as the score of the Gini-Simpson Index is 50%. This result is positive due to the farm area involving cultivation of a wide range of food crops (approx. 23 types) alongside the main cash crops such as maize, beans and coffee. In addition, most farmers also raise livestock (91% of surveyed farmers), and the average number of animals per farmer is 15 (mainly chickens) which contributes to an acceptable biodiversity score.

Therefore, project intervention is expected to positively impact the state of the project area's biodiversity, as a mix of trees is to be planted, promoting soil health for higher crop yield and less costly inputs, as well as a reduction of soil erosion. The increased shade from these trees will be favourable to local animals seeking refuge against heat and sun exposure, in addition to the increased presence of pollinators from flowering trees, shade and more productive crop yields.

Finally, as the project intervention is expected to improve the overall biodiversity of the area, the presence of threatened/culturally significant animal species is also likely to improve or not drop further. The presence of such species will be monitored with high local environmental and conservational value by lead farmers and farmers, who will report back to the field officers.

- II.) How many farmers perform beekeeping?

11% of the surveyed farmers perform beekeeping activities, of which the majority is wild instead of raised bees.

- III.) Gini-Simpson Index Results.

Crops	Area	pi	p2	Livestock	number	equivalent	pi	p2
Arrow roots	0.1	0,001	0,000	Cows	146	146	0,77	0.596
Avocado	0.5	0,005	0.000	Sheep/goats	262	26.10	0,14	0.019
Bananas	405.27	0,041	0,0016	Chicken	988	13.83	0,07	0.005
Beans	259.1	0,222	0,0494	Pigs	42	1.13	0,01	0.000
Cabbage	4.0	0,031	0,0009	Rabbits	72	1.44	0,01	0.000

Cassava	0.2	0,002	0,0000	Geese	30	0.60	0,00	0.000
Coffee	270.45	0,157	0,0246	Ducks	11	0.01*11	0,001	0.000
Kale	3.6	0,028	0,0007					
Khat	2.55	0,020	0,0003					
Macadamia	401.8	0,017	0,0002					
Maize	694.6	0,273	0,0744					
Mango	2.5	0,019	0,0003					
Miraa	1.6	0,012	0,0001					
Onions	0.0	0,002	0,0000					
Oranges	0.2	0,002	0,0000					
Pawpaw	0.083	0,001	0,0000					
Peas	0.1	0,001	0,0000					
Potatoes	0.1	0,003	0,0000					
Sukuma	0.5	0,008	0,0000					
Sunflower	0.4	0,002	0,000000					
Tea	1.1	0,136	0,0185					
Tobacco	0.3	0,001	0,0000					
Tomatoes	17.7	0,001	0,0000					
Vegetables	0.1	0,018	0,0003					
Total	2067.0		0.22	Total		189.32		0.62
Total (%)			78%	Total (%)				38%

Natural vegetation, trees and pollinators		
Description		Value
Productive area with natural vegetation	Most farmers (43%) report having a productive area smaller than 25% on their farm, followed by a similar majority (32%) reporting having a no productive area covered by natural or diverse vegetation.	0.25
Pollinator Presence	Most farmers describe having moderate presence of small pollinators, including bees, ants, butterflies; to a regular presence of mosquitos. Wild animals seen on the farms include monkeys, birds, rodents and other mammals, of which all were seen occasionally by the farmers.	0.33
Beekeeping	89% of the surveyed farmers don't perform beekeeping; does that do (11%), the majority is wild.	0.5
Total (%)		36%
Agricultural Biodiversity Score		50%

IV.) List pollinator species in the project area.

Present in project area	Pollinator type
Regularly	Mosquitos
Moderately	Ants, bats, beetles, butterflies, flies
Sometimes	-
Rarely	Moths

V.) List wild animal species in the project area.

Species (latin name)	Prevalence (Regularly/Sometimes/Rarely)
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Birds	<i>Regularly</i>
Rodents	<i>Sometimes to regularly</i>
Mammals (e.g. monkeys)	<i>Regularly</i>
Snakes	<i>Sometimes</i>

VI.) List species with a high local environmental and social conservation value in the project area, and if influenced by project intervention, describe relevant monitoring objectives/plan.

Species (Latin name)	Threat Classification (Culturally Significant/ Vulnerable/Endangered/ Critically Endangered)	Project Influence (Positive /Negative)	Justification for influence	Monitoring Objectives/Plan
<i>Prunus africana</i>	Culturally significant	Positive	Soil revitalization, protect crops from soil erosion and fodder for animas	Famers are to protect these species from being cut down, this will be monitored by field technicians and lead farmers during site visits. The biomass measurement from acorn annual will also reflect if trees are being cut down.
<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Culturally significant	Positive	Fuelwood, soil revitalization, bee foliage, fodder leaves, crops protection, shade and fuelwood	Plant more trees as part of the agroforestry design, advise farmers to prune for fuelwood instead of cutting down. The presence of these trees on farms will be monitored by field technicians and lead farmers during site visits. The biomass measurement from acorn annual will also reflect if trees are being cut down.

5. Indicator Monitoring

III.) Describe the monitoring objectives for any expected impacts on farmer livelihood and the environment from project intervention. If there are any negative impacts expected, describe the relevant mitigation actions.

Livelihood / environmental indicator	Impact description	Mitigation action (if <u>negative impact expected</u>)	Monitoring frequency and method	Responsible party
Farmer income from carbon finance	Revenue from the CRU sales will provide an additional income stream for farmers.	No mitigation measures are identified for each indicator because all are expected to improve not decline.	Each of these indicators will be measured annually through site visits (monitoring of seedlings done during the two planting seasons), project council meetings, surveys, etc, as appropriate depending upon the area. These results will be reported in the annual reports.	Trees for Kenya and Acorn
Nutritional Variety	Planting fruit trees will promote an increase in the farmers' nutritional value.			
Agricultural land use and productivity	The production of more crops and selling of fruits will improve farmer's income.			
Agricultural biodiversity	The application of agroforestry techniques on the farms will improve the overall state of biodiversity.			

Part E: Carbon Baseline Assessment

Carbon Baseline	
Requested information	Answer
Describe how land tenure has been demonstrated	Land is owned by individuals on a freehold title deeds ownership and possess either a green card (if they have not processed the title deed) or land title deed (if it has been processed). See Annex 2 for evidence.
Describe potential land tenure issues and measures taken to mitigate these	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Potential Issue 1</u>: Land subdivision by the father to the sons, resulting in the land being officially owned by the father, in this case, but subdivided in practice. This is the situation for many participants and the average subdivided plots range from 0.1 to 1.2 ha. Trees for Kenya will direct the carbon credits payment to the father who will in turn share it with the sons. • <u>Potential Issue 2</u>: Selling the lands to new owners within the duration of the project. However, the revenue from carbon credits sale will be automatically directed towards the new owner when a contract is signed.
Description of current land use	<p>The land is owned by the farmers, through freehold title deeds and it is mostly used for subsistence farming which includes growing of both cash and food crops. The project area is covered by cash crops (40%), food crops (40%), and the homestead (20%), which the latter consists of families' buildings, home compounds, and cowsheds. Cultivated species in the project area include avocados (<i>Persea americana</i>), tamarillo fruits (<i>Solanum betaceum</i>), mangos (<i>Mangifera indica</i>), bananas (<i>Musa sp</i>) and guava (<i>Psidium guajava</i>), which are all both sold at markets and consumed by the farmer, with exception of the guava which is only for self-consumption.</p> <p>Pests are controlled on the farm through the use of insecticides (74% of surveyed farmers), herbicides (28% of surveyed farmers), and fungicides (20% of surveyed farmers of surveyed farmers). On average, approx. 132.8 L of pesticides are used in the project area per year per farmer. Farmers also report using fertilizers, both organic and inorganic. Some examples include manure, mulch for organic options, and phosphorus and nitrogen for inorganic fertilizers. On average, participants use approx. 1,733 kg of fertilizers per hectare in their farms, of which 62% accounts for organic fertilizers and the remaining 38% for inorganic options.</p> <p>Through project intervention, Trees for Kenya provides trainings to teach and promote the use organic fertilizers and manures, in addition to organic methods for pest</p>

