

## Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020)

<b>Project reference</b>	24-013
<b>Project title</b>	Balancing water services for development and biodiversity in the Tana-Delta
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Kenya
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Nature Kenya (The East Africa Natural History Society – EANHS)
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Nature Kenya, Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forest Service, Tana River County Government, Lamu County Government, Tana Delta Conservation Network
<b>Project leader</b>	Bruce Liggitt
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR4)</b>	31st October 2020 - HYR4
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="http://www.naturekenya.org">www.naturekenya.org</a>

**1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).**

The project started on 1st April 2017 and this report covers activities from 1st April 2020 until the 30th September 2020.

**Output 1. A 95,200 ha Community Conservation Area (CCA) is established through consensus building among pastoralists, crop farmers and fishermen (indicators 1.5 and 1.6).**

In the final year of the project Tana Delta Conservation Network (TDCN) has taken a major role in management of the 116,867ha CCA now referred to as Tana Delta Indigenous and Community Conservation Area (ICCA). Within the reporting period Nature Kenya in partnership with TDCN formulated roadmaps to support 45 Village Natural Resource and Land Use Committees (VNRLUC) to develop strategies for implementation of the land use plan at the village level (Annex 1); and Community Forest Associations to develop restoration action plans targeting forests in the ICCA (Annex 2) with technical backstopping from Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI). The aim is for communities to put 10,000ha under direct restoration using a combination of sustainable production methods and direct planting of indigenous trees in forests and riparian areas and own farm woodlots among others. Taking advantage of ongoing partnership with the Climate Change Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives (CCU-MOALFC) and the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO); Nature Kenya engaged senior officers in these institutions to facilitate field based training of 45 agricultural extension officers from Tana River and Lamu Counties. The training will take place from 12th – 23rd October with one week training in Tana River and one week in Lamu County (Annexes 3, 4 and 5). Each of the trained extension officers will in turn carry out hands-on training of 10 farmers as

Trainer of Trainers (ToT) in field practices of climate smart agriculture (CSA). Each ToT will be assigned a cluster of farmers to train and monitor with technical backstopping from an agronomist recruited with funding from the EU and Sub-County Agricultural extension officers. In total 1,570 farmers across the delta will be supported to practice crop production using sustainable methods within the principles of CSA. Farmers will be supported to continue learning through hands on demonstration at three farmers field schools and replicate CSA practices on their farms. CSA is supported with co-finance from EU and Global Environment Facility (The Restoration Initiative).

## **2. Farmer, pastoralist and fishing communities have the capacity to jointly manage Community Conservation Areas (Indicators 2.2, 2.3).**

Nature Kenya held meetings with the Northern Rangelands Trust and agreed to expand community representation in the ICCA governance to include conservancies within Tana Delta (Annex 6). VNRLUC elections that started in 2019 to reconstitute the ICCA management committee with enhanced community representation have not progressed since March 2020 due to government imposed restrictions on gatherings to curb the spread of COVID-19. The activity will now resume in October 2020. Nature Kenya is planning to reconvene a meeting of county executives to take them through the ICCA management plan in a bid to promote its endorsement by county governments of Tana River and Lamu.

TDCN carried out detailed biodiversity monitoring, waterfowl counts, and common bird monitoring in the ICCA (Annexes 7 - 9). Biodiversity monitoring data will be used in preparation of the annual Key Biodiversity Areas Status and Trends Report.

On 6th July 2020, 6 TDCN members (4M, 2F) were supported to deliver memoranda to Tana River County Government in relation to County Budget estimates for 2020/2021 (Annex 10).

## **3. County Governments have the capacity and have allocated financial resources to support communities to manage the CCAs (Indicator 3.4).**

On 1st October 2020, the Site Project Manager alongside National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) officers from Nairobi held a meeting with the Tana River County Assembly Committee on Environment to discuss development of Tana River County Environment Action Plan (CEAP). During the meeting the CEAP (funded by GEF) was shared with the Members of County Assembly (MCA) and discussions held on the process to fast track the Tana Delta LUP adoption process. ICCA concept was also shared with the MCAs (Annex 11).

On 28th September 2020, during the Tana River County spatial plan Sensitization Forum meeting, the Site Project Manager shared with the county officials the state of implementation of the LUP/SEA and the availability of data that was used in the development of LUP SEA.

## **4. The potential for developing sustainable financing for the CCA from carbon and ecotourism has been assessed. (Outputs 4.1, 4.2).**

All activities under output 4 have been completed and reporting done in the April 2018 – March 2019 annual report. The Tana Delta ICCA ecosystem services assessment report is in the final stages of editing for publication. With GEF funding the Tana Delta 'Green' Industrial Park (GIP) business case *Transforming lives, spurring economic growth, keeping nature values in the Tana Delta* was progressed with Road Map and Investment Rationale for the GIP in draft (Annex 12).

