



Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

Project Ref No	20-018
Project Title	Pesticide Impacts on Biodiversity in Ethiopia & Agroecological Solutions
Country(ies)	UK; Ethiopia
Lead Organisation	PAN UK
Collaborator(s)	PAN Ethiopia; Institute for Sustainable Development; Addis Ababa University; Ethiopian Institute of Biodiversity
Project Leader	Keith Tyrell
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	31 October 2014 – HYR2
Project website	http://www.pan-uk.org/projects/pan-uk-project-tackling-pesticide-impacts-on-biodiversity-in-the-ethiopian-rift-valley

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) 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 to end September).

Ecotoxicology monitoring: The design of the ecotoxicology and ecosystem services assessments were completed, with the key written outputs being reviewed and finalised. These are the Desk Assessment and Monitoring Plan (for both incrop and outcrop monitoring in Arba Minch). These form the basis of the ecotoxicology field monitoring field work and have been used to guide the ecosystem service monitoring conducted by farmers in the Farmer Field Schools (see below) and by local communities in monitoring bird and vegetation in the areas adjacent and beyond the farm plots.

The first draft of the pesticide residue monitoring plan for the flower farm effluent in Ziway was prepared and reviewed by NR Consultants. A student from Addis Ababa University has been selected to carry out the biological monitoring from October 2014.

A report on the February 2014 visit by NR Group consultants and Local Monitoring Team (LMT) ecosystem approach training has been finalized. Further training of the LMT was conducted in October 2014 on bird and vegetation monitoring, and baseline data collected in line with the Monitoring Plan.

Integrated Pest Management: The data collected by the Farmer Field Schools (FFS) in 2013 was reviewed and written up in soft copy for use in the ecosystem services assessments which will be conducted in 2014/5. The 2014 IPM field plots and comparison plots (where pesticides are routinely used) were established, and agroecological monitoring activities conducted throughout April-September (natural predators, etc) by farmers. A Field Day was held in September. The IPM Baseline Surveys have been reviewed.

Policy Document quality control: Experience gained in reviewing and approving project outputs, combined with feedback from the Annual Report review, have led to the development and testing of a quality control and document review tool by NR Group and PAN UK. This provides guidance and a checklist to partners on report writing; and a checklist and form for reviewers to complete in order to provide structured feedback and to allow for a semi-quantitative assessment of capacity development.

Project management and M&E support: A field visit was conducted by PAN UK in May 2014 to support PAN Ethiopia in defining links between the Darwin and TRAIID projects (see IPM above) and in refining the project M&E plan.

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.

Annual Report feedback on the quality of outputs led to a systematic format being tested for providing feedback to Ethiopian partners, both to make the comments more helpful and to allow us to capture evidence that capacity is being built.

One of the key partners from Addis Ababa University (Dr Tarekegn) who was one of the previously trained partners has taken a secondment to the Ministry of Agriculture laboratory funded by JICA. The project was therefore unable to guarantee that he would be available to develop a Lake Ziway sampling plan as originally intended. Our partner PAN Ethiopia therefore requested to reallocate funds for laboratory analysis under 'Operating Costs' to 'Consultancy Costs' to allow them to issue a personal consultancy contract and ensure his contribution to the lake monitoring and residue analysis work.

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: Yes

Formal change request submitted: Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes

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: £

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?

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 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**