	<p>control. These methods include the use of organic materials like Mexican marigold and pepper to spray crops against pests, and the use of ash to reduce acidity in the soil. Trainings on these methods are provided by Trees for Kenya’s field technicians and agronomist from the Ministry of Agriculture for groups of farmers (between 20 to 30).</p> <p>Without project intervention, farmers would not have the financial resources to afford education and skills to transition to an agroforestry system and undertake sustainable agricultural practices such as tree planting, mulching, composting and crop rotation. Instead, farmers would continue practising subsistence farming with few trees on their farms that further degrades soil.</p>
<p>Description of current habitat species</p>	<p>The project area neighbours Mount Kenya’s forest, characterized by heavy rainfall, with common tree species being <i>Grevillea robusta</i>, <i>Acrocarpus fraxinifolius</i>, <i>Vitex keniensis</i>, <i>Podocarpus falcatus</i>, <i>Syzygium guineenses</i> and <i>Cordia africana</i>. As the project scales, the intervention area also includes mid altitude lands where maize and coffee are the main cash crops. Rainfall is also high and the main tree species include <i>Vitex keniensis</i> and <i>Podocarpus falcatus</i>, <i>Cordia africana</i>, <i>Markhamia lutea</i> and <i>Prunus africana</i>. Animals present in the neighbouring areas includes elephants, buffalos, gazelles, monkeys and different bird species native to Mount Kenya.</p> <p>Without project intervention, the degradation of soil and risk of bushfires would increase as the land faces a rapid and significant loss of top and fertile soil in addition to more predominant dry conditions as a result of climate change. This change will threaten both fauna and flora biodiversity, causing it to decrease in the project area. In addition to this, farmers would be incentivized to continue cutting down trees as a source of income from timber and fuelwood to cater basic needs such as food and education, leading, therefore, to a higher biodiversity loss.</p>
<p>Description of deforestation potential</p>	<p>There is no known local land deforestation which has occurred within the area which is cultivated land. Although there is population increase in the area, it has not affected the farm lands in the project area in terms of deforestation.</p>
<p>Description of trees species <2m and their distribution</p>	<p>The existing trees species under 2m in height include fruit trees, flowering trees and shade trees. Two species are native to Africa, <i>Cordia africana</i> and <i>Markhamia lutea</i>. The remaining are native to Australia, Asia and Central America, and these consist of shade and wind-breaker trees (<i>Grevillea robusta</i>), and a leguminous tree beneficial for the soil (<i>Calliandra calothyrsus</i>) and fruit trees (<i>Musa and Persea americana</i>).</p>

Number of existing trees $\geq 2m$	119,889 trees
Number of existing trees older than 5 years	21,111 trees
Coverage percentage of existing trees older than 5 years	14.97%

1. Existing tree species list <2m.

Species <2m (Latin name)	Distribution
<i>Musa spp.</i>	30%
<i>Persea americana</i>	5%
<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	30%
<i>Acrocarpus fraxinifolius</i>	30%
<i>Cordia africana</i>	5%
<i>Markhamia lutea</i>	15%
<i>Calliandra calothyrsus</i>	20%

2. Existing tree species list ($\geq 2m$).

Species >2m (Latin name)	Number	Species >2m (Latin name)	Number	Species >2m (Latin name)	Number
<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	4	<i>Cupressus sp.</i>	7	<i>Osyris abyssinica</i>	1
<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	6	<i>Cyphomandra betacea</i>	10	<i>Osyris lanceolata</i>	5
<i>Acacia sp.</i>	65	<i>Cytisus proliferus</i>	2	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>	9
<i>Acalypha wilkesiana</i>	3	<i>Dendrocnide moroides</i>	1	<i>Pennisetum glaucum</i>	1180
<i>Acokanthera sp.</i>	2	<i>Diospyros mespiliformis</i>	4	<i>Persea americana</i>	968
<i>Acrocarpus fraxinifolius</i>	129	<i>Diospyros montana</i>	2	<i>Persea sp.</i>	1
<i>Acrocarpus sp.</i>	37	<i>Dombeya sp.</i>	2	<i>Phyllanthus acidus</i>	3
<i>Afrocarpus falcatus</i>	6	<i>Ehretia cymosa</i>	1	<i>Piliostigma sp.</i>	1
<i>Albizia gummifera</i>	9	<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	61	<i>Piliostigma thonningii</i>	33
<i>Alphitonia whitei</i>	1	<i>Eriobotrya sp.</i>	1	<i>Pinus sp.</i>	5
<i>Amelanchier sp.</i>	18	<i>Erythrina abyssinica</i>	33	<i>Piper excelsum</i>	1
<i>Annona squamosa</i>	13	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	3036	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	6
<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i>	3	<i>Eucalyptus microcorys</i>	19	<i>Poinsettia sp.</i>	6
<i>Asimina triloba</i>	4	<i>Euphorbia sp.</i>	1	<i>Populus deltoides</i>	1
<i>Atriplex isatidea</i>	2	<i>Euphorbia tirucalli</i>	1	<i>Populus fremontii</i>	1
<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	2	<i>Faurea saligna</i>	1	<i>Prosopis laevigata</i>	1
<i>Bamboo</i>	1	<i>Ficus auriculata</i>	1	<i>Prunus africana</i>	120
<i>Bauhinia sp.</i>	1	<i>Ficus lutea</i>	1	<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	17
<i>Biancaea decapetala</i>	2	<i>Ficus natalensis</i>	2	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	2
<i>Borassus aethiopum</i>	20	<i>Ficus sp.</i>	36	<i>Prunus sp.</i>	6
<i>Boscia salicifolia</i>	49	<i>Ficus sur</i>	5	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	225
<i>Brachychiton sp.</i>	1	<i>Ficus sycomorus</i>	10	<i>Pterocarpus tinctorius</i>	41
<i>Brachystegia bakeriana</i>	1	<i>Ficus thonningii</i>	4	<i>Pterocarya fraxinifolia</i>	29
<i>Brachystegia boehmii</i>	2	<i>Gardenia thunbergia</i>	1	<i>Pueraria sp.</i>	28
<i>Brachystegia sp.</i>	1	<i>Gleditsia caspica</i>	1	<i>Quercus brandegeei</i>	1
<i>Bridelia micrantha</i>	39	<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	5639	<i>Quercus fulva</i>	2

