

## Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2016)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	22-005
<b>Project Title</b>	Conserving Madagascar's yams through cultivation for livelihoods and food security
<b>Country(ies)/Territory(ies)</b>	Madagascar
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	RBG, Kew
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Kew Madagascar Conservation Centre (KMCC), Feedback Madagascar Ny Tanintsika (FBNT), Silo National des Graines Forestières (Madagascar, SNGF).
<b>Project Leader</b>	Dr. Paul Wilkin
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	HYR2
<b>Project website/ Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc</b>	Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/TeamKMCC">@TeamKMCC</a> . Blogs: <a href="https://teamkmcc.wordpress.com/category/darwin-initiative-yams/">https://teamkmcc.wordpress.com/category/darwin-initiative-yams/</a> . Website URL: <a href="http://www.teamkmcc.org/yams">www.teamkmcc.org/yams</a>
<b>Funder (DFID/Defra)</b>	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).

Y2 Q 1 & 2 Activities on project implementation timetable

#### 1.3 IUCN Red List assessments and ecological profiling

Twenty-nine red list assessments for wild yams (*Dioscorea*) from Madagascar, including key edible and threatened species, have been returned to IUCN for final checking by reviewers and publication on <http://www.iucnredlist.org/> via IUCN's SIS system. Dr. Mamy Tiana Rajaonah KMCC principal investigator on the yams project, was trained in red listing at Kew in October 2016 to enable him to carry out the end of project assessments.

#### 2.1 Building and populating a project website and blog.

During the reporting period 2 blogs have been posted on the blog site above. The project has also made 91 tweets, about one every other day. Thirty-one iNaturalist/Zavamaniry Gasy; <http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/zavamaniry-gasy-plants-of-madagascar>) *Dioscorea* images and data points have been uploaded, current total 92 covering 22 species.

#### 2.2 Communication: radio, social media, leaflets and yam festivals etc.

During the reporting period three radio broadcasts have been made in Antsiranana province introducing the project, providing education, information and promotion on edible wild yam conservation. In the Corridor Forestier Ambositra – Vondrozo (COFAV, Fianarantsoa province) a video was made with TVM Malagasy about agroforestry and wild yams and shown by the channel. Two yam harvest festivals were held in the in COFAV in August, with more than 700 people participating and being engaged with wild yams conservation and cultivation.

#### 3.2 Training for community technicians in cultivation and ennoblement

Sixty technicians have been trained in yam cultivation techniques, and 39 in techniques of yam harvesting. In addition, 39 technicians have been trained in the wild yam population surveys techniques.

### 3.3 Development of a manual and other materials

As noted in the Y1 report, a basic manual in Malagasy used in training household/COBA members has been developed and will be made more information-rich as the project accumulates information. It will be disseminated to communities in Y3. Information capture has taken place during the reporting period towards this end, especially in Antsiranana province.

### 3.4 Monitoring of production and food consumption in households

Major progress has been made in this activity since April. The number of households is up from 37 communities and 925 households in the Y1 Annual report to 60 communities and 2850 households, with 1350 in Antsiranana and 1500 in the COFAV. Further households are expected to join in Antsiranana province during field activity during the last week of October enabling us to get close to or even exceed our target of 3000 households. Baseline surveys continue to capture yam production and food consumption in the project communities.

### 4.3 Development of a monitoring methodology for communities

A population monitoring methodology for wild edible yams has been developed and results obtained from 4 communities in the COFAV sites (covering 4 species) and from 14 sites in the north, with 8 species covered. We will report in more detail on this activity in the Y2 report.

### 5.1 Identification of sites for collection of seeds

Forty-nine accessions of seed have been collected for the MSB and SNGF, with seed collection continuing into April & May, beyond the originally planned period due to seasonal fluctuations. The total number of species that have been seed banked is now 19, including several of the threatened taxa.

### 5.3 Germination tests in Madagascar by SNGF and at Kew's MSB

Germination tests are being undertaken routinely at RBG, Kew's MSB. We will report in full on this activity in the Y2 annual report as significant numbers of seed accessions reach the MSB.

### 5.4 Establishment of living gene-banks

A horticultural worker has been recruited to cover living germplasm collections at Parc Botanique et Zoologique de Tsimbazaza (PBZT) and University of Antananarivo, Departement de Biologie et Ecologie Vegetale (DBEV). Planting has commenced at PBZT but work on the germplasm collection at DBEV had been delayed by logistical issues that will be dealt with during a visit by the RBG, Kew PI and Col during November. A smaller regional germplasm collection is in place in collaboration with MEEMF/DREEF at Ambanja. In addition, community plots are currently being used to cultivate a minimum of 13 species and this number will expand during Y2.

### Other Activities Since April

We have put in place 38 contracts with 38 communities concerning the conservation of particular species. In addition, we now also have 25 contracts covering the collaboration between communities and the project in Antsiranana province.

A manuscript on a threatened new species has been submitted and accepted by a peer-reviewed international journal. Manuscripts on a) 2 further new species with restricted distributions, b) rediscovery & conservation status of 2 species and c) a revision of 6 species are in progress

**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.**

No further notable problems or unexpected developments since Y1 report hence no impact on planned budget and project implementation timetable.

**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.** 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 please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

N/A

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

In connection with 22-005 AR1R section 2, we will make baselines clearer in the full Y2 report, even when they were zero activity or outputs at project inception, and aim to provide clearer evidence against indicators.

KMCC now have additional vehicle availability in Madagascar so local transport costs should be in line with initial budget projections

**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](mailto: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 e.g., Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**