



## Darwin Initiative Main Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2016)

**Project Ref No: 2327**

**Project Title:** Reconnecting poverty-alleviation to biodiversity conservation in Kenya's Eastern Arc Mountains

**Country(ies):** Kenya

**Lead Organisation:** Durrell Institute of Conservation & Ecology (DICE), University of Kent

**Collaborator(s):** Kenya Forest Service, Government of Kenya. Taita Taveta Wildlife Forum (TTWF). Nature Kenya. Zoological Society of London (ZSL). International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).

**Project Leader:** Dr Jim Groombridge

**Report date and number (e.g., HYR3):** HYR3

**Project website/Twitter/Blog/Instagram etc:**

[https://www.kent.ac.uk/sac/research/projects/jg\\_kenya.html](https://www.kent.ac.uk/sac/research/projects/jg_kenya.html); <http://ttwforum.org/>

**Funder (DFID):** DFID

**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).**

### **Output 1**

#### **1.1 Training of farmers and cascade training**

In Sagalla, technical support visits have been made to fish farmers once a month by POs. Excavation of one new ponds is underway in Iyale. Two ponds were completed within the period where two dam-liners and fish-fingerlings were supplied. Harvesting of 1 fishpond took place in Sagalla. Technical support was given by Fisheries Officers in charge of Voi and Wundanyi Sub-Counties, respectively.

**1.2 Establishment of support network and training in sustainable livelihoods (fish-farming; handicrafts; bee-keeping; butterfly-farming; carbon-credits):** Collaboration with other institutions/organisations has been maintained aimed at supporting the farmers. These include TIST - The International Small Group and Tree Planting Programme for Carbon Credits activity. Consequently TIST sent a staff member to assess progress and also create further awareness and technical support. TTWF participated in several activities organised by PELUM among them a forum "Linking organic enterprises to market livelihood opportunities improvement". A close working relationship has been formed with TERRA (Taita Environmental Research and Resource Arc) where TTWF staff will provide the AFERIA Project (under TERRA) technical assistance on tree seedling production and tree planting, thereby providing linkage with the tree nursery groups/farmers under TTWF. A link was established for marketing of handicrafts (baskets and leather products) in Nairobi, identifying a need to provide the Mlilo Handicrafts group in Sagalla with tools to improve efficiency in production and quality of products.

**1.3 Training and support of women's groups in handicraft manufacture (and other livelihood options where appropriate) and marketing:** A total of 32 participants (Annex 1) trained (11-15<sup>th</sup> April 2016) representing three groups (Sagalla 1; Taita 2). Focussed-group discussions were held with the group to discuss challenges which include sourcing of materials such as beads, equipment such as sewing machines, and outlet for products. Acquisition of materials and equipment underway with the guidance of the trainer.

**1.4 Socio-economic survey of household income:** A total of 300 questionnaires (200 in Taita and 100 in Sagalla) were administered in May-June 2016. This was done as part of the data collection and MSc project for Mr. James M. Mwamodenyi. The results indicate that adoption of livelihood options was positively influenced by training, group membership and household income. The provision of support mechanisms for livelihoods is necessary in order to get the poorest households to adopt the livelihood options being promoted.

### **Output 2**

**2.1 Participatory Forest Management Plans (PFMPs), Forest Management agreements, and Sub-Catchment Management Plans (SCMPs):** Formulation and approval of PFMPs completed. Development of the SCMP

for Kishenyi Sub-catchment area completed. Awareness creation and sensitisation of the public/local community undertaken.

**2.3 Formation of Community Forest Associations (CFAs) and Water Resource Users Associations (WRUAs):** The Water Resources Management Authority and TTWF trained the officials of the Kishenyi WRUA on water resources management using the “WRUA development cycle manual. Three CFAs (IYAWEMBI, SUNDIFU, NGACOFA) were registered by the Registrar of Societies.

**2.4 Training of CFAs and WRUAs in governance and natural resource management:** Kishenyi WRUA capacity building was undertaken jointly with WRMA and TTWF/Project staff. This activity culminated in the planting of tree seedlings (>900) along Kishenyi river.

### **Output 3**

**3.1 Training on DICE MSc programme:** TTWF Technical Advisor completed the DICE MSc in Conservation Biology in September 2016.

**3.4 Kenyan Student Research Fund:** A Moi University MSc student (Wambulwa, A. Nyongesa) has been identified to undertake research on Taita Hills ecosystem changes. Approved by Moi University, he now is developing his research project.

**3.5 Training of 1 TTWF employee on ZSL EDGE Fellowship:** Basil Lewela Mashanga replaced Dawson Mwanyumba as the EDGE Fellow. He has been working closely with Dr Chris Gordon of ZSL and David Marquis, an Imperial College MSc student. This exposed him to techniques for surveying of caecilians and data analysis on their distribution. Furthermore, he took part in a two week (29<sup>th</sup> Aug – 10<sup>th</sup> Sep '16) ‘Conservation Leadership Course’ at ZSL in London, UK.

**3.6 Training and involvement of community in biodiversity conservation:** 46 community members (21 females; 25 males) were trained in bird identification, how to fill in IBA forms and how to conduct common bird monitoring and materials/tools/equipment required for the same. The training was done at five sites alongside the August common bird monitoring exercise (see output 4). This activity was carried out by Nature Kenya staff and was meant to give the community capacity of carrying out subsequent common bird monitoring at their sites.

**3.7 Implementation of CEPA strategy:** Several CEPA strategy activities have already been implemented including the participation of Project Officers in public meetings organised by community Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs to create awareness on environmental conservation and on the project activities.