<i>Bridelia sp.</i>	30	<i>Grewia asiatica</i>	1	<i>Rauvolfia sp.</i>	9
<i>Bridelia taitensis</i>	8	<i>Grewia bicolor</i>	1	<i>Rawsonia lucida</i>	5
<i>Bridelia tomentosa</i>	19	<i>Gutenbergia cordifolia</i>	1	<i>Rhus vulgaris</i>	18
<i>Buchanania sp.</i>	1	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	4436	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	9
<i>Buddleja cordata</i>	1	<i>Helianthus sp.</i>	1227	<i>Ricinus sp.</i>	4
<i>Bulnesia sp.</i>	1	<i>Heteromorpha arborescens</i>	4	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	2
<i>Bursera simaruba</i>	49	<i>Hibiscus sp.</i>	1	<i>Saba senegalensis</i>	1
<i>Butea monosperma</i>	1	<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	202	<i>Saccharum officinarum</i>	647
<i>Cajanus cajan</i>	50	<i>Jacaranda sp.</i>	1	<i>Samanea saman</i>	62
<i>Calliandra calothyrsus</i>	107	<i>Jatropha curcas</i>	76	<i>Senna siamea</i>	22
<i>Calliandra eriophylla</i>	3	<i>Juglans sp.</i>	1	<i>Senna sp.</i>	1
<i>Cananga odorata</i>	26	<i>Khaya senegalensis</i>	172	<i>Smilax rotundifolia</i>	1
<i>Carica papaya</i>	138	<i>Koelreuteria bipinnata</i>	3	<i>Solanum betaceum</i>	51
<i>Cascabela thevetia</i>	27	<i>Lanea schweinfurthii</i>	1	<i>Solanum sp.</i>	7
<i>Cassia singueana</i>	5	<i>Lantana camara</i>	105	<i>Sophora tetraptera</i>	3
<i>Catha edulis</i>	179	<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>	2	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	370
<i>Celtis africana</i>	3	<i>Litsea monopetala</i>	2	<i>Sorghum sp.</i>	850
<i>Cenchrus purpureus</i>	2250	<i>Lonchocarpus eriocalyx</i>	3	<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>	45
<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	3	<i>Macadamia sp.</i>	3	<i>Syzygium cordatum</i>	1
<i>Citharexylum sp.</i>	1	<i>Macadamia tetraphylla</i>	1211	<i>Syzygium cumini</i>	5
<i>Citrus aurantium</i>	25	<i>Macaranga tanarius</i>	1	<i>Syzygium guineense</i>	16
<i>Citrus limon</i>	12	<i>Macrotyloma geocarpum</i>	3	<i>Syzygium sp.</i>	10
<i>Coffea arabica</i>	6450	<i>Mangifera indica</i>	1079	TREES FOR KENYA_unknown_species	2
<i>Combretum glutinosum</i>	56	<i>Manihot esculenta</i>	175	<i>Tectona grandis</i>	5
<i>Combretum molle</i>	146	<i>Markhamia lutea</i>	248	<i>Terminalia brownii</i>	1
<i>Combretum sp.</i>	10	<i>Melia sp.</i>	3	<i>Terminalia catappa</i>	5
<i>Combretum zeyheri</i>	3	<i>Melia volkensii</i>	6	<i>Thespesia garckeana</i>	11
<i>Commiphora eminii</i>	12	<i>Meryta denhamii</i>	10	<i>Trema orientalis</i>	2
<i>Commiphora sp.</i>	1	<i>Millettia dura</i>	1	<i>Trema tomentosa</i>	1
<i>Cordia abyssinica</i>	14	<i>Monoon longifolium</i>	12	<i>Trichilia emetica</i>	13
<i>Cordia africana</i>	38	<i>Moringa olifera</i>	62	Unknown_2022	9
<i>Cordia alliodora</i>	82	<i>Moringa sp.</i>	1	Unknown_TREES FOR KENYA_2023	316
<i>Cordia dichotoma</i>	18	<i>Morus alba</i>	2	<i>Vangueria infausta</i>	2
<i>Cordia monoica</i>	4	<i>Musa sp.</i>	6853	<i>Vangueria madagascariensis</i>	1
<i>Cordia sp.</i>	13	<i>Nerium oleander</i>	1	<i>Viburnum carlesii</i>	5
<i>Croton macrostachyus</i>	63	<i>Nicotiana sp.</i>	271	<i>Vitex keniensis</i>	166
<i>Croton megalocarpus</i>	197	<i>Nuxia congesta</i>	3	<i>Zanthoxylum chalybeum</i>	2
<i>Croton sp.</i>	1	<i>Olea africana</i>	7	<i>Zea mays</i>	82615
<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	4	<i>Olea europaea</i>	4	<i>Ziziphus mucronata</i>	1

3. Provide T-5 check data to evidence loss of tree cover over the past five years from project start date.

Outcome	Number	Plot ID	Reason for failure
PASS	12,872		
FAIL	16	KE178731 - 271264 KE183455 - 281927 KE186721 - 288535 KE190809 - 298871 KE190852 - 298921 KE191022 - 299264 KE191129 - 299481 KE194808 - 309714 KE197275 - 318467 KE197391 - 318701 KE197458 - 318835 KE199112 - 323646 KE199585 - 324597 KE200177 - 325785 KE200530 - 326497 KE214385 - 366159	These 16 plots are not eligible to generate CRUs before check is redone in the following year and appropriate evidence is provided. Reasons of failure include: i) change of cash crops (i.e., from coffee to banana), ii) clearing part of the land to grow vegetables, iii) clearing land from invasive tree species, such as eucalyptus and wattle trees, iv) harvest of mature trees (rejuvenation process) v) land conflicts due to border planting. Depending on the reason of failure, farmers have been advised by Trees for Kenya on how to proceed with agroforestry and be included in the project at a later stage. Others do not qualify for the project.

4. Provide a description of the ecoregion(s).

Northern Acacia-Commiphora bushlands and thickets

Tropical grasslands, savannas and shrublands, extending from the southeast corner of Sudan and northeast Uganda through much of lowland Kenya, reaching as far as the border with the Northern Swahili Coastal Forests, characterizes the ecoregion of Northern Acacia-Commiphora bushlands and thickets. Because this ecoregion falls within the season tropics, the mean maximum temperatures are 30°C in the lowlands, falling to around 24°C in the higher elevations, and the mean minimum temperature ranges from 18 to 21°C. Annual rainfall ranges from 200 mm in the drier areas near Lake Turkana to about 600 mm closer to the Kenyan Coast. Most precipitation falls in the long rains, typically from March to June, with less falling during the short rains of October to December. However, it is not uncommon for one or both rainy seasons to fail due to altered weather patterns. During drier periods, the desiccated vegetation becomes highly flammable and large parts of the ecoregion burn yearly.

The vegetation is predominantly Acacia-Commiphora bushland and thicket. Common plant genera include Acacia, Commiphora, Boswellia, Aristida, Stipa, and Chloris grasses. Fauna species include endemic rodents, such as Cosens' gerbil, diminutive gerbil, Percival's gerbil, and Loring's rat, and highly threatened species, such as the antelope hirola, elephants, and black rhinos. Other large carnivores include lions and cheetahs, with significant populations of reticulated and Masai giraffes. The pancake

tortoise is a threatened reptile overexploited for the pet trade. The ecoregion also supports several species of arid-adapted ungulates: Grevy's zebra, beisa oryx, gerenuk, and lesser kudu.

The habitats and species of this ecoregion are increasingly threatened by unsustainable water use, frequent grassland burning, tree cutting, and farmland expansion. Illegal hunting for skins, ivory, and rhino horn has also severely reduced populations of large animals, particularly elephants and rhinoceros.

East African montane forests

The East African montane forests covers 4 countries Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and South Sudan, and extend across a total of 65,500 square kilometres. The ecoregion occupies elevations above c. 1,500 m altitude. The climate of these mountains is wetter than the surrounding lowlands, but has a pronounced rain shadow, with the eastern and southern faces being significantly wetter. The climate in this ecoregion is temperate and seasonal, with night temperatures falling below 10°C in the cold season and rising to above 30°C during the day in the warm season. At the higher elevations frosts are possible. Rainfall varies between 1,200 and <3,000 mm per annum, with a distinct wet (October–December and March–June) and dry (January–February and July–October) season. The biome of this ecoregions is classified as tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forests.

The threatened black rhinoceros and African bush elephant—some of the most charismatic and endangered megafauna in Africa—live amongst these montane forests in the Rift Valley of East Africa, created by the cracking of the African plate system and the volcanoes typical of this ecoregion—including Mount Kilimanjaro, Mount Kenya, and Mount Elgon. The conservation status of this ecoregion is considered critical/endangered.

Part F: Project Activities

- Describe the agroforestry system to be implemented as part of the project using the figure below (silvopasture/agrisilviculture/agrisilvipastoral).

The project area covers three agroecological zones determined by the altitude: from low, to mild, to high, which corresponds to arid, semi-arid and humid regions, respectively. Tharaka Nihiti county is mostly low altitude, whereas Embu county includes mild to high altitudes, close to Mount Kenya National Park. Farmers will be implementing agrisilvicultural systems in arid, semi-arid and humid areas of the Embu and Tharaka Nithi counties. The agroforestry system will contain a mix of shade, fruit bearing, medicinal, live fences and inter-cropping trees (ex.: *Grevillea robusta*, *Acrocarpus fraxinifolius* and *Calliandra calothyrsus*).

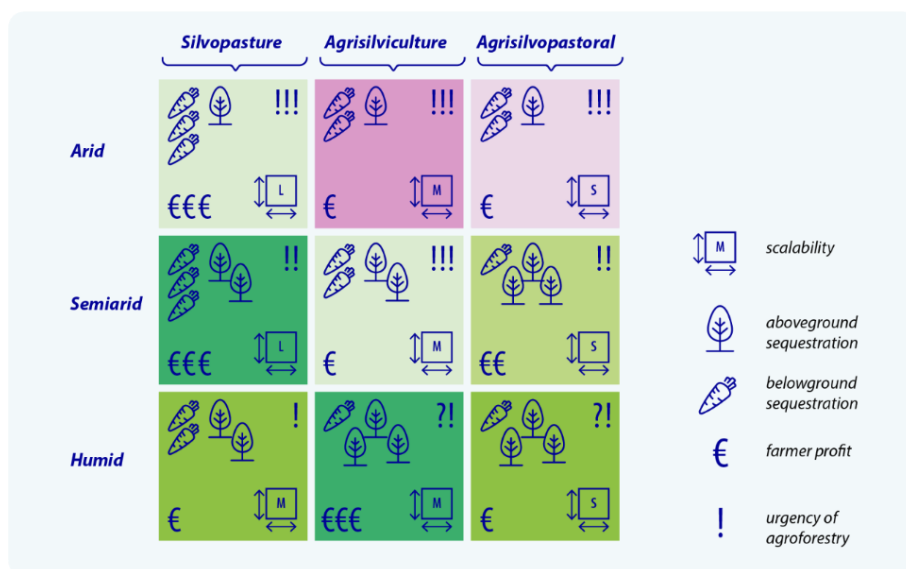


Figure 1. Agroforestry system classifications.

