



Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

Project Ref No	21-006
Project Title	Balancing conservation and livelihoods in the Chimanimani forest belt, Mozambique
Country(ies)	Mozambique
Lead Organisation	Royal Botanic Gardens Kew
Collaborator(s)	MICAIA Foundation
Project Leader	Kate Gold
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	HYR 1
Project website	

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).

We recruited a project manager, Hercilia Chipanga, in the first weeks of project implementation, and initiated meetings with relevant government officers, particularly at local level, in order to introduce the project. Field activities in the four communities targeted by the project (Mpunga, Zomba, Maronga and Mahate) started late May 2014. Progress against each output is detailed below.

Output 1: Forest surveys produced for each of 4 distinct forest areas, with a specific focus on useful plants identified by the communities (e.g. food and medicinal plants) and conservation priority species;

Planned botanical field surveys and associated activities postponed until April 2015 and later - see attached change request for justification

Output 2: Land use and sustainable off take plans created for the forest belt, including community managed conservation areas and communal and family sustainable agriculture zones;

Activities

2.1 Mobilize communities and facilitate the production of maps and land use plans (zones) using a variety of participatory methodologies - **On target**.

2.3 Work with each community, through a series of organised meetings, to prepare plans for access to forest resources (off-take), establish management committees for the conservation zones, and provide training to the members of these committees - **Ahead of agreed timetable**.

Activities undertaken during reporting period:

- *Facilitation of participatory zoning work in Zomba and Maronga, including geo-referencing of agreed conservation boundaries and elaboration of participatory community maps:* 71 community members designed community maps to be used as a basis for geo-referencing the proposed conservation areas.
- *Facilitation of discussions between local leaders to identify areas within community boundaries (established during previous land delimitation projects) to be set aside for conservation:* 12 community leaders from Mpunga, Zomba and Mahate, plus representatives of local government institutions participated in a leadership training event. Four conservation areas were identified (Mbiquiza forest in Mpunga, Thekeza Forest in Zomba, Comeni Forest in Maronga and Mountain forest in Mahate).
- *Participatory Rapid Appraisal in Maronga and Mahate:* information gathering related to

community organization and natural resources management.

- *Creation of a group of leaders to monitor the activities and performance of the local natural resources management committees and community forest rangers in Mpunga, Zomba, Maronga and Mahate:* 13 community leaders were selected as members of the first natural resource management and information sharing network.
- *Establishment of community natural resources management committees in Maronga and Mahate:* Composed of 16 members each, these NRM committees will be the local partners during project implementation. Statutes were discussed and agreed upon to enable legalization thus facilitating their work and coordination with traditional and government bodies and authorities.
- *Revitalization of community NRM committees in Mpunga (Moribane Forest Reserve) and Zomba:* These community bodies were already in existence but some members had moved to other areas within and outside of the province – hence the need to select new ones and train them.
- *Capacity building of community members selected for the NRM committees in Mpunga, Maronga, Mahate and Zomba:* 59 committee members and 29 other community members were trained on committee operations, leadership, natural resources management and conflict resolution mechanisms. The training included local leaders (regulos or community chiefs) who also wanted to learn about general land and resources management issues.

Output 3: Existing natural resource based livelihood strategies – honey production, dried forest fruits, tourism and conservation agriculture – expanded to benefit 2,281 households;

Activities

3.1 Commission Eco-MICAIA Ltd to develop business plans for expanding livelihood activities (honey, tourism and forest fruits) and link these plans with resource management plans based on the inventories and land use planning exercises - **On target.**

3.2 On the basis of the studies present key recommendations to community leaders and mobilize local households around one (or more) of the proposed livelihood strategies, putting in place a package of training and organisational capacity building appropriate to the chosen strategy - **Ahead of agreed timetable.**

Activities undertaken during reporting period:

- *Assessment of Ximenia americana and Ximenia caffra as potential for community or household income generation:* undertaken in 7 communities (Tsetsera, Muoha, Mussapa, Maronga, Zomba, Mpunga and Mahate) in the buffer zone of Chimanimani National Reserve, this initial assessment of the main distribution areas will enable us to plan for a more detailed inventory for the development of a business plan.
- *Discussion of main natural resources-based livelihoods options (beekeeping, community based tourism and wild fruits harvesting) and sustainable agriculture with community members of Mpunga, Zomba, Maronga and Mahate:* 5 community meetings were attended by 195 people. Discussions dwelt on the importance of land and natural resources and enabled a better understanding of current community organizational structure and resource management mechanisms. Community members also got a better understanding of the Chimanimani TFCA Management Plan.
- *Identification of potential beneficiaries of beekeeping program in Mpunga, Zomba, Maronga and Mahate:* 245 community members showed interest in beekeeping activities. The most suitable areas for the establishment of apiaries communities were identified and instructions given to potential beekeepers. The process of beehive production in Chimoio has started.
- *Four meetings held to discuss sustainable agriculture:* The four targeted communities have identified the sites that will be used as demonstration areas. Local farmers will serve as promoters.

Output 4: A minimum of 4 Forest Learning trails opened and educational materials produced, generating greater awareness and understanding of biodiversity (and threats to it) across the forest belt and engaging schools in biodiversity conservation.

Activities

4.1 Work with communities to identify routes for trails and information points for visitors and organise working parties of local people to prepare the trails - **On target**.

Activities undertaken during reporting period:

- *Identification of beautiful places within these communities with potential for community tourism and routes for the establishment of Forest trails that will also be part of the overall Forest Learning Center.* This work was done in Mpunga, Zomba, Maronga and Mahate as an integral part of the development of the Forest Learning Center.
- *Facilitate the training of community forest rangers of Mpunga, Zomba, Maronga and Mahate:* 29 community forest rangers were trained in Chimucono, Darue locality (11 for Mpunga community, 4 for Zomba, 4 for Maronga and 10 of Mahate community);

Other activities undertaken during reporting period:

The Project Manager attended the meeting of Chimanimani TFCA stakeholders in Chikukwa, Zimbabwe. This meeting was organized by Birdlife Zimbabwe and involved community members from Zimbabwe and Mozambique, TFCA government Administrators from Mozambique and Zimbabwe as well as local authority representatives from Zimbabwe. The main objectives of the meeting were to develop a platform for collaboration between all the stakeholders living/working in this TFCA on the two sides of the border, understand what is being done in the two countries and identify areas and mechanisms for future collaboration.

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.

2014 is an election year for Mozambique (presidential and parliamentary elections) and this affects project implementation activities, mainly because MICAIA's work is done in close coordination and collaboration with community members and Government entities who are also directly involved in the campaigns. We reduced the number of meetings with community members and instead prioritized contacts with focal points within the communities, as well as local chiefs and their representatives.

There has been limited involvement of women during meetings and discussions, and very few women have been selected as members of NRM bodies. This is a reflection of local culture and the role assigned to women in these communities. We aim to contribute to minimize the problem, but it will take time.

Given the importance of promoting livelihoods and considering the time horizon for project implementation, we are proposing the introduction of these strategies during the first year to enable the evaluation of project impact at the end of the project.

Restructuring efforts within RBG Kew have resulted in the postponement of the botanic surveys planned for 2014 to April 2015. We believe these changes will not affect the overall impact of the project, and have realigned the budget accordingly.

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/ No
Formal change request submitted:	Yes/ No submitted with this report
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes /No

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: £44,449

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:

See attached change request and revised budget.

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**