

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

Project Ref No	20-019
Project Title	Wof Washa Forest: Sustainable Management for Resilient Livelihoods
Country(ies)	Ethiopia
UK Organisation	TREE AID
Collaborator(s)	SUNARMA
Project Leader	<i>Tony Hill</i>
Report date	<i>31 October 2013</i>
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	<i>HYR1</i>
Project website	<i>www.treeaid.org</i>

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).

Progress against Output 1, Institutional Development, has been on track since the project's inception.

1.1-1.3 Complete establishment of Forest User Groups (FUGs), extending coverage to include lowland communities. The project has been planning activities at the organisational levels of Woredas (Districts) and Kebeles ("neighbourhoods associations or wards"). The project staff was engaged with Woreda and Kebele experts in the planning for, and identification of communities where new FUGs within and around Wof Washa Forest can be established. The total number of villages (Ethiopian "gotts") now identified as beneficiaries in the project is estimated at 55 villages, beyond the originally projected number of 53.

Ongoing mentoring and organizational development of FUGs. Field technicians observed and advised at some monthly FUG meetings. With technical advice and support the groups can be strengthened and actively engage in the management of the natural forest.

Research govt policies and guidelines for establishing Forest Users Institutions, such as Forest Development, Protection & Management Cooperative Unions at levels of Woreda (District) and Zones (collection of several Woredas/districts). SUNARMA staff has been able to legally register some of the FDP&MC Unions in the latter half of this reporting period. The project staff members are encouraged that registration of the FDP&MC Unions has proven to be easier than expected, so the activity is on track.

Progress against Output 2, Natural Forest Management, is partly on schedule (see also Question 3).

2.1-2.2 Capacity development of FUGs on natural forest management. The activities involved require advice from relevant institutions, such as the good link formed with Debre Birhan University in the project region about the future sustainable management of the Wof Washa Forest. The Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute in Addis Ababa will be helpful in refining techniques for growing Juniper seeds and seedlings for assisting forest regeneration and connections are being made there.

Progress against Output 3, Enterprise Development is partly on schedule (see also Question 3).

3.1-3.7 Development of producer groups (Village Tree Enterprises), training in techniques and market analysis and development.

Training of trainers occurred from 24 Mar 13 to 06 Apr 13 in the town of Debre Birhan town (Phases I & II of four phases), which is the start of the delivery of the Market Analysis and Development approach –

a core element of the formation and sustainability of Village Tree Enterprise groups. Two trainers from TREE AID West Africa visited and trained 6 Wof Washa project field technicians. Also, 3 government staff members from the Woreda office were trained. At the end of the workshop additional attendees included 3 Woreda officials, 2 Zone experts and SUNARMA management. For that session, the trainers explained about the MA&D approach, and the trainees summarized what they had learned during the training period. The trainees/facilitators have developed their action plan and started field implementation and further training and implementation of Phases III and IV planned for mid November.

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 project was off to a slower start than predicted because of administrative delays by the Regional Government in signing the project agreement, delaying the purchase of a project vehicle, delaying some activities under Output 3, Enterprise Development. For example, 3.3-3.6, accessing supplemental technical support (e.g. apiculture) from Woreda experts in the region for enterprise groups is not possible, which also pushes back the microfinance scheme development. Also the project staff thought it prudent to delay 3.7, the scoping exercise for Forest Carbon/REDD+ credits and access by forest users until government endorsement of the project is officially signed. Under Output 2, the baseline forest inventory by experts from Kew has been pushed back until 4th quarter due to difficulties reconciling experts' time and subsequent seasonal weather restrictions, but the project's output overall will not be affected. Under Output 3, Enterprise Development, any of the activities planned for the previous quarters are planned to be implemented during the period from Oct to Dec 2013 (therefore see only a speculative answer to Question 3 below).

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 **n/a 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: £20,000 if necessary, tba next quarter (October – December) and discussed with LTS International as necessary.

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

We appreciate the flexibility and reporting simplicity that LTS International and the Darwin Initiative allows, which is helpful to new projects starting and innovative activities, where the timetabling of activities can be estimated, but not as accurately always predicted, so thank you!

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**