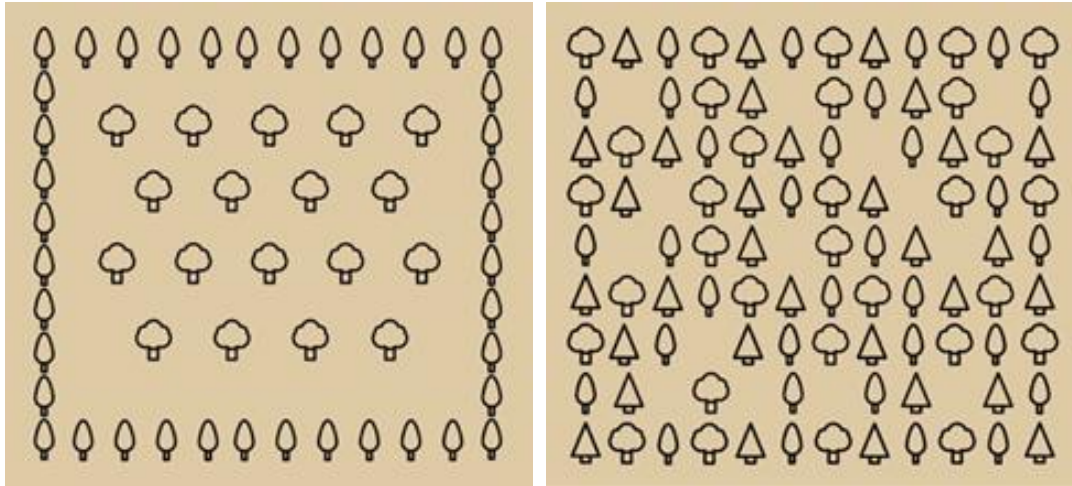
- For each agroforestry system fill out the table below (use additional tables if necessary):

Type	Species	Species details		
		Native, naturalised or invasive?	If naturalised, please describe its likely: Livelihood benefits that make it preferable to any alternative native species	Impact on biodiversity or other provision of key ecosystem services in the project and surrounding areas
Tree	<i>Grevillea robusta</i> (Silk Oak)	Naturalised	The livelihoods benefits includes; fodder leaves, protect against strong winds, require less inputs. The environmental benefits (i.e., nitrogen fixation)	Protects soil against erosion by its shedding trees and by being planted in the boundaries, will protect others from strong winds. In addition these trees will attract pollinators.
Tree	<i>Acrocarpus fraxinifolius</i> (Shingle Tree)	Naturalised	influences the increase of food security by	Planted along the boundaries, this tree

			revitalizing the land (i.e., increase in milk production by feeding livestock with Calliandra). Acrocarpus also impacts food security as it is used for beekeeping.	will protect crops from strong winds.
Tree	<i>Calliandra calothyrsus</i> (Red Calliandra)	Naturalised		This nitrogen-fixing tree will promote better crop yields and reduce the acidity of the soil, thus improving the overall soil health, and attract pollinators.
Tree	<i>Persea americana</i> (Avocado)	Naturalised	Highly nutritious fruit provided. Used for bee foraging.	Enhanced soil stabilisation and provides shade for soil and crops. Provides fodder for animals.
Tree	<i>Prunus africana</i> (African cherry)	Native	Not applicable	Not applicable.
Tree	<i>Moringa oleifera</i> (moringa)	Naturalised	Highly nutritious and with medicinal properties.	This tree provides a good nectar and pollen source for honey bees, thus increasing pollinator presence in the area.

Growth management	
Preparation and Planting	Soil preparation occurs during the dry season and consists of ploughing and addition of manure. Planting occurs at the onset of rain and this process is characterized by digging holes of 2 feet, distanced between them in 2 metres by 2 metres.
Tree/Shrub Management	The trees are lightly pruned during the summer so that the wounds can heal, and pruning intervals can occur after two to three years depending on the regeneration of the tree. For fodder, leaves are pruned regularly; especially the moringa tree as regular pruning incentivizes rapid leaf growth. At least once a year, branches are pruned. Branches which will be used for fuelwood.
Crop Management	The trees are integrated with crops on farms. The density of trees planted is 350 trees per hectare. Farmers will be encouraged to move from subsistence agriculture to sustainable agriculture, including in their practices mulching, composting and crop rotation.

- Describe the project's agroforestry design/implementation plan (taken from the business case), including;



The agroforestry design entailed first a study of the area, through visits and farmer mobilization, to understand how farmers are managing their lands. The input from the Local Administration, and from agronomists from the Ministry of Agriculture was also received as these organizations have strong presence at the local level.

The agroforestry design will include boundary planting and intercropping between cash crops, food crops, and trees. The agroforestry trees include a mix of shade, fruit-bearing, medicinal, live fences, and inter-cropping trees.

Planting is generally done twice a year; once during the heaviest rains (Masika season) season, usually between mid-March to May, and once during the shorter period of rain (Vuli season), during November and December. The maximum number of trees planted by a farmer is 350 trees per hectare. The trees are planted as seedlings, sourced from local community tree nurseries.

*The implementation of an agroforestry system will positively impact the degraded lands, having a revitalizing effect through decreasing massive soil erosion (e.g. fallen leaves from *Grevillea robusta*), reducing the acidity of the soil (e.g. *Calliandra calothyrsus* through its nitrogen-fixating capacity), protecting crops from strong winds (e.g. *Acrocarpus fraxinifolius*) and increase in the presence of pollinators (e.g. *moringa olifera* through its high nectar and pollen). In addition, the agroforestry design also aims to improve farmers' livelihoods by providing them with marketable products from trees, but also products for self-consumption with high nutritional value and health benefits. The trees listed in the table in question 2 are the main species promoted under this agroforestry design; however, TREES FOR KENYA will provide farmers with additional trees, according to their specific needs.*

Sufficient care would be taken while planting and pruning to ensure that the existing trees, before the project intervention, are not affected, and the new trees do not interfere. This is further guaranteed as trees are planted using various agroforestry systems, allowing the incorporation of trees through different approaches such as alley cropping, boundary planting, fodder plots, woodlots, live fences, etc. Distances between existing trees will also be left to grow leguminous crops like beans and maize.

Part G: Project Council

1. Describe the project council governance structure, showing that participants or community groups collectively nominate project representatives who have the capacity to operate and make decisions on their behalf and determine a decision-making mechanism for the project council.

The project council consists of Trees for Kenya representatives, field technicians, lead farmers, and farmer's representatives, which the farmers themselves elect. In addition, Farm Africa's representatives (another separate Acorn project) will also be present in the biannual Project Council meetings to align farmer messaging and prevent future issues in the community, as their project also lies in the same regions. The field technicians are qualified staff members with a degree in agriculture (e.: undergraduate degree) and at least two years of practical experience in the field. Trees For Kenya will ensure adequate representation of other interest groups, such as women, illiterate farmers, and youth, by having representatives of each group participate in the project council. This approach will be enforced as Trees for Kenya will form different clusters of farmers, each with a representative present in the council.

The meetings will take place twice a year at Trees for Kenya's offices to collect inputs and any complaints from the farmers. The views, opinions, and grievances the farmers raise will be discussed, and a way forward will be deliberated and agreed upon, where possible. Stakeholders like the Local Administration and Ministry of Agriculture are involved in these meetings to provide advise and come up with solutions, since they have a link to the government. All will be recorded in the minutes. The decision-making mechanisms will be by a majority vote. After a resolution is agreed upon, the recommendations are communicated to the farmers. Furthermore, these meetings will generate reports which will be shared with Acorn.

