



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

Project Ref No	22-006
Project Title	Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and climate resilience at Yayu Biosphere Reserve
Country(ies)	Ethiopia
Lead Organisation	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Collaborator(s)	ECFF; HiU Coffee; Union Coffee
Project Leader	Dr Aaron Davis
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	28 October 2015. Report 1.
Project website/Twitter/Blog/Instagram etc	In progress.
Funder (DFID/Defra)	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).

Progress against timetable for Q1 and Q2.

Output 1

- 1.1. Quotations received (for coffee processing and evaluation equipment) from in-country suppliers. Delivery and storage of equipment discussed (in person) with all cooperatives in October 2015.
- 1.2. Coffee trainers interviewed and selected in October 2015, following a pre-project meeting in March 2015.
- 1.3. As above.
- 1.4. Initial resources have been brought together; discussions with artists and designers in mid-2015.
- 1.5. Activity outside Year 1
- 1.6. Activity outside Year 1
- 1.7. Workshop held for key members of the five cooperatives at Wutate, and discussions held with cooperative members at Achibo cooperative, in October 2015. This activity was undertaken to establish baselines for livelihood monitoring and evaluation.

Output 2.

2.1 & 2.2. Activities outside Q1 and Q2, and Year 1, respectively.

Output 3

- 3.1 Rapid eye data collated and base map produced. Kebele (the smallest administrative division in Ethiopia) map data gathered for the five cooperatives in October 2015.
- 3.2 Activity outside Year 1.

Output 4

4.1	<p>Study plot area selected for mulching and shade regimes.</p> <p>Study plot set up in Yayu to assess the influence of pruning on productivity and resilience.</p> <p>Climate/soil monitoring equipment purchased.</p> <p>Draft ms. produced on shade regimes following Darwin scoping award in November 2013.</p>
4.2 –	
4.5	Activities outside Year 1.

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.

Collection, export and payments of coffee (processed and unprocessed) from the five cooperatives is organized through a central cooperative (Oromia Coffee Farmer's Cooperative Union/OCFCU). Payment of premiums to farmers who produce higher quality coffee (i.e. that purchased by Union Coffee) did not reach those farmers, but instead was shared amongst all the cooperative members. The project team and OCFCU realize that this does not fully incentivise farmers to make the extra effort to increase quality, as the financial reward is not direct and fully accountable. HiU Coffee and Union Coffee have had two meetings (in Ethiopia) to explore this issue, and particularly its influence on the objectives and success of our Darwin/DFiD project. OCFCU are fully open to a new model of payment for farmers, with respect to a quality differential, and we are optimistic that a transparent and workable system will be in-place for the first year of the project, and thereafter, for coffee quality income uplifts. Pre-project (2013 – 2015), Union Coffee has purchased one and half containers (46,000 kg of coffee) from three of the Yayu co-operatives, through OCFCU, and has established a good working relationship with OCFCU.

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 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:

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

None.

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 e.g., Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**