

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2012)

Project Ref No	17 – 007
Project Title	Building natural resource monitoring capacity in Ethiopia's key Afro-montane ecosystems (CAMP- Community Afromontane Monitoring Project)
Country(ies)	Ethiopia
UK Organisation	James Hutton Institute, the former Macaulay Land Use Research Institute
Collaborator(s)	Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority
Project Leader	<i>Justin Irvine</i>
Report date	31 st October 2012
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	<i>HYR 4</i>
Project website	www.macaulay.ac.uk/CAMP

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project

The project activities in the three field operation areas have overall gone according to plan.

- Enforcement of community protection system and resource monitoring activities continued in Guassa, Bale and Abuneyoseph.

- The monitoring continued and is being used to provide feedback for CBO leaders at Kebele level in Guaasaa and Bale;

- Drafting, amending and enforcing the community protection system and bylaw was the focus in Abuneyoseph after boundary agreement was completed at the end of year 3.

The main project activities of the half year are listed below.

1. Understanding of the ecosystem and limits of sustainable natural resource use enhanced

1.2. Conduct participatory rapid assessment status of natural resource use for key resources in each target area.

Participatory Rural Appraisal: Four new peasant associations were selected in Bale for new PFM activities with strong support and involvement of the government staff in the area. Participatory rural appraisal studies have now been conducted in three of the four peasant associations in order to understand the human-resource relationship and to assess feasibility of PFM in the localities.

Participatory resource assessment: Communal forest resource baseline inventory completed in three of the four new PFM sites in Bale; increasing the number of PFM sites in Bale to 8 Kebeles;

The status of the forest has now been assessed by community in collaboration with government staff members in the three of the four Kebeles and results have been compiled and presented back to community members in the respective kebeles. A presentation was made on the status of the forest, and problems and constraints of the forest management in the respective Kebele and this helped to brainstorm ideas for management planning

Participatory Rural Mapping: Bale: The boundary of community forest area is now agreed by the community and demarcated by community representatives in three of the four peasant associations in Bale. This amounts to about 9900 ha forests which is now in progress towards sustainable use .

A planning committee consisting of different social groups has now been elected from the community in the three newly started PFM sites in Bale. Its remit is to facilitate community-government negotiation on the boundary of the communal forest and to prepare the management plan. Training was given to the planning committee (45 representatives from the three new peasant associations) in order to build capacity to set long-term objectives and implement the appropriate processes for managing community conservation areas.

2. Protected area management authorities and communities empowered to undertake natural resource monitoring

2.1. Establish structures for communities to monitor their own natural resources.

- In Guassa an additional 12 Community Monitoring Teams (CMT) have been selected and trained in the theory and practice of monitoring and data collection in order to maintain the pool of trained CMT personnel to replace retiring members and as a pool to draw on in the event of drop-out.

In Guassa biannual conservation council meeting were held in August attended by 122 individuals representing the from CMTs, scouts, Kebele conservation councils and Woreda conservation committee In addition FZS staff attended. Monitoring data was presented and the achievements and challenges of the past six months were discussed.

In Abuneyoseph, the protection system and CBO function in four Kebeles was strengthened significantly after completion of boundary demarcation at the beginning of this year. Data collection has now been in progress since April. During the last 6 months, an additional 4 CMTs have been selected and trained. In parallel with this, new resource protection plans have been developed in discussions with three Kebeles leading to the formal agreement of bylaws which came into force in June 2012. The effect of this was to close the communal use area from June 2012 demonstrating that the institutions set up to regulate resource use are now becoming effective.

In Bale, community monitoring is now fully developed in three new kebeles in addition to the two already established in the area. Furthermore the establishment of CMTs in the remaining three kebeles will be completed in the coming six months.

In summary, for all of the three operation project areas, regular monthly monitoring continues with support and collaboration with government actors, kebele administration structure and, in the case of Bale, the CBOs.

2. Provide training opportunities to project staff and partners.

Guassa: A local visit within different Kebeles was organized with the aim of facilitating the sharing of experiences in how different community deal with resource protection problems. 24 scouts, 8 CMT members and 5 EPLA staff from the Kebeles and two woreda staff participated

Abuneyoseph: a) 8 CMT members, 4 scouts and FZS staff visited Guassa for two days to gain experience in the operation of community managed areas. b) 6 community scouts were trained to strengthen the protection of the conservation area.

Bale: a) 42 community representatives and 6 government staff were involved in an 8 day experience sharing visit to Guassa and other PFM sites in order to strengthen the capacity of CBO leaders through experience sharing with other farmers. b) Participatory Forest Resource Assessment (PFRA) training was conducted over two days for 45 community members followed by one week of training in the field on participatory forest assessment on their village land. c) Participatory Rural Appraisal and community mobilization training was provided for government staff with the trainees actively involved in the three new Kebeles where PFM started in 2012.

3. Participatory resource monitoring developed under CBNRM

In Bale, Community Monitoring techniques have now been developed for dry montane forests and monthly data collection is ongoing in 5 kebeles. This includes documentation of actions taken by CBO on the basis on what the monitoring data is telling them. This data and documentation is invaluable for understanding the impact of PFM. One of our planned outputs will address this issue by looking at how the data leads to actions taken by the CBO in order to identify the challenges of implementing and institutionalizing community monitoring. PFM is a policy priority of forest management in the country where monitoring techniques poorly developed and practiced and therefore an evaluation of the effectiveness of PFM and the role CBNRM can have will be useful to share with the national level PFM actors.

4. Awareness of the (i) links between conservation of biodiversity and sustainable natural resource use and (ii) role of participatory natural resource monitoring under CBNRM raised nationally in Ethiopia and internationally.

The project started production of documentary film about Guassa community conservation area and how community monitoring support conservation in order to disseminate the lesson. The filming company was selected, filming started and final product will be expected before the end of the year.

4.2 Promote awareness of the project and its goals locally, nationally, and internationally.

Website established and updated (<http://www.macaulay.ac.uk/CAMP>).

Project management

Annual and quarterly activity and financial reports have been prepared and shared with local partner organizations.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

In Guassa three of the four Kebele level partner organisation staff members resigned in the past three months. These staff members were supporting the project by processing and disseminating community monitoring data. The regional government agency is taking over the role from these partner organisations and is in the process is underway. The involvement of EPLA was always planned and now means the institutionalisation of the project initiatives is back on track now.

Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS: no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Formal change request submitted: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

Received confirmation of change acceptance no/yes in.....(month/yr)

3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No

If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with LTS International directly.

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**