### **Output 4**

Species Action Plans (SAPs) developed for the three Taita endemics (Taita Thrush, Taita Apalis and Sagalla Caecilian) under the leadership of Nature Kenya. The SAPs were published and copies have been distributed among the stakeholders including the County Government of Taita Taveta, KFS, KWS, local schools.

### **Output 5**

**5.1 Development of seedling nurseries involving locally-led community groups & 5.2 Maintenance of seedlings:** Taita: Six tree nurseries, Chawia (Chawia Environment Committee), Iyale (Angamiza, Msidunyi, Sere community groups), Wesu (Changamoto) and Fururu (Dogholonyi) are in operation. The tree seedlings being raised are mainly indigenous tree species– *Prunus africana*, *Milletia oblata* sp. *teitensis*, *Albizia gummifera*. In Sagalla, partnership with Shauri Moyo Community Group in a nursery located in Kishamba/Ngolia area together with a private farmer is in place. To date 241,426 indigenous tree seedlings have been planted with >37,000 tree seedlings (Taita – 25,000 and Sagalla 12,000) in the nurseries ready for planting in Oct-Nov and Mar-Jun rainy seasons. The support of community group nurseries has been ongoing in both Taita and Sagalla through regular follow-ups by POs. In addition to technical assistance, support has included repair of water infrastructure such as taps to deliver water and provision of plastic tanks.

**Table 1: Cumulative summary of data for ‘Measuring Outputs’ from Project Logframe**

Activity		Year 1 (Q1-4)	Year 2 (Q1-4)	Year 3 (Q1&2)	Cumulative (end of June 2016)	
		July'14-Jun'15	July 15 - Mar 16	Apr - Sep 16		
Output-1	Fish-ponds set up	3	12	1 + 2 + 1 ongoing	16 + 1 ongoing	
Output-1	# farmers trained, fish	0	33	0	33	
Output-1	# farmers trained, bees	0	42	11	53	
Output-1	# farmers trained, TIST	3	TIST trained 13 farmers + 2 staff + sensitised 531	63+116 sensitised	TIST trained 13 farmers	+ 3 staff & Ser

Output-1	# handicraft workshops	1 (22 pers)	3 (66 pers)	1 (32 pers)	4 (98 pers)
Output-1	# of handicraft groups	1 group	4 groups	1 groups	5 group
Output-2	# PFMPs developed	2 (+ 3 other)	3 + 3 other	-	3 + 3 other
Output-2	# SCMPs developed	0	1	1	2
Output-2	# CFAs developed	3	2 registered (+ 1 other)	-	2 + 1 other registered
Output-2	# WRUAs developed	0	2 (MVOSA; Kishenyi)		2
Output-3	# MSc research	0	2	1 (Concept under devt)	2 + 1 (Concept under devt)
Output-4	# SAPs	0	2 drafts	-	2
Output-5	# seedlings planted	106,300	169,134	68,299+399 3	241,426

Notes:

- 1 fishpond under development in Iyale for Angamiza group.

### Annual Report Review Comments

Under output 5, with the reported price increase, the number of seedlings able to be planted has reduced from 450,000 to an estimated 230,000-250,000 seedlings. How will this affect the outcome?

- This will reduce the acreage planted and the level of connectivity envisaged in the Dawida massif. However, it is hoped that this shortfall could be met if further support is forthcoming towards the end of the current project.

Furthermore, what is the progress of activities 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5?

**Activity 5.3: Identification of planting sites enhancing forest connectivity:** This activity had been undertaken in year 1 of project. This involved the location of the farms straddling the connectivity 'paths' as identified using the Least-cost forest connectivity model of Taita Hills. This model was developed in a study undertaken before this project jointly by the TTWF Technical Advisor and the University of Ghent with support from CEPF.

**Activity 5.4: Planting of Seedlings:** To date 241,426 indigenous tree seedlings have been planted. The table above gives progress with the seedling planting from the beginning of the project. A further >37,000 tree seedlings will be planted in the next two rainy seasons.

**Activity 5.5: Maintenance and monitoring of survival and growth:** Spot weeding and climber cutting has been ongoing. The assessment of survival has been planned to be undertaken in April/May 2017.

Both these points could be addressed by a brief response with the half year report.

### 2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt 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.

**Brexit and Funding:** The amount of funds available locally might affect project implementation. Brexit impacted the exchange rate of Sterling with value of the pound falling by Kshs 15. This is likely to affect the level of service (follow ups, training etc) and goods (equipment, seedlings or other materials) delivered to the beneficiaries.

**Activity 1.2: Training/support in sustainable livelihoods:** Livelihood support among the very poor is required in order to encourage their participation and adoption of livelihood options.

**Activity 1.4: Socio-economic surveys:** One of the challenges encountered with the socio-economic surveys was that some households were not very willing to divulge information about their wealth.

**Activity 5.1 & 5.2:** Poor rainfall seasons have continued to pose a major challenge to tree planting. However, the project and the community have learnt to take advantage of unexpected showers by ensuring that there are always seedlings ready for planting all the time. Also techniques such as mulching have been promoted. The dry situation has increased the occurrence of fires in some of the areas.

### 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

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

**3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., 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 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:  
No.

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

Project management: There have been staff changes after the resignation of Mr. Dawson Mwanyumba who was the Project Manager. The role of Project Manager was taken up by Ms. Carolyne Talu who was responsible for Administration and Accounts. A Project Assistant was engaged to take over project work in the Taita Hills implemented by Mr. D. Mwanyumba who will work closely with Mr. Gilbay Obunga (NK representative). Two other assistant swere engaged with one assisting Ms. Carolyne Talu with extra workload and another to work with the Project Officer for Sagalla/EDGE Fellow.