

Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31st October 2017)

Project reference	22-006
Project title	Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and climate resilience at Yayu Biosphere Reserve
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Ethiopia
Lead organisation	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Partner(s)	ECFF; Union Hand-roasted Coffee; HiU Coffee;
Project leader	Dr Aaron Davis
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	27 October 2017. Report HYR3
Project website/blog/social media etc. A selection.	https://www.kew.org/science/projects/mainstreaming-biodiversity-conservation-and-climate-resilience-at-yayu-biosphere https://www.kew.org/blogs/kew-science/mainstreaming-biodiversity-conservation-and-climate-resilience-in-ethiopia%E2%80%99s-wild https://www.unionroasted.com/yayu_wild_forest https://www.unionroasted.com/coffees/yayu-wild-forest-blend.html http://shop.kew.org/yayu-wild-forest-wholebean-coffee http://www.retailtimes.co.uk/union-hand-roasted-launches-yayu-wild-forest-coffee-south-west-ethiopia-waitrose/ https://www.ocado.com/webshop/product/Union-HandRoasted-Yayu-Wild-Forest-Wholebean-Coffee/383721011?dnr=y

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).

Progress against timetable for Outputs

Output 1

- 1.1. The new cupping/coffee evaluation building is nearing completion and will hopefully come into use for the 2017 harvest season. Observed during visit in June/July, with a scheduled follow-up in October 2017 (J. Torz and P.Schuitman). Please see 2a.
- 1.2. No specific training provided over this period (wet season), but see 1.6 and 2a
- 1.3. No specific training provided over this period (wet season), but see 1.6 and 2a
- 1.4. Draft reference manual completed.
- 1.5. Updated draft versions of reference manual received back from co-operative leaders, and now with Union Coffee and RBG Kew for updates and design work.
- 1.6. In June/July, J. Torz and G. Cruz (Union Coffee, and HiU Coffee) visited Sor Geba cooperative (the cooperative handling the Yayu cooperatives coffee) HQ in Addis to provide training on export process streamlining, post-processing quality improvements (coffee sorting, cleaning and grading) and traceability (warehouse and logistics management). In the same visit Torz and Cruz also visited the new dry mill and export

facilities in Addis Ababa (Moplacco Ltd.), in order to trace primary (Yayu) cooperative quality issues and target specific training requirements for wet-processing at Yayu (see 2a).

1.7. No workshops over this period.

Output 2.

2.1 No training provided over this period (wet season).

2.2 No training provided over this period (wet season).

Output 3.

3.1 Completed (Yr 1, Qtr 4).

3.2 GPS farm-location mapping data collated and handed to A. Davis for processing.

3.3. Mapping data transferred from Z. Challa to J. Moat for processing.

Output 4

4.1 New (below-ground) soil moisture logger equipment made and tested in UK. The trials show clear proof-of-concept (the soil moisture sensors clearly show that mulching can improve soil moisture content) and that they are suitable for field conditions in Yayu.

4.2 Data from Plot 1 (pruning experiment), Plot 2 (mulching at low altitude) and Plot 3 (mulching at high altitude) has been collated and analysed. So far the results are inconclusive, although we did not anticipate useful data in project year two.

4.3 No activity during this period.

4.4 Work has started on this chapter, with the drafting of outline text.

4.5 Delayed until final results from come in from resiliency plot experiments (March 2018).

Other activities linked to Outcome

Yayu coffee in Waitrose. We are delighted that Yayu coffee is now being sold in Waitrose supermarket stores throughout the UK and via Ocado (from 1st June 2017). To date (four months), a total of 6,846 x 200 g packs have been sold, giving £1,711 back to the project, for post-project support initiatives (based on the 25p per pack allowance). The annual projection for post-project support via these means is £5,000. In addition to the Waitrose coffee, in the six month period ending July 2017 Union Coffee sold 8,664Kg, which covers (1 kg catering bags, plus (200 g) online and grocery bags.

Purchases from the Yayu cooperatives and Yayu project area. In order to achieve our Darwin project targets for income/livelihood improvement a purchase figure of three shipping containers (each container 300 x 60 kg bags = 18,000 kg) is necessary. Since the Second Year Report, where we reported the purchase of two containers, a third container has been purchased by Union for the 2016/17 coffee season (i.e. bring the yearly project total to three containers). The extra container was necessary in order to meet the demand from increased sales. The third container did not come from one of the five Yayu cooperatives, although it was sourced from the project area (i.e. the Yayu Reserve buffer zone). In addition to this and as a direct result of the project, a fourth container was purchased for distribution to Australia, through a Union Coffee business alliance. We will report more precisely on this in the Final Report, in terms of project metrics and outcomes (i.e. the increase in income from coffee, and increase in income per household, etc.). These figures suggest that the main project outcome is achievable and could be surpassed.

Outreach. Over the last six months the Yayu Project has been widely publicised via the internet (see above), social media, its position in 200 Waitrose stores (carrying project details and the Darwin log) and via public lectures (at RBG Kew, the British Ecological Society coffee meeting, and at the Anglo-Ethiopian Society). Packets of the coffee have also been given as gifts at meetings, such as award ceremonies, and book launches.

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.

Overview of June/July 2017 visit to Ethiopia by J. Torz and G. Cruz. These points were followed up in a visit in October 2017, and will be included in the Final Report (year 3).