Once the project has reached its maturity phase, the lessons learned from the first year will improve the existing communication and governance structures. The first change is to separate the Project Council meetings from Farm Africa. This organization also conducts its intervention in the same regions, as they are at different stages of the project and have successfully established a working relationship to prevent overlapping of farmers. The following change will be to have smaller council meetings, one per region (i.e., Kiambu, Embu and Tharaka Nithi), to improve the participation of the farmers and their representatives and best represent the different contexts (i.e., different cash crops, different agroforestry designs, and different means). The participants will elect their representatives, with the aim of also including youth and women representatives during meetings with the aim of elaborating further on the goals of the governance structure, such as Project Council meetings, and promote the selection of representatives. Trees for Kenya aims to have 20 farmer representatives per county, with the addition of representatives from the Administration (the Chiefs and Sub-Chiefs), of the Assistant County, and of the Ministry of Agriculture, as they are best to advise on the technical aspect of the project, totaling on about 30 members per project council.

2. Describe how project council allows participants to provide feedback on the project design and implementation.

Participants' feedback is collected through active discussion between all members on the relevant listed topics provided by Acorn and any additional area they wish to discuss. Each topic enables farmers to offer their opinions and views, which will be discussed, and a way forward will be deliberated, where applicable. In addition, having farmers organized into clusters with a representative will ensure that each farmer's grievances will be addressed.

3. List the lead farmers that have been nominated by participants to represent project

participants during project council meetings to voice concerns and needs, and actively engage in decision making.

Participant	Gender	District	Years participating in council
Farmer 1	Male	Tharaka Nithi	0
Farmer 2	Male	Tharaka Nithi	0
Farmer 3	Male	Tharaka Nithi	0
Farmer 4	Female	Embu	0
Farmer 5	Male	Embu	0
Farmer 6	Female	Embu	0
Farmer 7	Female	Embu	0
Farmer 8	Female	Embu	0
Farmer 9	Male	Embu	0
Farmer 10	Male	Embu	0
Farmer 11	Male	Embu	0

4. Describe the grievance mechanism for this project, including;
 - I.) The method for communicating grievances (WhatsApp/phone, email, Facebook, meeting, letters, anonymous box etc.).
 - II.) How you ensure that complaints and/or recommendations can be done at any time and can be identified or be anonymous.
 - III.) The process in place to ensure grievances raised are dealt with in a transparent, fair and timely manner (e.g. chain of escalation).
 - IV.) Describe how the grievance mechanism is communicated to participants.

A grievance redressal mechanism is in place to ensure that all grievances will be addressed in a transparent, fair and timely manner. Farmers are explained their right to raise grievances upon onboarding, - onboarding engagement begins with a phone call, followed by a visit to the potential participant's land, where the project is explained through the participant agreement and infographic - and that these can be reported and recorded by all available means of communication available so to not discriminate against farmers, such as via their phones, during meetings and during the regular visits by lead farmers on the project area (twice during the monitoring phase, and then dependant on the activities, such as seedling distribution). Biannual Project Council meetings will be available on request to all farmers to ensure they are well informed enough to make complaints and/or recommendations to be shared and discussed in the meetings. Outside of these meetings, participants can report any grievance directly to Trees for Kenya's offices by phone or to the Lead Farmers, who then report to Trees for Kenya, who will take the appropriate measures.

By the creation of clusters with representatives, farmers will know who to go to, to report any grievance. Anonymity will be ensured as an option of grievance reporting, through unsigned letters, for example, which will be given the same priority as signed letters. Finally, any grievances shared will be raised to Acorn within 35 days for redressal.

5. List any grievances that have been raised outside of project council meetings and the actions taken to resolve them.

Grievance reported	Action taken	Responsible party
Crop damage during ground truth exercise	Trees for Kenya compiled the list of farmers who reported this and sent an invoice for Acorn to compensate the farmers.	Acorn

	Mitigation actions are being put in place to prevent this in further exercises or compensate farmers.	
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6. The project has submitted at least 2 project council reports (or relevant meeting minutes) after the first year. These project council reports demonstrate participants engaged in and contributing to the project design in areas such as the grievance mechanism, farmer payments, the agroforestry design, socio-cultural values and monitoring of impacts.

The first community meeting took place on the 23rd of January, 2023 as a precursor to the official project council that will have meet at least twice each year after the Acorn Design Document is completed. To align the projects with Acorn in the same area, and prevent any issues, two farmers representatives from Trees for Kenya and two farmer representatives from Farm Africa were present. It was agreed that each Local Partner will facilitate on Project Council meetings. In addition, both local partners will start a WhatsApp group with the Project Council attendees. The Project Council will scale as more farmers are onboarded.

Part H: Organisational capacity

1. Describe your legal status as a local partner and attach certificate of registration (e.g. NGO, local co-op or trader).

Trees for Kenya are a non-governmental organisation registered in Kenya since 2012 (OP.218/051/12-0242/8157). See certificate of registration on Annex 10.

2. Describe your in-country presence and relationship with participants and communities in the project area.

Trees for Kenya has been working in Kenya for 9 years implementing different environmental projects aimed at conserving the environment, through restoration of degraded forests lands, agroforestry and greening schools programmes. Trees for Kenya has also been supporting farmers to implement agroforestry project on their farms, through tree planting, trainings and sensitization.

3. Briefly describe how you contribute to the social and economic development of the participants and their communities.

Trees for Kenya contributes to social and economic developments of their participants and communities by supporting them to plant trees and improve soil health which increases and diversifies productivity and income. This is made possible by providing access and distribution to seedlings, income through sale of fruits and CRUs, food security and reduction of soil erosion.

4. What is the experience of the local partner working with farmers and in the project location (organising land tenure, implementing agroforestry, providing training etc.).

Trees for Kenya has been helping farmers implement agroforestry systems in Kenya since 2012, both by organizing farmers to implement such systems and by providing training to them on how to integrate trees with crops. So far, Trees for Kenya has reached over 15,000 farmers across the country. This reach is made possible by collaborating with several public stakeholders of the community, including the Local Administration, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Department of Environment, and the Kenya Forest Service.

5. Describe how the project will securely store project information, including project designs, business case details, proof of payment, record of participants events and monitoring results.

Trees for Kenya stores project information through hard copies and soft copies, in alignment with GDPR. Payments to farmers are made through mobile phone money transfer called Mpesa. The payments will be sent to the farmers phones through direct money transfer. Records of transfer and regular monitoring of the projects will be kept in both hard copies and soft copies.

6. List relevant local, national and international policies, laws and regulations and demonstrate how the project is aligning project activities to comply.

This project aligns with the 2010 Constitution of Kenya.

- *“The right of all children to be protected from abuse, neglect, harmful cultural practices, all forms of violence, inhumane treatment and punishment, and hazardous or exploitative labour.”*

- *“Women and men have the right to equal treatment, including the right to equal opportunities in political, economic, cultural and social spheres.”*
- *“Not discriminate directly or indirectly against any person on any ground, including race, sex, pregnancy, marital status, health status, ethnic or social origin, colour, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, dress, language or birth.”*

This project also aligns with the Anti-Corruption And Economic Crimes Act (2003) which stand against corruption or fraud.

To enforce these policies, staff members are encouraged to report cases of corruption when detected, whistle blowers are protected, there is no sharing of photos unless with consent to demonstrate our work and also no hiring of children below 18 years.

The Acorn project is also in conformity with international conventions such as UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCCD and also with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (especially 1, 2, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17) through the goals to enhance farmer livelihood and the environment with agroforestry.

7. Describe project’s mechanisms to identify and address barriers to participation for groups that could be excluded based on the basis of gender, age, income or social status, ethnicity or religion, or any other discriminatory basis.

Trees for Kenya has put in place a mechanism to make sure each and every farmer is eligible to participate in the project regardless of their social status, income, ethnicity and religion. Farmers that belong to these vulnerable groups have been identified in the stakeholder analysis (Part K) and will be nominated as leaders of farmer groups and elected by the farmers themselves. This ensures farmers can air their views and barriers faced in regards to participation over the life of the project.

8. Describe process for onboarding participants (e.g. selection criteria).

Participants mainly include already existing Trees for Kenya’s beneficiaries and farmers who have participated in the project from 2019 to 2021. As Trees for Kenya aims to restore degraded land and improve farmers’ livelihoods, the participants were chosen based on the state of their lands (degraded and with few trees) and their economic background. About 80% of participants are not economically empowered, and the remaining 20% are of middle socioeconomic status. This mix of economic backgrounds is essential to motivate more farmers to join. Nevertheless, participants must also be willing to play their part by working with the organization’s staff and participating in training offered by T4K. With these criteria, T4K calls potential participants, followed by a site visit to explain the project’s proposal.

