



Darwin Initiative Main Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2015)

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): HYR2
Project website/Twitter/Blog/Instagram etc:
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/month by POs. Excavation of two new ponds is underway in Lata dam. One of the ponds was completed within the period where a dam-liner and fish-fingerlings were supplied. Technical support was given by Fisheries Officers in charge of Voi Sub-County.

1.2 Establishment of support network and training in sustainable livelihoods (fish-farming; handicrafts; bee-keeping; butterfly-farming; carbon-credits): Project Technical Advisor met the President of TIST - The International Small Group and Tree Planting Programme and held discussions on how TIST could expand its activities to the Taita Taveta County to assist with Carbon Credits activity. Consequently 10 farmers (Taita 6; Sagalla 4) will travel to Meru (22-27th October 2015) for a one week training course. TTWF is now member of the country working group for PELUM.

1.3 Training and support of women's groups in handicraft manufacture (and other livelihood options where appropriate) and marketing: Training in value-addition to handicrafts using beads was held from 24-25th August 2015 in Wundanyi involving 24 trainees (14 females; 10 males). Trainees represented two handicraft groups (Sufi and Ngangao). Subsequently, 5 members received orders totalling Kshs 5200. The training identified the need for groups be trained on the use of leather working machinery and linked to potential markets/start-up capital – consequently, Project Manager has instructed POs to guide groups on access to loans from National Govt agencies (eg. Uwezo Fund, Womens Enterprise Dev. Fund).

1.4 Socio-economic survey of household income: Following a pilot phase in January 2015, a total of 160 (Taita 100 and Sagalla 60) questionnaires were administered to 100 Taita and 60 Sagalla households from 7-15th July 2015. Preliminary findings show average baseline household income as Kshs 6000/month in Taita and Kshs 4,425/month in Sagalla.

Output 2

2.1 Participatory Forest Management Plans (PFMPs), Forest Management agreements, and Sub-Catchment Management Plans (SCMPs): Formulation of PFMPs is ongoing. Polygons for Iyale, Wesu, Mbili (IYAWEMBI) forest cluster, Susu, Ndiwenyi, Fururu (SUNDIFU) forest cluster and Sagalla forest have been created to build zonation maps for these areas; maps have been inserted into the draft PFMPs. The draft PFMP plans have been compiled and are awaiting presentation and adoption by the community and submission to KFS for approval. Development of the SCMP for Sagalla and Voi river areas is completed (awaiting final adoption workshop in October 2015).

2.3 Formation of Community Forest Associations (CFAs) and Water Resource Users Associations (WRUAs): The Water Resources Management Authority visited TTWF twice to discuss support for

WRUAs and SCMPs. Three CFAs (IYAWEMBI, SUNDIFU, NGACOFA) were assisted (i.e. preparation of Articles of Association & filing appln form) with their registration with Registrar of Societies in April.

2.4 Training of CFAs and WRUAs in governance and natural resource management: MVOSA WRUA capacity building was undertaken jointly with WRMA and TTWF/Project staff.

Output 3

3.1 Training on DICE MSc programme: TTWF Technical Advisor began the DICE MSc in Conservation Biology in September 2015.

3.4 Kenyan Student Research Fund: A Kenyatta University MSc student (Vincent Nzau; *Animal Ecology* programme) has been identified to undertake research on Taita Apalis. Approved by Kenyatta University, he now is developing his research project.

3.5 Training of 1 TTWF employee on ZSL EDGE Fellowship: EDGE Fellowship – two ZSL staff visited the project in July/August 2015. Local POs were trained in use of GPS and application of qGIS by Chris Gordon of ZSL, these skills are already being used for analysis of spatial data by the field team.

3.6 Training and involvement of community in biodiversity conservation: Common bird monitoring was carried out in Ngangao, Iyale, Fururu and Chawia forests in August 2015 by 5 participants. A total of 21 species and 215 individual birds were sighted including 1 Taita thrush sighted in Ngangao forest and 4 Taita apalis sighted in Vuria forest. Poor weather hindered visibility during the August monitoring (local community members) took part in the monitoring. Threat/disturbance monitoring was also done within the same transects in the four forest fragments. Threats observed included logging, human intrusion, firewood collection and fire grass cutting, human intrusion and grazing.

