



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

Project reference	Ref: 24-018
Project title	Enhanced biodiversity, water-security, and forest recovery in northern Guinea
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Guinea
Lead organisation	Wild Chimpanzee Foundation
Partner(s)	
Project leader	<i>Wild Chimpanzee Foundation</i>
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	<i>31 of October 2017 : HYR1</i>
Project website/blog/social media etc.	www.wildchimps.org/ https://www.facebook.com/wildchimps

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 1. Reforestation:

- **Tree nursery:** A tree nursery of 0.07 ha is implemented along a main river “Laafawol” in Laafa Village, with fences preventing domestic and wild fauna (goats, baboons, chimpanzees) to prey on saplings, roofs to provide shadow, and ditch to prevent from flooding from the nearby river. About 15.000 seeds previously collected and 20.000 additional seeds collected in August 2017 have been used in seedling production. From the new seed-lot, 4.422 have germinated and were planted in nursery plots, leading to a total of 10.250 saplings (mid-October count, continuously increasing) that will be planted during the next rainy season. Saplings will then be of 1 and 2 years old, including tree species used by humans for fruits or other resources. Many of the saplings are natural fruit trees used by people and by chimpanzees.
- 2 tree nursery managers trained and currently managing the tree nursery at Laafa.
1 manager supervisor fully trained to sapling growth-rate monitoring, data entry, and team monitoring and management.
- **Natural forest regeneration process:** Our project includes a combination of processes leading to reforestation with a mix of “Mise en défens” and assisted natural regeneration by selection, protection and preservation of tree seedlings/sapling in communities’ field. The last socio-economic study and complementary studies in Moyen-Bafing NP will allow WCF to select about 10 innovative farmers from local communities which would have the wish to change practices and share the experience of the benefit with other farmers within and outside their communities. These farmers will join a WCF-team and OGUIPAR agents on travels to Senegal for process-learning field missions at a WorldVision partner field site in Kafrine (inspired by success in Niger). Travels are planned in November 2017 (phase 1) and January 2018 (phase 2) (see [Change Request](#)).

Output 2. Mise en défens :

- **Pilot converted wetland:** Site has not yet been identified as the creation of National

Park process was delayed (see section 2a and [Change Request](#)).

- **Water source** protection, reduction of **tree cutting practices**, and better control of **bushfire**: With co-funding from *Tierschutz*, a theatre performance tour was organized with a professional Guinean actor troupe "*Touchatout*" to raise awareness of rural communities on the pre-cited environmental issues along with the upcoming citation of the area as a National Park. The script of the play was written jointly by WCF agents and *Touchatout* scriptwriter to ensure the accuracy of the message transferred, as well as the quality translation in local languages (Malinké and Poulard). The play has been performed in 8 villages, strategically chosen across the proposed Moyen-Bafing NP (villages on each side of the Bafing river, equal representation of Malinké and Peulh ethnic groups), from 1st to 21th of June 2017, and for a total of 1870 attendees (i.e. >5% of the proposed PNMB), including 44% of women among the 1293 adults.
- **Communication network** is being set up to ensure quality communication between WCF agents and community representatives to address questions and propositions.

Output 4. Biomonitoring:

- Baseline camera trap data have been collected for a total duration of 6 months (January to July 2017) in 2 classified forests (Bakoun and Boula) and the corridor in between, from 30 different traps (3 grids of 9 to 11 traps each), totalling to 9191 video fragments at the end of September 2017. 35% of the sequences is already analysed, revealing 27 different species (26 mammals + 1 reptile), including *Colobus polykomos* and *Panthera pardus*.
- A much expanded and sophisticated sampling design is about to be finalized to control for species frequentation of the area across time.
- 4 WCF local technicians are fully trained + 2 are under training
- A hydraulic system is also being monitored through water scales on 5 different rivers and data collected since June 2016, with on the run technical improvements on scale placement and fixation system in water bed.
- Recruitment job offers are about to be published: 1 ornithology expert + 1 botanist expert.

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.

1)-Slowness on the political level prevented us from launching community linked activities in the proposed Moyen Bafing National Park, as the ministerial creation decree was signed on October 27th 2017, with a 10-months delay on planning. Despite internal political issues, the WCF did all its best to work in support of this process involving 3 ministers and the prime-minister. However, the government needed all this time to produce this crucial first step. The main consequence on the project is that without a legal confirmation of the park creation, it was not possible for the WCF to start consultations with the local communities, as planned in our original Darwin proposal, where we proposed to initiate in Y1 the information process about the park creation, as well as discuss the related benefits and costs for the local population **before** starting with the "Mise en défens" process.

As political process is inducing the adaptation of the community-approach for a number of activities, thus, in order to avoid launching activities without a legal introduction and conciliation with the local communities, this report will be accompanied by a [Change Request](#) file. Indeed, we are now in the position to forward an adapted and realistic timeframe, based on the official

commitment of the government.

The necessary Change of Request, due to events not under control of the WCF, will mainly concern the delay of the activities planned during Y1 to be postponed to Y2, Y3 and Y4, and to adapt them according to the results obtained during the previous socio-economic study (February to June 2017 – analysis is on-going), in view of enhancing a positive impact through a friendly-environmental land-management structure by the communities. It was mandatory to initiate the activities only **once the legal situation was cleared**, and it is now also mandatory to provide local communities with the necessary time to become acquainted with the new situation and to address their questions, their needs and propositions to the WCF team, as we need to reach a stable agreement with them **before** initiating concrete activities on the ground. The Change Request will remain cost neutral, meaning that the budget will remain of the same amount as stated in the agreement. However, having to reschedule the implementation of the mentioned activities, we have to attribute the related expenditures from Y1 to the following Y2, Y3 and Y4.

2)-The first activities of tree nursery were conducted in Laafa, as a tree nursery had been implemented there in June 2016 (co-funding of Tierschutz). We used this site for the seed-collection and setting up of nursery plots. However, further consultation will be needed with this community to assess whether another more suitable village will be used as pilot village. The saplings will be used in Y2 in the pilot village for reforestation activities along forest galleries (either at Laafa or another chosen nearby village).

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: Yes, along this half-year report

Received confirmation of change acceptance Not yet

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: £ see budget Year 1 revised

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.

Due to events not under control of WCF i.e. the important delay of the Guinean government to produce the decree of the park creation in due time, WCF was legally prevented to start the community activities as planned in our proposal. This delay was further complicated by the fact that the Minister of Environment was replaced in late January 2017, and this required many additional meetings between the new Minister and WCF in order to provide her with in-depth information about the project and the crucial necessary steps.

Change Request and Budget Change are submitted

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

Financial expenses :

1 : Regarding : **“Within any financial year, re-allocation of budget from one budget line to another budget line, of more than 10% of the budget line the grantee is transferring from, must be approved”**

Is “budget line” referring to category, e.g. “staff cost”, or to each single line within staff cost or other categories?

2: Regarding lines **“fieldwork travel and subsistence” versus “fieldwork operating costs”** : for our understanding when establishing the budget, we were considering that conducting field work is including the cost for cars (gazoil, repairs...) as we are travelling to the certain villages to run activities and come back to Labé, the WCF-office place (100-150km distance). Does it mean that for this specific travel distances (mostly one-day trips) to reach the site of, we had to rather plan funding in the line “fieldwork travel and subsistence” for costs such as gasoil and car repairs?

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 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: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**