They, therefore, have 1) signed agreements, 2) received seedlings and attended training, and 3) attended mobilization meetings and are aware of the projects. Nevertheless, not all project beneficiaries can be part of the project. Farmers must be ready to take care of the agroforestry system and protect the trees planted on their farms. The interest cannot be solely on income, as some are only interested in growing fruit trees for income purposes, and Trees for Kenya calls for more benefits.

9. Describe project employment policies regarding employment of youths, women, and disadvantaged groups.

Trees for Kenya offers employment to women, youths and disadvantaged groups. Examples of this is Trees for Kenya having hired women for the positions of field technicians and lead farmers.

10. Describe how women are involved in the project but NOT as farmers (i.e. partnering nurseries, training).

Women are also involved in the project by establishing nurseries to supply quality seedlings and training farmers.

11. Describe how the project will promote knowledge sharing among participants and the community.

Knowledge sharing amongst participants and the community will be promoted by demonstration; where farmers and community members can learn through the example of other farmers. In addition, farmers' training and involvement of farmers' groups in other activities will also contribute to knowledge sharing in the community. These activities include 1) table banking, which consists of group members contributing and lending money among themselves, with repayments of little interest (some farmers organize themselves in groups and undertake savings to empower other members), and 2) value addition, which consists of adding value to a product, such as making flour from bananas. Finally, the project council will also play a role as it will create a space for farmers, community members and Trees for Kenya to discuss project implementation and ensure every aspect of the project will go smoothly.

Part I: Financial Feasibility

1. Provide a detailed business case for the project, including:
 - the expected annual income from agricultural production and carbon sequestration
 - the expected costs associated with the transition to agroforestry and the generation and trading of CRUs (e.g. planting materials, fertilizer costs, temporary labor cost)
 - the expected productivity changes that will result from project interventions

Trees for Kenya has established financial stability through partnerships (Reforest Action, Treedom and Moyu) that supports the organisation's activities and provides funds for the implementation of projects, including funds for capacity building, salaries for the staff, office expenses and project monitoring. Furthermore, every year, Trees for Kenya partners with entities who support a certain number of trees to be planted on the farm areas. For 2022, Trees for Kenya have secured funds to plant 250,000 trees amounting to 187,500 Euros. Furthermore, Acorn is working with Trees for Kenya to secure funding (i.e., SAF) in addition to the carbon finance offered for the planting of trees in the following years.

Farmers will also be continuously provided with in-kind benefits, such as seedlings like fruit trees and other agroforestry sapling, as well as fertilizers. Trainings and agronomist consultation costs will also be provided. In addition, mobile communication costs and mobile payments costs during funds transfer will also be covered.

Farmer's annual income is expected to increase as farmers are also planting fruit trees which will bring an additional income through sale of fruits. More so, food security will be improved through the application of agroforestry techniques on farms. Trees for Kenya has agreements with partners who have funded their projects in the side of support for administration costs, monitoring and also salaries. The 10% of the CRUs revenue will help in undertaking more monitoring of the project, more frequent farmer and community engagement, and enhanced support to the projects by bringing on board more staff.

2. What measures are in place to ensure that you do not draw more than 10% of sales income for ongoing coordination, administration and monitoring costs? (e.g. earmarked funds or separate account for farmer payments).

This project has been implemented with other partner's funds and through these agreements, funds are set aside for monitoring, administration and ongoing coordination of the project for a certain period of time (between 2 to 5 years).

Part J: Payments and Benefit Sharing

1. Provide evidence on how CRU payments will be disbursed to participants and equate to at least 80% of proceeds.

From the 80% of the carbon revenue for farmers, 50% will be paid entirely through mobile money transfer called Mpesa, and the other 50% will be in-kind, in the form of seedlings and organic foliar fertilizer. The number of seedlings, between 100 to 300 seedling per farmer, will depend on the size of the land and existing trees in the farms. For a later stage of the project, Trees for Kenya wants to introduce beehives, planting materials and improved cookstoves for the in-kind payments.

For the monetary payment, Trees for Kenya verifies the contact information of each farmer to carry out the mobile payment. When the mobile payment is done, farmers receive a message with reference to Trees for Kenya so they know that it refers to the project. If a participant cannot receive through the app (estimated to be less than 20% of participants), the Local Partner will pay through, either, bank transfer or cash. For the latter, a field technician will go to the farmer and have a receipt signed with the necessary information included.

Information with the farmers names, amount paid and mobile phone numbers will be kept on an excel sheet. With this information and through internet banking, the payments will be sent to each mobile phone indicated in the excel sheet. The payment record is kept to show who received the funds and ensure that the local partner did not take more than 10% of CRUs for operational costs.

2. Describe what proportion of cash payments will be disbursed to farmers.

Farmers with no mobile phones will receive the payment through cash payrolls where they are to sign for the payment received.

3. Describe what proportion and type of in-kind benefits will be provided to farmers.

Benefit	Examples	Description	Amount of payment (%)
Inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seedling costs ● Sapling costs ● Fertilizer 	Farmers will receive seedlings like fruit trees and organic foliar fertilizers..	50%
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Training costs ● Agronomist consultation costs 	n.a.	n.a.
Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mobile communication costs ● Mobile payment costs ● Fencing 	n.a.	n.a.
Livelihood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Land tenure consultation costs 	n.a.	n.a.

Part K: Stakeholder Analysis

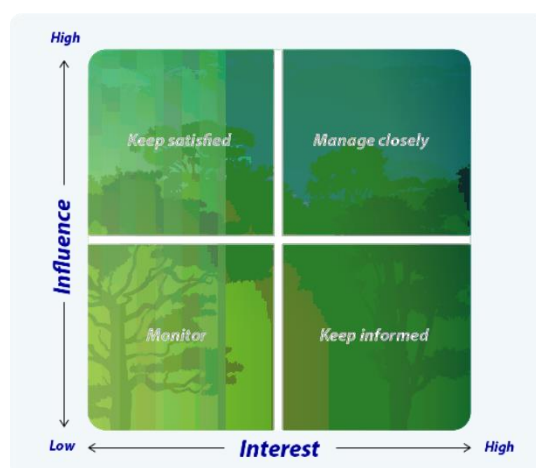


Figure 2. Stakeholder map.

- Referring to the stakeholder analysis figure above, describe the interest and influence each stakeholder has in the project and justify the reason for this in the table below. All stakeholders that receive outcomes other than “Monitoring” must be informed of the project (e.g. newsletters) and their views/approval sought where necessary. Please add rows for additional stakeholders as necessary.

Stakeholder	Interest	Influence	Justification	Outcome	Informed
Participants/ Farmers	High	High	Project participants have been informed and engaged in a participatory manner, through workshops, site visits and a precursor project council meeting (see Annex 7). In addition, a payment ceremony on the 28 th of February, with the participation of 50 farmers took place to raise awareness on the several benefits of agroforestry, including livelihood, environmental and carbon finance.	Manage closely	Yes
Local communities	High	High	Local communities have been informed and engaged in a participatory manner, during design and mobilization (see Annex 7), as they strongly influence the participating farmers, and act as a link to the national government. The payment ceremony on the 28 th of February, counted with community members such as students and professors from the University of Embu, primary school children, the	Manage closely	Yes

			Forest Conservators (from the Kenya Forest Service) and the Departments of Agriculture and Environment, as well as the Local Administration.		
National Government	High	High	<p>A letter has been sent to the national government to inform them of the project and its intention to generate and trade CRUs on the voluntary carbon market (see Annex 5)</p> <p>Local administration like chiefs and sub chiefs have also been informed and are aware of the project. The developments on the carbon market along with new laws being introduced demonstrates an increasing interest from the national government. Furthermore, the national government sees agroforestry as a strategy to mitigate climate change, and because of this it has promoted tree planting activities such as the National Tree Planting Day in November 12th of 2013. Finally, the government has also set a national target of planting 15 billion trees by 2032.</p> <p>The payment ceremony that took place on the 28th of February, counted with the presence of several governmental stakeholders (i.e., Departments of Agriculture and Environment, under the County Government, the Kenya Forest Service, and the Local Chief) that represent the national government.</p>	Manage closely	Yes
Local government	High	High	<p>Collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Developments during farmers mobilizations. The payment ceremony that took place on the 28th of February, counted with the</p>	Manage closely	Yes