1. Visit to Moplacco (dry mill for export preparation of the green coffee).

The first commercial scale purchase under the Darwin project made by Union Coffee in Year 1 (2015–16 season) was prepared for export by a mill offering a low service standard. One of the outcomes was an excessive delay in achieving export (arrival in the UK) and a lack of quality in coffee preparation, rendering some of the coffee unsuitable for purchase by Union Coffee. In the season just completed (2016–17) the project used a higher capability exporter service (Moplacco), where the coffee could be processed more quickly and to a higher standard. It was identified that training is needed at the primary cooperative coffee washing stations (at Yayu) where pulping equipment had not been correctly maintained and calibrated, resulting in a higher than usual level of damage to green coffee during de-pulping. Around 10% of coffees passing through the stations had avoidable damage and a plan has been developed to seek technical support from the equipment manufacturer representative in Ethiopia prior to next harvest in December 2017.

2. Visits to Sor Geba Union and with primary cooperatives in Yayu. These visits were undertaken to collect financial data (costs, sales export values and premiums paid) and to verify transparency of payments made to the primary cooperatives (at Yayu) by Sor Geba Union. Data collection and 'audit' visits were made, although only Gechi Cooperative were able to furnish detailed information for complete verification of costs vs. profit figures. Other cooperatives had incomplete or as yet unprepared information, and this is scheduled for follow-up in October. Despite this, we believe that good progress has been made, even though much still needs to be done to make this part of the value-chain self-sustaining.

3. Quality premiums. At time of the visit, the first container (300 x 60 kg bags) had landed in UK and the price increments along with the household quality premium (0.20 US\$/lb made to Wutete and Achibo cooperatives and members). These payments had arrived in-hand around six weeks earlier than the previous year and the two communities have recognised the benefit of this.

4. Capacity awareness. In meetings with the Yayu primary cooperative management committees, it was apparent that significant management and financial planning skills are lacking. Following this visit, further support/action plans are needed to enable the primary cooperatives to achieve long-term success. One option is to use the 25 pence per pack donation (from the sale of Yayu coffees in Waitrose and Ocado) to part-fund financial planning and accountancy skills within the Yayu cooperative body.

5. Cupping Lab. The completion of the cupping lab had stalled due to local difficulties with the contractor. Torz met with the architect and project supervisor to agree corrective actions and progress was promised for October completion, which will be verified during the next scheduled visit (October 2017). At time of inspection, most of superstructure was in place but further work is needed before the cupping lab is operational.

New appointment for Zeleke Challa (ECFF)

We are pleased to report that Zeleke Challa has succeeded in securing a new position (GIS Officer) at the UN headquarters in Addis Ababa. This is significant career advancement for Zeleke, who has been working with us (through ECFF) on DFID projects since 2013. Zeleke has been replaced by Techane Gonfa, a senior member of the ECFF staff who has been working at Yayu from more than a decade, and has long-standing experience in coffee agronomy.

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 [n/a]

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.

Please see point 4, below.

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

A visit to Yayu by project team member A. Davis is planned for November 2017, mainly to work at the three climate research plots, and the hold further meetings with Yayu farmers. This is part-funded from non-Darwin sources, but is an essential part of the final fieldwork visit in March 2018. Recent travel updates (Red24) warn of unsafe to travel in the Oromia Region, as given below. We are monitoring the situation carefully, and considering alternative options, but failure to travel in November would have serious consequences for this part of the project.

ETHIOPIA (Country risk rating: High); October 26; (Update) Demonstrations to continue following deadly clashes in Oromia
Federal security forces fired live ammunition at opposition protesters in the town of Ambo, in the Oromia region, killing 10 demonstrators and wounding at least 20 others, on October 26. Additional protests and road closures were reported in the towns of Baco and Holeta. The US Embassy in Addis Ababa currently limits staff travel to the area. The Agazi, a special unit of the Ethiopian military, deployed in the town in response to recent protests. Anti-government protests are likely to continue in the coming days throughout Oromia. Expect business and transportation disruptions, including road closures, and potential violent clashes with security forces. Demonstrators have reportedly attacked and burned private- and state-owned vehicles during previous protests in Oromia. Anti-government sentiments remain high in Ethiopia's Oromia Region. Independent human rights organisations estimate that more than 600 protesters were killed in 2015 and 2016, when large-scale demonstrations were met with a violent security crackdown. Whereas opposition forces had avoided open protests in recent months, preferring safer modes of action including strikes and 'stay at home' days, several Oromia towns, including Ambo, Kofele, Nekemte and Shashamane, have been host to demonstrations in recent weeks. On August 4, the government lifted a nationwide state of emergency that had been in place since October 2016, suggesting a gradual return to normalcy; however, some emergency measures remain in place, including one that allows authorities to indefinitely detain demonstrators.

Advice: Avoid all protests due to the potential for violence, even if they appear to be peaceful. Postponing driving or routeing shipments through Oromia is advisable if protests are scheduled. Seek updated information on security and road conditions if driving is unavoidable, and allow additional time to reach destinations due to potential roadblocks. Register and maintain contact with your diplomatic mission.

If the situation in Ethiopia deteriorates we will contact LTS International to discuss possible options for completing these parts of the project.

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. Additionally, if you were funded under R23 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your projectschedule/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 e.g. Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**