



**Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project  
Half Year Report  
(due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018)**

<b>Project reference</b>	22-015
<b>Project title</b>	Sustainable management of an Ethiopian rangeland for biodiversity and pastoralists
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Ethiopia
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Ethiopian Wildlife Natural History Society; SOS Sahel; BirdLife International; Coventry University; Manchester Metropolitan University
<b>Project leader</b>	Clare Stringer
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	HYR4 05/11/2018
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	<a href="http://ww2.rspb.org.uk/community/ourwork/b/biodiversity/archive/2018/07/19/searching-for-the-critically-endangered-liben-lark.aspx">http://ww2.rspb.org.uk/community/ourwork/b/biodiversity/archive/2018/07/19/searching-for-the-critically-endangered-liben-lark.aspx</a>  <a href="https://www.birdlife.org/worldwide/news/can-critically-endangered-liben-lark-be-saved-our-latest-update?utm_source=BirdLife+International+News+Notifications&amp;utm_campaign=874e6e4cc4-Summary_news_notification&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_term=0_4122f13b8a-874e6">https://www.birdlife.org/worldwide/news/can-critically-endangered-liben-lark-be-saved-our-latest-update?utm_source=BirdLife+International+News+Notifications&amp;utm_campaign=874e6e4cc4-Summary_news_notification&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_term=0_4122f13b8a-874e6</a>

**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 2: Grassland restoration increases dry season food security for pastoralists equitably and restores grassland quality and Liben Lark habitat**

*2b. Kallo creation:* In June a trip to Liben Plain was completed by RSPB, Birdlife International, Birdlife Africa Partnership Secretariat (BLAPS), EWNHS and SOS Sahel to complete the repeated lark surveys. The existing kallos were measured by GPS, and currently cover a total area of 259 ha. In September, SOS Sahel have produced an additional 40 ha kallo next to the Wachu-bital kallo, which is an important site for Liben larks. EWNHS have committed to completing another 50 ha kallo next to the Gamme kallo, with support from SOS Sahel, by the end of the project.

*2d. Lark breeding success:* The results of the lark surveys completed in June recorded very few birds. In total, only 10 birds were seen over 20 repeated transects, very few of which overlapped with the existing kallos. Only one nest was found, which was not successful. It is likely that these low numbers are a result of no breeding during the 2015/16 drought. Larks were observed using the kallos for foraging activities and the focus for the remaining kallos to be created by the project has focussed on key areas for the larks.

*2e. Improved food security:* The data from the repeated socio-economic surveys is currently being analysed by RSPB and written into a report which will be submitted with the Final Report. Preliminary results have shown no improvement in food security, with over 50% losses in livestock since 2015 because of the 2015/16 drought. The results have highlighted that the

kallos provided 95.3% of the fodder during the drought for the people surveyed, with 73.4% of people surveyed saying that too many people are using the kallos. Despite this not being a positive result on food security, it has indicated that the kallos did provide important fodder for the pastoralists during this very difficult time, and that the main issue is that the kallos were not on a scale to match the demand.

**Output 3: Pastoralist communities have the capacity to develop livelihoods without reducing grassland area**

*3e. Microfinance schemes:* One CBO, the Simphiro Liben Cooperative, has received microfinance funding of 150,000 birr from local government funds.

**Output 4: Project partners maintain and build on the outcome of the project and promote Participatory Rangeland Management to conserve biodiversity across Ethiopia's rangelands in the long-term.**

*4c. Business plan for Liben Plain:* It has been proposed, in discussion with Darwin, that this activity now focusses on a Sustainability Plan for maintaining activities on Liben Plain to fully demonstrate the benefits of kallos for biodiversity and for people, if they are rolled out on a large enough scale. This change request is awaiting approval from Darwin.

*4d. Funding proposals:* SOS Sahel submitted a Whitley Award application in October, to expand the kallos on Liben Plain over 2019. BLAPS are supporting EWNHS to find additional support from other Birdlife partners that are active in Ethiopia.

*4e. Stakeholder workshops:* In September, BLAPS and EWNHS facilitated a stakeholder workshop in Addis. The initial plan to host the workshop in Liben was changed due to security concerns arising in the local area. Unfortunately, attendance was low, with a total of 14 people present. The Lessons Learnt report was completed and printed prior to this workshop, and was disseminated across the participants to share more widely the use of Participatory Rangeland Management and the lessons learnt from this project.

**Output 5: Project management, monitoring and evaluation structures and processes ensure that the project objectives are achieved on schedule and within budget.**

*5c. Project Steering Group meetings:* Three project steering group meetings have been held, in July, August and October. Trip planning meetings took place in May/June.

*5e. Repeated baseline surveys:* In June the lark surveys were repeated, and grass sward height data was collected. The repeated socio-economic data collected in February/March is currently being analysed. Repeated CBO self-assessments have been completed with support from SOS Sahel, and the results have been written into a report by BLAPS.

*5f. Reporting on time:* Most reporting by project partners have been on time, except for EWNHS where there have been significant delays due to a misunderstanding regarding the Darwin budget available. Phone calls were facilitated including RSPB's finance officer, Wendy Cain, to enable clear communication of the funding left to deliver the remaining project activities.

**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.**

Following the results of the field trip to Liben in June, it became apparent that the project will only partially meet its objectives, which is due to the overall impacts of the 2015/16 drought and political instability in the country. Following discussions with Darwin, a change request was submitted allowing a 2 month no-cost extension to the project to allow the completion of the remaining activities and to produce a sustainability plan for the next steps for conservation on the Liben Plain.

The log frame has also been modified accordingly in the same change request, following Darwin's recommendations, and this is awaiting approval.

**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

Formal change request submitted: Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance No – awaiting confirmation for logframe

**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.

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

NA

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 R24 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 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**