



Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

Project Ref No	20-011
Project Title	Community-based conservation and livelihoods development within Kenya's Boni-Dodori forest ecosystem
Country(ies)	KENYA
UK Organisation	WWF - UK
Collaborator(s)	ZSL, KWS, KFS, NCC, LOCAL COMMUNITIES
Project Leader	KIUNGA KAREKO
Report date	OCTOBER 31, 2014
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 2
Project website	wwf.basecamphq.com

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).

Project Steering Committee: As part of ongoing adaptive project management, the project steering committee met on 8th August 2014 to discuss progress and challenges regarding project's implementation in the previous quarter and to plan for the next quarter. The committee, comprising of community representatives, KFS, State Department of Fisheries and North Coast Conservation (NCC) Ltd., reviewed in progress in project implementation and recommended ways to improve project delivery. Key decisions made included focus on, and use, of local partners and communities to implement field activities; training and meetings to be held outside the areas deemed not safe; and constant communication with partners and community in monitoring progress of field-based activities.

Output 1: Activity 1.3: Conduct biodiversity assessments. Update: A comprehensive scientific bird survey in forests of the project area was conducted during the 3rd quarter of Year 1. However the activity was not reported in Year One because it was not planned to be conducted during that time. and is, therefore, part of this report. The survey was led by WWF and ZSL and jointly conducted with community members, KWS, National Museums of Kenya and the University of Nairobi and identified 225 bird species including several bird species that are endemic to the area and bird species at risk of extinction including: Near-Threatened species - Southern Banded Snake Eagle, Bateleur, Crowned Eagle, Martial Eagle, Fischer's Turaco, Plain-backed Sunbird, Malindi Pipit, Eurasian Rollers; Vulnerable species - Lappet-faced and White-headed Vultures; Endangered species: Basra Reed Warblers.

A preliminary report shared with Birdlife International helped to inform the declaration of the Boni-Dodori Forests as an Important Bird Area (IBA). The full report is being finalised and will be available and shared by end of November 2014.

Repeat surveys using mammal camera traps are planned for last quarter of year 2.

Output 1: Activity 1.4: Pilot the Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Site-based Assessment (TESSA) and feedback recommendations for improvement. Update: In preparation for trialling TESSA, a WWF project staff member underwent a training organized and facilitated by the Tropical Biology Association (TBA). Key areas covered included valuing ecosystem services, converting field data to carbon values, payments for ecosystem services, the economics of ecosystem valuation & trade-offs and planning site assessments. WWF project staff, together with the community, have identified appropriate sites where piloting of TESSA will take place. This is planned for 3rd quarter of year 2. In the first quarter of Year Two, WWF organized and

facilitated a TESSA training for 12 participants from KFS, KWS, Ministry of Agriculture and the community on measuring/valuing ecosystem services. Trained participants will be part of the team trialling TESSA in Boni-Dodori area.

Output 2: Activity 2.5: *Pilot Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) mitigation measures.* Update: Following work in Year One to assess, identify and develop HWC information / reporting forms as well as an overall strategy for HWC, the project has begun piloting the use of game moats with 30 famers. An assessment of the effectiveness of the strategy was carried out by WWF, community representatives and the Ministry of Agriculture during the reporting period. Two testimonies from participating farmers were collected. These reported a decrease in crop raiding by buffaloes, warthogs, antelopes, porcupines and hippos.. We continue to monitor the effectiveness of this strategy including measuring harvests / agricultural yields. We aim to support an additional 20 Aweer farmers in this planting season. Additionally, two cases (involving human injury and destruction of crops) have been submitted to KWS authorities for compensation and are being considered.

Output 3: Activity 3.3: *Capacity building in Participatory Forest Management (PFM) and Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM)* Update: During the reporting period, a number of capacity building activities were conducted with the support of the project for WWF staff, community and partner organisation representatives:

- (1) Two WWF and three community representatives visited CBNRM projects in Namibia to learn more regarding the management and running of community conservancies
- (2) Six community and partner representatives undertook a study tour to CBNRM and PFM projects in Isiolo and Samburu in Northern Kenya to learn about community conservancies and Community Forest Associations (Gathiuru and Ngare-Ndare CFAs)
- (3) two WWF staff underwent training in Narok with CBO leaders on how to assess performance effectiveness of CBOs.
- (4) Two WWF and six community representatives participated in the UNESCO 50 year celebrations together with Kaya elders (traditional forest management institutions) in South Coast where the elders from both communities discussed the management of indigenous forest using traditional systems, achievements and challenges faced. Their meetings recommended further networking and working together to promote traditional systems in managing of traditional forests.

In all study visits, WWF staff, community representatives and partners learnt valuable lessons and experiences with their counterparts. These included use of by-laws to govern membership, managing communities and other stakeholders' expectations and innovative ways of increasing local incomes> Subsequently, the community are applying these in their areas. For example, the AWER community conservancy group have reviewed their by-laws, and are developing creative ways of improving their incomes.

Activity 3.4: *Natural Resource Management advocacy.* Update: An advocacy meeting was facilitated between community representatives and senior KFS management on the need to better protect a high conservation and biodiversity value forest area [for example – as reported in Year 1 - mammal camera trap surveys carried out under this project have found that the Lungi forests may have the largest and most important populations of the highly endangered Aders duiker worldwide], the Lungi Forest, and which is also highly valued by the local Aweer people by placing it under statutory management as a new Forest Reserve. In this meeting, Aweer community representatives presented a petition which requested Lungi forest to be gazetted and fully protected to avoid encroachment. Three follow up meetings between community and KFS resulting in Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural resources directing KFS to officially gazette the forest area as a forest reserve to avoid further encroachment and associated loss of forest and biodiversity. The total area to be gazetted is 478,000 ha and will significantly increase the area of coastal forest under official protection in Boni-Dodori area.

