

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2013)

Project Ref No	19-025
Project Title	Conservation of Ethiopia's wild coffee using participatory forest management
Country(ies)	Ethiopia
UK Organisation	University of Huddersfield
Collaborator(s)	EWNRA, IBC, SNNPRS, SLA
Project Leader	<i>Professor Adrian Wood</i>
Report date	31.10.2013
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	2
Project website	http://wetlandsandforests.hud.ac.uk/forests/wcc/wild_coffee_index.html

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

1.1 PFM Training Applied

PFM has been applied across all the forested areas in the 12 kebeles (multi centre villages) and 35 gots (sub-kebeles/communities) which are the project's responsibility. The PFM process involves 5 steps up to the signing of the PFM agreement. (Further steps towards applying PFM management take place beyond that.) By the end of September 2013 all gots had completed Step 1 Awareness Raising, and a process of revision awareness was established on a rolling basis across the project area. Step 2 Boundary Negotiation and Demarcation (including mapping) had been completed in all 35 gots, although some boundary issues remained to be resolved between a few gots or kebeles. Step 3 Management Planning and Bylaw Development was completed in 20 gots and underway in the remaining 15 gots. Step 4 PFM Institution Formation, with a Wereda / district level PFM Association (PFMA) was completed in March 2013. This provides the legal basis for community management of the forest, with each got level PFM Group being a branch of the legally registered Association and thereby having legal status. The Wereda PFMA will provide the route through which the communities can negotiate with the government and effectively take responsibility for the management of forest. Signing of the individual agreements between each got and the government remains to be complete due to government staff being pre-occupied with campaigns.

1.2 Forest Demarcation for PFM groups

A key step in the application of PFM is the demarcation, by the communities with project support, of the forest which is to come under each got's administration once the PFM agreements are signed. Each community's land is demarcated into 3 categories, "natural" forest, managed coffee forest, and farmland / settlement. Demarcation is Step 2 of the PFM Process and is now completed with GIS maps for all 35 gots.

1.3 PFM Agreements Signed

The agreement has been signed for the Wereda PFMA. The got level documentation for 20 of the 36 gots is prepared and awaiting signing.

2.1 PFM Fine Tuning

The process of fine-tuning PFM is a major area for innovative exploration. Within the natural forest areas the got-level communities identify different types of envisaged management including protection, utilisation and development. The management plans also identify areas of wild coffee and these and their associated plant communities are the focus for special

management to avoid damaging disturbance.

2.2 Appropriate PFM Extension Materials

PFM extension materials have been produced in draft, but these are subject to an iterative process of review and revision, in the light of the evolving knowledge of the forest and their communities. Once the fine tuning is agreed they will be shared with other actors in the PFM and Biodiversity work in Ethiopia for comment.

2.3 Baseline Mapping for the application of PFM

As mentioned above with respect to the forest demarcation maps are being produced for each got / community. Overall forest mapping was undertaken in 2010 and is being redone at present as part of the monitoring process.

3.1 Training in Participatory Processes, PFM, CBO Management, leadership, etc

Training with communities and government partner staff is a regular process. At present the focus is on institutional development training for the PFMA and the got level PFM groups.

3.2 Training in Joint Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

In addition a M&E officer has been appointed and training in this work is developing.

4. Community-Based PFM Institutions

The Wereda-level PFMA is now established and operating. Training of the officers is on-going and premises for the PFMA are being built.

5. Viable Forest Products Based Enterprises Operating

The process whereby the communities decide in which ways they want to develop forest-focused enterprises, which will help add value to the forest has been completed and two entrepreneur led coops, one for intensively managed coffee forest and one for the natural forest have been agreed. The process of registering these is proving extremely slow.

Support Missions

The project has been supported during this period by the Advisers on PFM, Biodiversity and Forest Enterprise / Livelihood Development. The last two were funded by DI.

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.

The introduction by the Zonal government, the level above the wereda, of a proposal to develop a biosphere reserve in a top down manner has caused some concerns. Government commitment to this varies, but the overall project has agreed to be a leader in this work to ensure that community based PFM with devolved forest management is the basis for the BR with a grass roots approach.

The Senior Forests and Landscapes Adviser has moved to Farm Africa at the end of October 2013 and is being replaced. This is a critical post for outreach.

Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement? NO and Not needed at present

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 carry forward 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? No

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**