			<p>presence of several governmental stakeholders (i.e., Departments of Agriculture and Environment, under the County Government, the Kenya Forest Service, and the Local Chief) that represent the national government. The stakeholders present in the ceremony are crucial for the mobilization of farmers. Finally, representatives of the local administration are present in training meetings, in order to take back the information to the regional government.</p> <p>Finally, Acorn is also taking an approach for all the projects in Kenya in the context of the new law regarding carbon projects. With two years to comply with proper registration, Acorn is seeking legal guidance from Kenyan lawyers to comply and communicate with the government.</p>		
Donors	High	High	Grant funding received from donors and interest from large corporations. From 2019 to 2021. MOYU (a Dutch company that directs part of the revenue from notebooks to Trees for Kenya), Reforest Action and Treedom (both crowdfunding companies) are all private entities that have supported Trees for Kenya with financing to plant trees.	Manage closely	Yes
NGOs	Low	High	Collaboration with farmer associations is key to ensure farmers receive training and capacity building etc. In addition, the collaboration with Farm Africa is also key as the project intervention takes place in similar regions. This collaboration takes form of having representatives of each organization in the Project	Monitor	Yes

			Council meetings, and taking part together in community and other stakeholder engagement events, such as the Payment Ceremony on the 28 th of February.		
Technical/ agronomical partners	High	Low	Ongoing assistance of local agronomists is required to ensure farmers are maintaining an upgrading their agroforestry systems based on expert knowledge to ensure long-term success. The Subcounty Agricultural Office is involved during mobilization and training sessions to provide technical/agronomist input such as control and prevention of pests and diseases.	Keep informed	Yes
Financial partners/ institutions	Low	Low	Banks and saccos can provide loans to farmers to afford planting resources if they are not able to access them free under government schemes. This has not taken place in the scope of this project, as carbon finance aims to provide the necessary resources (i.e., in-kind and monetary income).	Monitor	Yes
Procurement services (nurseries)	High	Low	Partnerships with local nurseries to supply planting materials at a discounted rate and in an accessible manner. These nurseries, include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gatari women self-help group; - Maka Agroforestry tree growers; - Ruikithia women group; - Kagaari Munyage Self Help group; - Shiners self-help Group; - Muitindia self-help group; - Magenka Baptist welfare group; 	Manage closely	Yes

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kiio gietu Self Help Group; - Mt Kenya fisheries Self Help Group; - Kyeni north perfoder self Help Group; - Community Forest Association njukiri-Embu; - Community Forest Association njukiini - kirinyaga; - Kamiu fruit Trees nursery; - Ndugarara Self Help Group; - Wangu Self Help Group. 		
Local authorities	High	Low	Project activities must abide by local laws and regulations, demonstrated in Part H – question 5. In addition, Trees for Kenya actively involves the county government (Local Administration, and the Departments of Agriculture and Environment) in farmer engagement activities, such as Project Councils and Farmer Payment Ceremonies.	Keep informed	Yes
Corporate buyers	High	Low	Buyers impact the income farmers receive for the farm output.	Keep informed	Yes

2. Please under the same exercise as above with influential community member/farmer(s) to this time identify different types of farmers and community members in the project area that may be impacted by the project (either participants or non-participants) and their determine their interest and influence below:

High influence / low interest	High influence / high interest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elderly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience male farmers
Low influence/ low interest	Low influence / high interest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who don't own land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those with small land sizes • Illiterate groups • Youths • Those with different religions • Women

Part L: Reversal Risk Assessment

Project phase	Drivers behind reversal risk	Risk level	Potential mitigating measures	Justification
Project adoption/start	Limited education or inadequate understanding of agroforestry	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on local culture, traditions and markets⁵ • Ensure accessible training • Secure agronomist assistance 	<p>Training on agroforestry will take place on a farm that already practices agroforestry to demonstrate how to apply agroforestry techniques through a real-life example. In addition, Trees for Kenya also organizes field trips with farmers to learn more about planting and managing fruit-bearing trees. These will occur in farms where avocado trees are grown and include Keitt exporters (exporting company, registered in Kenya, which exports trees' products internationally, such as mangoes, and avocados). to add learning value. Ensuring the training is held near the farmers, the organization's policy of non-discrimination is met, as it will allow for every participant to participate in the training and meetings.</p> <p>The training considers local culture and tradition by involving the village's elders as representatives of the local community groups and giving them the space to provide input. It also incentivizes the farmers to follow this training and apply what is being taught on their farms.</p> <p>Finally, various stakeholders from government departments (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Ministry of Forestry) also participate in the training. Also, experts are incorporated into our work during project implementation,</p>

				like people from different government ministries.
Marginal community support or low community involvement	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore farmer needs • Promote program • Demonstrate positive impact on social and economic well-being 		During project design, farmers and the community were involved through mobilizations and workshops, which counted on the presence of a facilitator to encourage farmers to provide inputs in terms of tree planting, the long-term duration of tree planting projects, and the transition of their farms to an agroforestry system permanently. Acorn agroforestry initiative (including the positive socio-economic and environmental impacts in food security, productivity, biodiversity, and gender empowerment) will be promoted through continuous meetings (quarterly at the villages) and publicity materials, such as posters. Trainings will also cover themes such as food security and biodiversity conservation and protection. The ongoing requirements of the farmers/community and the impact of project intervention (both positive and negative) will be identified through surveys, - taken during monitoring, - and community consultations during mobilization meetings. A grievance mechanism is also put into place, and integrated into the implementation of the project.
Inadequate operational capacity (limited experience, no local presence)	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the train-the-trainer principle 		Trees for Kenya have already been involved with agroforestry projects for nine years, reflecting on the capacity to provide adequate training to the farmers. During training, various stakeholders from governmental departments participate, such as the Ministry of Livestock and the Ministry of Forestry in charge of

				rural forestry, as well as agronomist advice.
	Insufficient (local) nurseries	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make upfront arrangements • Negotiate purchasing power 	The partnership with local nurseries is to supply Trees for Kenya with quality seedlings for project implementation. In addition, Trees for Kenya will continue to support the farmers even by establishing small nurseries' within their farms. This will be a boost to increase the tree cover on their farms. Farmers can choose which tree species to plant during mobilization training as long as those species don't harm the environment.
	Animal or human interference	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erect fencing (natural, etc.) • Help mediate disagreements between perceived land boundaries 	In the project area, there is a low risk of damage to/loss of crops due to animals or human interference. The livestock animals are enclosed in their own compounds and each farmer knows their own boundaries.
Project progress	Negative project cash flow	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure adequate financial planning • Ensure local financing for unforeseen events 	The grant funding came from partners of the organization. As an organization we are looking at income generating activities which will generate the funds and these funds flow back to the organization to support its activities. Currently Trees for Kenya don't have any financial buffer and would require additional funding in the case of a disaster. The additional income from carbon finance will also support in giving more trainings to the farmers and supporting them with more trees.
	Poor agroforestry schemes	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage species and genetic diversity 	Trees for Kenya will provide the farmers with professional agronomist advice which will accompany the training on how to plant and care for the trees.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure agronomist assistance 	<p>Various stakeholders will participate in these trainings, including staff members (agronomists) from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock and the Ministry of Forestry in charge of rural forestry. They will also offer expertise in agroforestry systems and organic farming methods, such as substitutes to fertilizers and organic pest and disease control.</p>
	Change of land ownership and coverage	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve one entity to manage/track rights status 	<p>Trees for Kenya will monitor any change of land ownership and coverage by integrating it with the regular monitoring of the trees and through local administration like chiefs and sub-chiefs, as well as lead farmers who will be able to report back on any change, possible by the well-established connection that the organization has with farmers. Chiefs and sub-chiefs are involved when farmers assemble for a meeting, and as government agents, they encourage farmers by passing the message of the national government, which recommends each farmer to plant 30% of their farms with trees. The Project Council will also serve as a way to raise issues regarding land tenure. Although the sale of land is not a common case in the project area, land subdivision is, and the sharing of CRUs amongst family members will be done with an agreement in place between the members that will subdivide the CRU revenue. This will go directly go to the beneficiaries which in turn, won't call for change in polygons.</p>