Additionally, project staff runs a blog aimed at communicating key highlights of project work and which goes out approximately every two months (3 blogs were written during the reporting period) and which is widely circulated within WWF and partners in Kenya as well as other media in the UK. Project staff also contribute to the Darwin Initiative Newsletter for publishing.

Activity 3.5: *Participatory or community patrolling and enforcement activities.* **Update:** 12 community scouts undertook a total of 120 patrols in five patrol blocks during the reporting period. This resulted in 1 incidences being reported, 1 being seized and several records regarding the variety of wildlife seen. A lorry carrying illegal timber was seized and owners prosecuted.

A meeting was held between WWF, KWS and 12 community scouts; to evaluate the wildlife patrols and monitoring efforts that they undertake; to increase awareness on the provisions of the new Wildlife Conservation and Management Act; to examine their record keeping; and to discuss their roles in recording and reporting HWC, illegal activities with regard to wildlife and forests and general security issues. It was found that the scouts need additional training in record keeping and increased support to access remote forest areas that also require monitoring. Equipment such as GPS receivers, VHF radios and camping materials are also needed by the scouts. As a result WWF, NCC and KWS will conduct further trainings on record keeping and increase the number of joint patrols between scouts, KWS and KFS rangers.

Output 4: **Activity 4.1** *Carry out capacity building in participatory appraisal & social survey techniques (& human plant use survey).* **Update:** Documenting and developing an inventory of local forest biodiversity which was initiated in Year 1 continued in Year 2 particularly for areas within Boni and Dadori National reserves and which were not accessed during the original study. Informal discussions are on-going with elders on rare medicinal plants and their location in the forest. Community members who participated in the scientific bird survey continued to observe and monitor a variety of bird species. Further training on how to observe and identify different species is planned.

Activity 4.3: *Initiation of enhanced and/or diversified livelihood.* **Update:** During the reporting period the project continued to support two pilot projects to diversify livelihoods within the Aweer community. Monitoring of the colonization of beehives and the Village Saving and Loan Associations (VICOBA) activities continued throughout the reporting period. Currently, 96 beekeeping members are involved in the pilot project with 45 beehives being successful colonised so far and harvest expected in December. VICOBA members continue to deposit savings regularly and a few members have received loans to invest in their small business activities such as selling of clothes and rearing free-range chicken. Meetings to discuss potential markets for forest and non-forest products were also held with community representatives. A market survey is on-going to determine market potentials for their products and how the community can access suitable markets.

Activity 4.4: *Advocacy initiatives for community rights.* **Update:** WWF facilitated five community representatives to meet National Land Commission (NLC) leadership to discuss community land rights. The community raised concerns regarding insecurity of land tenure and continued encroachment on their land. There are a series of follow up meetings planned to discuss these issues in more detail while NLC plans register Aweer community land officially and issue title deeds.

Activity 4.5: *Mobilisation of community service providers.* **Update:** During the reporting period, WWF helped leverage additional support for the Aweer community from other NGOs and government agencies through the project steering group and coalition. Kenya Red Cross provided seeds and farming equipment to Mangai village; NCC procured a vehicle for the Aweer Community Conservancy; government increased security in the area; World Concern plans to provide drought resistant seed varieties; and the Ministry of Agriculture is expected to provide extension services to farmers in the project area.

Output 5: **Activity 5.1:** *CBNRM policy leveraging* **Update:** Three study visits to CBNRM projects were made during the reporting period. Plans are underway to facilitate a meeting to review the draft Natural Resources (i.e. benefit sharing) Bill, 2014.

Activity 5.2: *Boni-Dodori ecosystem management plan.* **Update:** WWF and KWS held a meeting to discuss plans to review the Kiunga-Boni and Dodori Conservation Area (KBDCA) management plan. A review meeting is slated for quarter 3.

Activity 5.4: *Discussion paper / case study on development of CBNRM* **Update:** Whereas this activity did not happen, plans are underway to produce a short case study / discussion paper highlighting the issues involved, progress made, challenges. This will be provided with the annual report.

2a. 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.

There has been limited access to the project area for the last three months due to very high levels of insecurity and a heavy military presence. Two months in the last two quarters were disrupted and greatly slowed down project implementation. Though the insecurity has had little impact on the day-to-day activities of the Aweer community, it has been difficult for the project staff to access the Aweer villages and monitor the progress of on-going activities such as the HWC mitigation, beekeeping and VICOBA pilot projects, and community scouts.

As part of adaptive management, WWF has reviewed the project implementation schedule and adjusted accordingly. Field based training will now be conducted in Lamu town, field community and partners will assist in implementing and monitoring field-based activities while similar activities which were planned to take place in different periods will now be merged and/or conducted at the same time.

2b. 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
Formal change request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	N/A

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

Yes **No** Estimated underspend: £N/A

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

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

No issues to raise at the moment

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.

In the annual report, a clarification was sought on whether biodiversity assessments were carried out in Year 1.

The biodiversity assessments scheduled in Year One was for a survey into the indigenous knowledge of local biodiversity. However, the bird survey planned for Year 2 was brought forward to quarter 3 and 4 of Year 1 because of favourable weather conditions during that time and to coincide with the presence of migratory birds– and is reported here.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**