**5 The poorest and most vulnerable subset of the 35,000 people living inside the CCA are empowered to demonstrate how livelihoods can be developed/diversified to support the long-term conservation of the delta's natural resources (Outputs 5.3, 5.4).**

Over the reporting period, 21 (15M; 6F) wildlife guides earned total of Ksh from ecotourism ventures in Ozi mostly through hosting Kenyan researchers. A total of 486 kg of honey was produced over the reporting period out of which, 432 kg was sold. In Hurara Village, the small community butchery earned Ksh while the live sale of 60 goats earned Didewaride pastoralists a Ksh These amounts to a net profit of Ksh from the goat business for both Hurara and Didewaride pastoralists.

Fish farmers harvested 52.5 kg of fish valued at Ksh but sold it locally only earning Ksh . This was because of the inaccessibility of main markets resulting from restriction of movement due to COVID -19 pandemic.

Under Climate smart Agriculture, 65 (38M, 27F) farmers harvested 41,350 kg of maize valued at Ksh at farm gate prices and at market prices. This harvest was as a result of support to farmers with 1,092kg of DH04 certified Maize seeds during the long rains in April-June 2020 (Annexes 13 and 14). The project supported 41 (3M, 38F) farmers with 262kg of lentil (locally called green grams) seeds. These farmers harvested 1,355kg of green grams valued at Ksh at the farm gate and Ksh) at market prices. 13 (7M,6F) farmers who planted 56kg of sorghum seed harvested 500 kg valued at Ksh

Construction of the TDCN community livelihoods enterprise demonstration and model centre is ongoing. A TDCN office block is under completion while the poultry unit was completed. Meanwhile, with GEF support incubators with capacity to hatch more than 800 eggs were bought, installed and the first batch of chicks has started hatching. TDCN is being supported to trial a commercial scale chicken rearing venture at their 4-acre demonstration and model enterprise centre. Every month TDCN will hatch 800 chicks out of which 600 will be reared to maturity at the community model enterprise centre. Within six months TDCN will be able to supply 600 mature chicken to local and external markets. With support from GEF TDCN were supported to hire a local farm assistant to help in the chicken venture, supported by county livestock and vet officers and Nature Kenya staff. According to a business plan drafted by TDCN the chicken business should become self-sustaining in the seventh month (Annexes 15 and 16). The additional 200 chicks will be distributed to communities at subsidized prices. If need be chicks will also be sourced from commercial hatcheries. Community producers will be supported to learn from the centre, produce chicken and market through the centre through a cooperative.

Chicken and fish feed will be produced, for use at the demonstration centre, supply to affiliated farmers at a subsidized price and sale to the public. Links have been established with Unga Feeds Ltd, a national major feed producing corporate who have committed to supply supplementary feed for mixing with what will be milled at the TDCN centre. Unga Feeds have also offered to support TDCN with quality control for their feeds, by testing TDCN manufactured feeds at their laboratories and giving technical advice. Through the EU and GEF projects Nature Kenya has recruited a business enterprise officer, livestock and agronomist extension officers to support TDCN and the delta communities in production, bulking, value addition and marketing under a Delta brand.

TDCN will source raw materials for feeds from farmers at market prices creating demand for community products produced through climate smart agriculture. We see this model as the start of promotion of local enterprises that support local production in line with the Green Industrial Park concept within implementation of the Tana Delta Land Use Plan.

The plan is to expand the TDCN centre to handle other products including rice, chilli, other crops, honey, fish and milk (Annex 17).

Between 28th September and 3rd October 2020, 99HH (42M, 57F) from 10 bee keeping groups were trained on practical skills of honey production. Training was done by TDCN ToTs with technical backstopping from a community based trainer from the Kipepeo Community Project in Malindi.

Rice farming is ongoing in Ozi Village minor irrigation scheme where sea water intrusion has previously rendered community farms unproductive. On 20th August 2020, 247 households (81M, 166F) from Ozi Village were supported with 4,720Kg rice seeds of ITA variety. The activity was supported with financing from the EU, expanding work started by the Darwin Initiative project where communities in the lower Tana Delta are supported to practice rice farming in brackish waters on farms previously abandoned due to sea water intrusion.

In addition to the 6 fishponds established with support from the Darwin Initiative project additional 8 ponds were established in Ozi and are ready for stocking, with support from the EU to benefit 120 fish farmers (50% women).

### **6 Lessons learned from the project are being used by government bodies (including country Governments) leading the development of other Deltas throughout Kenya (Outputs 6.1, 6.2).**

On 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020 Nature Kenya Field Project manager, Peter Odhengo of The National Treasury and the Governor Tana River County held a meeting to harmonize thoughts and approaches on the Green Industrial Park and wider county development plans (Annex 18).