	Political instability (e.g. war, economic crisis)	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep up-to-date on local and national political conditions 	<p>Trees for Kenya will remain up-to-date on these conditions, as the government & various national and international organisations are stakeholders in the project.</p> <p>Trees for Kenya will monitor the international, national and local conditions regularly and will bring it to the notice of the stakeholders, as appropriate.</p>
	<p>Natural risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fires - Pests & disease - Extreme weathers - Other events 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform historical risk analysis and apply applicable preventive measures Training in effectively containing natural risks 	<p>Trees for Kenya regularly conduct risk analysis regarding all natural risks in the project area (such as change in weather patterns through prolonged droughts) in order to integrate risk mitigation into the trainings, for example, how to create fire breaks on farms, use of organic pesticides from local shrubs like neem tree leaves and Mexican marigold. By implementing an agroforestry system, farmers are also trained on how to plant drought resistant crops. The well-establishment of trees is the most important mitigation measure towards the natural risks, and therefore, replacement of seedlings that have not survived is in place. Through monitoring and through the Lead Farmers that work closely to the participants, Trees for Kenya becomes aware of the need for seedling replacement. The trainings that will be provided for tree management practices will be in place to increase the survival percentage ex.: dryland tree planting technique mitigation to natural risks.</p>
Project maturity	Logging risk	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure alternative fuel for wood Ensure food productivity of trees 	<p>Trees For Kenya also aims to support farmers by supplying them with energy conservation stoves (smokeless and fuelwood efficient). With project intervention which promoted</p>

				planting of fruit trees, will diminish the logging risk in the project area due to the incentive of extra income and increase nutritional intake of the farmers, which together, will diminish. In addition, the majority of farmers are incorporating trees with crops for soil improvement, wind breaks, and fodder for animals, not for timber reasons. Nonetheless, awareness building with the farmers to best promote the project and the benefits of agroforestry will be in place to further reduce this risk. Finally, in order to harvest a tree, the request needs to be reported to the Chief of the Local Administration with whom Trees for Kenya works closely with, to make sure a replacement can come immediately.
	Waning or short-lived local partner commitment	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate continuous dialogue and evaluation Sign commitment agreements 	Agreements are signed as part of this project with Acorn, the local partner and the farmer, demonstrating their commitment to the longevity of this project. The ACORN supply team will keep communication open with the local partner and evaluate their commitment to the project.

- List any reversal risks in Part M that are high-risk, provide appropriate mitigation actions, and describe how often these risks will be monitored.

Risk	Mitigation action	Monitoring Frequency	Responsible party
n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Part M: Technical Specifications

1. Applicability Conditions

In the table below, explain how this project meets the applicability conditions of the Acorn Methodology:

	Applicability Condition	Met	Reasoning
A	The Project Interventions meet the Agroforestry definition (see Section 3 of Acorn methodology v1.0) and any trees planted are Native or Naturalized species.	Yes	As elaborated in part F Project Activities and business case.
B	The Project Area must not have been cleared of native vegetation within 5 years of the start of the Project Intervention.	Yes	Initially, a verbal check was performed with the local partner who confirmed this and t-5 checks from remote sensing measurements confirmed it as well
C	Individual plots within the Project Area are between 0.1 and 10 ha and are not on wetlands.	Yes	Confirmed through polygon checks
D	All land within the Project Area is either cropland or degraded land under the Baseline Scenario	Yes	Initial verbal explanation in carbon baseline by local partner and land cover check performed confirmed
E	The project interventions must not include activities that increase the total number, weight or number of grazing days for any livestock type, relative to the baseline scenario.	Yes	Explained to participants and to be confirmed by sample-based agricultural biodiversity check over the coming years
F	The project intervention must not include the planned harvesting of planted trees during or after the crediting period.	Yes	Covered in local partner contract
G	Heavy machinery must not be used for site preparation or management.	Yes	Not applicable for these smallholder farmers and covered in the local partner contract
H	The project intervention must not increase the use of synthetic (nitrogen-containing) fertilizers relative to the baseline scenario.	Yes	Covered in local partner contract
I	Soil disturbance attributable to the project intervention must not occur on more than 10% of a plot that is under any of the following types of land: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land containing organic soils; - Land which, in the baseline, is subjected to land-use and management practices and receives inputs listed in Annex 4 of Acorn Methodology 	Yes	The SoilGrid confirmed that project is not on high organic soils, with the following results thickness detail >200cm, SOC content less than 20%, but 1,7% and clay of 55%

2. Adjustment Factors

This table below gives an overview of the adjustment factors applied for this specific project.

AdjF	Factor (%)	Reasoning
Leakage	0%	See description below in leakage assessment.
Uncertainty	35%	20240808_v1
Pre-project	25%	Calculation results can be found in Source: <i>AdjFs_TREES FOR KENYA</i>

Leakage Assessment

Estimated reduction in project productivity (%)	Cash crop(s) contributing most to project productivity	Proportion of project land used to grow cash crop (%)	Type of land production will be shifted to
0%	Coffee, tea, banana & maize.	40%	Crop land

I.) Describe the potential leakage situation of the project over its lifetime.

The main cash crops for farmers in the project area are coffee, tea, and banana, each contributing about 60-70% to the farm's productivity. No loss in productivity or any displacement of farmers' activities from project intervention is expected to occur, as the type of land in the project area is cropland; thus, the main subsistence crops - maize, beans, bananas, and vegetables - will not be displaced. Instead, Trees for Kenya expect an increase in farm productivity of up to 20% over the coming 10 years as a result of project intervention (see Annex 4).

The possibility of deforestation inside or outside the project area is low as Trees for Kenya is supporting farmers to plant more trees on their farm, and the extra income from carbon finance will act as an incentive to maintain the trees on the ground long-term. Furthermore, Trees for Kenya are also supporting farmers by supplying them with energy conservation stoves (smokeless and fuelwood efficient), along with fruit trees which will enable and extra income and increase nutritional intake of the farmers, which together, will diminish the leakage risk (no incentive to cut down trees for fuelwood).

The project could, in the future, be affected by decreased productivity due to natural disasters. Still, implementing more agroforestry species will increase the soil's enrichment and resilience, thus reducing the risk of bushfires. Finally, no increase in emissions is expected to happen in the project area as heavy machinery is not used.

II.) Describe the land between farms and a maximum of 5km outside of the project area (i.e. crop land, degraded land, forest).

The land between farms is covered with crops with few existing trees.

Shrub land	Grass land	Crop land	Built-up	Bare/Spars e vegetation	Permanent water bodies	Herbaceous wetland	Tree cover <60%	Tree cover >60%
24,41	3,88	9,29	0,84	0,02	0,01	0,17	53,88	7,50

III.) List farmer activities (performed before project implementation) that will be displaced from project interventions and lead to an increase in emissions outside of the project area, if any.

Displaced farmer activity	Area activity displaced to
Not applicable	Not applicable

IV.) If leakage is like to be significant, outline the leakage mitigation and monitoring plan below

Source of leakage	Mitigation action	Monitoring Frequency	Responsible party
No significant sources	n/a	n/a	n/a

3. Root-Shoot

Ratio	Reasoning
0.32	Applied the default value for the calculations as alternative literature is very limited to no existing and IPCC values could not yet be sufficiently matched

Annex 1: Map of project location & ecoregion(s)

Information removed for data protection purposes

Annex 2: Land Tenure Documentation

Information removed for data protection purposes

Annex 3: Organisation structure

Information removed for data protection purposes

Annex 4: Local partner and farmer business case

Information removed for data protection purposes

Annex 5: Letter to national government

Information removed for data protection purposes

Annex 6: Project Council Reports

Project Council Report is provided (see document titled Annex 6).

Information removed for data protection purposes

Demonstration of the decision of the new benefit-sharing mechanism.

Information removed for data protection purposes

Annex 7: Evidence of Participation

Project council reports to be submitted in 2023. Evidence of participation below including:

- Meetings with community/farmers during project design
- Training sessions where farmers are asked to list their needs and what they want from trees and in the project
- Training materials with pictures on how to plant trees in an AF system with options depending on what farmers find suitable for their land.
- Meetings to inform community on Trees for Kenya and the people to contact for the project

Payment ceremony conducted on the 28th of February with the top 50 farmers that generated CRUs, acting as an accelerator for the project's participation.

Information removed for data protection purposes

Annex 8: Farmer contract

Information removed for data protection purposes

Annex 9: Local partner contract

Information removed for data protection purposes

Annex 10: Local Partner Certificate of Registration

Information removed for data protection purposes