

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

<b>Project Ref No</b>	23-005
<b>Project Title</b>	Promoting the use of plant resources in research and development
<b>Country(ies)/Territory(ies)</b>	Ethiopia
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Botanic Gardens Conservation International
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute
<b>Project Leader</b>	Suzanne Sharrock
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	HYR 1
<b>Project website/ Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc</b>	
<b>Funder (DFID/Defra)</b>	Defra

### 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).

The project has made good progress against the agreed baseline timetable for the first six months.

#### **Project agreement**

The first project activity was the signing of a Project Agreement between BGCI and EBI. This agreement was signed on June 6<sup>th</sup> and provides full details of the activities to be completed by EBI and the budget available to support this. The project agreement will be renewed for each year of the project. Payments to EBI will be dependent on the receipt of suitable reports – both technical and financial – during the three years of the project. The signing of the agreement was important to ensure that both BGCI and EBI have a clear understanding of the activities to be undertaken during the project, who has responsibility for delivering outputs and the timing of activities.

#### **Steering Committees (Activity 1.1)**

A national project steering committee has been established in Ethiopia, involving representatives from EBI, Addis Abba University and Gullele Botanic Garden. This committee met in Addis Ababa on July 13, 2016 with the Project Leader, Project Consultant and BGCI staff also in attendance. During this meeting, the project was introduced and ABS issues and relevant stakeholders in Ethiopia were discussed. Minutes of the meeting have been prepared and circulated.

#### **International Steering Committee (Activities 1.1 and 1.3)**

An international Steering Committee has been established consisting of representatives from the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, Bioversity International and the CBD Secretariat. The project leader and project consultant are also part of this group. While it has not been possible to organise a face-to-face meeting of this group during this period, a series of skype calls have been held to discuss the project and share experiences with each member of the committee. A particular focus of the discussions has been the development of guidelines and process for stakeholder consultations. Notes of these calls have been prepared and circulated to the group.

### Identifying stakeholder groups (Activity 1.2)

The project leader and project consultant visited and held discussions with representatives from a number of stakeholder groups during a trip to Ethiopia in July 2016. These included: EBI ABS Directorate, Gullele Botanic Garden, FAO Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa, National Herbarium, Addis Ababa University, Ankober Medicinal Plant Garden of Debre Berhan University, Aloe community farmers, African Union. These discussions have formed the basis for work on the ABS baseline survey. A report of the discussions and issues raised has been prepared and circulated.

### Side event at CBD COP 13 (Activity 1.3 and 1.4)

A request has been submitted to hold a side event to highlight the project and the practical issues that it addresses, at the upcoming Conference of the Parties to the CBD.

### 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.

It was planned to hold a first set of stakeholder consultations in Ethiopia in November 2016. However, due to the State of Emergency in place in the country at the moment, this visit has been postponed. We are hopeful that we will be able to continue with the stakeholder consultations early in 2017 and that this stage of the project will still be completed within the project implementation timetable. We will take the opportunity of meeting with project partners at CBD COP to determine the situation and make any necessary decisions regarding changes that may be needed to the project.

We would welcome discussions with LTS about contingency actions if the security situation in Ethiopia doesn't improve.

### 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: No

Formal change request submitted: 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.

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

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**