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. A draft CEPA strategy was produced with input from ZSL staff following their visit to TTWF in August 2015.

Output 4

Species Action Plans (SAPs) have been developed for the three Taita endemics (Taita Thrush, Taita Apalis and Sagalla Caecilian) under the leadership of Nature Kenya. Surveys of the occurrence of the Sagalla caecilian continue to be undertaken by PO Mr. Mwanyumba as part of his EDGE Fellowship project, revealing their presence in 75% of the previously surveyed areas. These SAPs were reviewed by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to ensure they meet SAP requirements. KWS has prepared the Preface and Foreword for each of the documents. The bird SAPs have been edited by Nature Kenya's editor, Fleur Ng'weno, and are ready for publishing. The Sagalla caecilian SAP will further be reviewed after the ongoing caecilian survey work has been completed and data analysed before publication.

Output 5

5.1 Development of seedling nurseries involving locally-led community groups & 5.2 Maintenance of seedling: 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. By the end of June 2015, 40,857 seedlings had been planted in the degraded parts of the forests, with 20,500 tree seedlings ready for planting in the next coming rainy season and an extra 5,782 pricked in in May 2015. 4,700 tree seedlings were planted. The support of community group nurseries has been on-going in both Taita and Sagalla through regular follow-ups by POs. In addition to technical assistance, support has included repair or water infrastructure such as taps to deliver water and provision of plastic tanks. There are now 42,466 tree seedlings (Wundanyi 35,466 and Sagalla 7,000) ready for planting in the next rainy season – Oct/Nov.

Table 1: Cumulative summary of data for 'Measuring Outputs' from Project Logframe

		Year 1 (Q1-4)	Year 2 (Q1)	
	Activity	July'14-Jun'15	July-Sept 2015	Total
Output-1	Fish-ponds set up	3	7	10
Output-1	# farmers trained, fish	0	16	16
Output-1	# farmers trained, bees	0	17	17
Output-1	# farmers trained, TIST	3	10 (+ 2 staff)	13 (+ 2 staff)
Output-1	# handicraft workshops	1 (22 pers)	1 (24 pers)	2 (46 pers)
Output-1	# of handicraft groups	1 group	2 groups	3 groups
Output-2	# PFMPs developed	2 (+ 3 other)	1	3 (+ 3 other)

Output-2	# SCMPs developed	0	1	1
Output-2	# CFAs developed	3	2 registered (+ 1 other)	3 (+ 1 other)
Output-2	# WRUAs developed	0	2 (MVOSA; Kishenyi)	2
Output-5	# seedlings planted	106,300	40,857 (T) + 4,700 (S)	151,857

Notes:

1. WRUAs/SCMPS – After discussions with WRMA and taking into consideration of the cost involved, it was found prudent to focus on supporting two WRUAs and SCMPS, in this case MVOSA WRUA (Sagalla) and Kishenyi WRUA (Taita). For MVOSA WRUA capacity building training has been undertaken and development of the SCMP has been successfully completed. Kishenyi WRUA is pending, to follow in the next quarter.
2. 3 ponds in Sagalla are awaiting provision of fingerlings. Plans are underway to train Anagamiza Jangwa group in Taita on fish farming and subsequently develop a pond for them in the next quarter.
3. On handcraft training two groups are earmarked for trainings next quarter.

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.

Activity 1.2: Training/support in sustainable livelihoods: downturn in tourism in coastal regions has impacted on Mombasa Butterfly Pavillion; thus Project is de-emphasizing training in pupae-production.

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 3.6: Poor weather hindered visibility during the August monitoring.

Activity 5.1 & 5.2: Poor rainfall season: The rains have been below average. This greatly affected the number of tree seedlings that could be planted. This is especially the case in Sagalla where planting only took place around schools where members of school clubs could be relied upon to ensure their survival through watering until they establish properly.

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: Some roles of the project staff have needed to be reallocated amongst project team members to better align with time-management skills and communication procedures amongst team members. This has slowed down implementation of some project activities but project roles have now been confirmed in a Terms of Reference document initiated by the Project Steering Group and which all staff have signed up to, with implementation of regular face-to-face meetings involving all local project staff. This change has facilitated improved communication with more regular feedback to the PSG. Whilst the TTWF Technical Advisor attends the DICE MSc programme in Kent, UK he has appointed an excellent Project Manager in his place.