On 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020, 39 people (24F, 15M) attended the World Environment Day. TDCN, Minjila dispensary committee members took part in planting trees to restore degraded areas.

On 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020, communities at different locations in small groups (mostly family groups) took part in bird monitoring activities to mark World Migratory Bird Day.

In collaboration with a team from KEFRI, and based on findings of baseline household wellbeing and socioeconomic surveys carried out in 2017, the project published an article *Engagement of Decision Makers for Improved Management of Shared Resources for Enhanced Community Benefits and Adaptation to the Changing Climate in Tana River Delta, Kenya* in the Journal of Ecology and Environmental Sciences <http://www.rroij.com/open-access/engagement-of-decision-makers-for-improved-management-of-shared-resources-for-enhanced-community-benefits-and-adaptation.pdf>

On 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020 Nature Kenya submitted Memoranda to the Clerk of the National Assembly on National Government estimates of revenue and expenditure for the financial year 2020/2021 with focus on Tana River County (Annex 19)

On 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 Nature Kenya submitted a letter on Budget Tips to the Cabinet Secretary National Treasury while preparing the FY 2020/21 Budget Statement (Annex 20). Nature Kenya called for Kenya Government to pursue healthy, green recovery from COVID-19 impacts including *Provide support for civil society and land owners to promote biodiversity in areas outside protected areas, including, for example, Conservancies in southern and northern Kenya; and Indigenous Community Conservation Areas (ICCAs) in Tana River Delta and Yala Swamp and other places.*

On 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020 Nature Kenya submitted a letter to the Ministry of East African Cooperation and Regional Development, objecting to advertised lease of land for sugar production in Tana Delta (Annex 21).

On 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 Nature Kenya submitted comments to the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) on the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for the proposed nuclear programme in Kenya (Annex 22). Tana Delta and Yala Swamp were indicated as priority sites for nuclear power plants due to large amounts of water present to cool the plants.

The project published articles in the Darwin Initiative newsletter June 2020 issue *Safeguarding the Tana River Delta coastal zone for biodiversity and livelihoods Kenya* <https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/assets/uploads/Darwin-Newsletter-June-2020-Safeguarding-our-Seas-FINAL.pdf>

And the September 2020 issue *Coping with the effects of the coronavirus on conservation in Tana River Delta, Kenya* <https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/assets/uploads/Darwin-Newsletter-September-2020-Conservation-the-coronavirus-FINAL.pdf>

An article *Rice growing boosts Communities Resilience to Climate Change and forest restoration in the Tana River Delta* is in draft to be published in the November 2020 issue of Nature Kenya monthly newsletter Nature Net.

Darwin Initiative contribution to the work in Tana was acknowledged during presentations to the GEF Project Steering Committee (Annex 23) and in a presentation made during capacity building of the EU REBUILD project staff (Annex 24).

**2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for Covid-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

River Tana continued to flood with water overtopping the Garsen-Lamu Road.

**2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of Covid-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

The greatest problem to effective and timely project implementation over the period was COVID-19 Pandemic. Delivery of site actions that required meetings was a major challenge. After the Kenya Government imposed restrictions on movements to curb the spread of the pandemic, many planned meetings and gatherings were put on hold causing serious delays to the planned strengthening of community governance structures of the Indigenous Community Conserved areas (ICCA).

Nature Kenya developed a protocol to provide guidelines for holding meetings while protecting staff, beneficiaries and partners from COVID-19. The protocol includes use of meeting venues with hand washing facilities, sanitizing and fumigation of all contact services, provision of hand sanitizers, initially (July-August) limiting meetings to 15 people and limiting meeting time to 1 hour. Others are provision of masks which must be worn throughout the duration of the meeting and social distancing (Annex 25). This protocol is being applied as activity delivery picks up with relaxed government restrictions.

When COVID 19 struck, a number of village meetings relating to elections of village level ICCA governance structures (the Village Natural Resource and Land Use Committees, VNRLUCs) elections were halted as gatherings usually had more than 15 individuals. These activities have since resumed and will be completed in November 2020 applying the internal COVID-19 protocol.

Communities lost livelihoods during the pandemic and so threats such as poaching for game meat, forest destruction activities were on the rise. Through EU and GEF funding, Nature Kenya is creating additional livelihood streams to cushion community livelihoods.

During lockdown Nature Kenya in consultation with TDCN and government agencies encouraged some of the activities including biodiversity monitoring to be done in small groups including family level monitoring exercises.

The project has initiated accelerated delivery of activities and changes on budget and work plan is not expected.

**2c. 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. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.**

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

No

**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 DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to [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: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**