



Darwin Initiative/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31st October 2019)

Project reference	24-018
Project title	Enhanced biodiversity, water-security, and forest recovery in northern Guinea.
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Guinea
Lead organisation	Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF)
Partner(s)	OUIPAR, BIOTOPE, Kew Gardens, World Vision Senegal, GRET, INSUCO
Project leader	Christophe Boesch
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	01/04/2019 to 30/09/2019, HYR3
Project website/blog/social media etc.	www.wildchimps.org , 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).

Following the recommendations of the second review (AR2R), we would like to present the progress and achievements made.

Output 1. Rehabilitation of riverine areas via reforestation (former output 1 reforestation and Mise en défens)

a. Establishing and managing tree nurseries: At the end of September 2019, the tree nursery of Laafa-Boube comprised approximately 7,500 plants, and we have developed 3 new tree nurseries in the Moyen-Bafing region: in Balabory with 16,000 saplings; in Fougani with 14,386 saplings; and in Kalinko with 10,086 saplings. 40 local villagers have been trained to manage these tree nurseries.

b. Tree planting along riverine areas: Currently and within the framework of the Land Management Plan for the Moyen-Bafing National Park (MBNP) 69.34 ha have been regenerated-reforested. The process has been launched in early September 2019 on 4 degraded areas in the MBNP management zone of Laffa (around the villages of Laffa Boube, Koulifakara, Lallabara, Kalinko Konkero, Kalinko Missira) which have been enriched with the following trees species: *Azelia africana*; *Erythrophleum guineensis*; *Cola cordifolia*; *Tamarindus indica*; *Diospyros mespiliformis*; *Detarium senegalensis*; and *Kaya senegalensis* (Annex 1).

c. Planting orchards: The conversion of the wetlands and the creation of market gardens (Output 2, a and b) are part of the Land Management Plan that we develop with the 7 communities. Shea butter production is under development and in the villages of Yalagueta and Lallabara, 69 persons were trained, including 56 women. Income diversification being one of the pillars of household-food security, WCF is developing the honey and wax value chains in the 7 pilot villages (Sangan, Koulifakara, Lallabara, Laffa Boubhe, Kalinko Konkero, Kalinko Missira and Fougani). Further, the idea is to link the protection of honey-producing areas (forests and groves), as part of bush-fire management. The reduction of bush-fires leads to an increase in pollination resulting in greater honey productivity. This was done in partnership with

FAPI-G, the "Federation of Beekeepers of Guinea", and a total of 35 persons, including 14 women, had access to the technical innovations and the training. Five other villages have benefited from these sensitizations and were trained in August 2019: Houdy, Kela, NDantaba, Madina 2 and Marinfaya. The first Economic Interest Groups in the honey and wax are in the process to be created and linked to the village committees.

d. Protection of existing forest: The process of forest protection and bushfire monitoring will be supported through the creation of village committees in the targeted villages and 14 municipal assemblies. The implementation of the bushfire-management plan will be starting in early November 2019 at 17 selected high conservation value sites within the MBNP, including 2673 ha of forest's connectivity breaks, 784 km² of water spring heads in 5 management areas of the MBNP.

A group of community ecoguards and animators (24 persons) have been hired and trained for forest and wildlife protection (until the end of 2019, we plan to hire and train 44 persons). Since April 2019, the coverage rates of forest patrols are: 37% of the Bouroumba zone, 86% of the Kansangui zone, 74,7 % of the Fello Koundoua zone, 40% of the Dara zone, and 27% of the Laafa zone. A SMART database is available.

Output 2. Agriculture related (former Output 2 Converted wetland, and Output 3 Sustainable agriculture practice)

a. Wetlands-related activities, including land management planning: For this reporting period, and for 5 of the 6 pilot villages of the Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) project (Foungani, Kalinko Missira, Kalinko Konkero, Lallabara and Koulifakara), the process of defining the land management plans have been launched. Moreover, 23 other villages have been selected from the entire 15 communes of the Moyen-Bafing National Park (MBNP) to elaborate similar plans by 2020 (Annex 2). The mapping project is expanded with satellite image analysis to provide a detailed representation of the village territories, defining their relation to space, as well as the areas of the territory that are socially disputed (Annex 3). A collaborative management team for the pilot villages is under development within the implementation of the 9 Village Committees for Conservation and Development (CVCD) for Laafa and Botoko, Sangan and Bossi-Kodo and Bossikoley, Foungani, Kalinko Missira, Kalinko Konkero, Dakacire and Bantankountou, Balabory and Koukoutamba, Lallabara and Gadah amara, Koulifakara. 175 persons, of whom 160 were women, were trained in soil preparation and vegetable growth.

b. Market gardens: As well as the conversion of the wetlands and the planting of orchards, actions have been undertaken during this 6-month period in the context of supporting women and other vulnerable persons. 221 persons, including 217 women, were trained on good nutrition, food diversification and the production of a carrot-based food for young children. Seeds of carrots (800 g) and peas (25 kg) were distributed.

151 persons, including 139 women, were trained in biopesticide production based on garlic, pepper and ginger. 119 persons, including 118 women were trained in the fight against the papaya leaf mushrooms. The data collection on yields of rice, fonio, sorghum, maize, cassava, groundnuts, beans, field peas is ongoing in the villages of Laffa Boubhe, Kalinko Konkero, Foungani and Lallabara.

c. Innovative farmers: The system of defining farmer leaders within the community of local farmers have been consolidated, and they were good examples for other community members regarding the introduction of new farming techniques and the new management of their farms. They are currently, together with WCF officers, organizing outreach sessions (Laffa Boubhe, Kalinko Konkero, Foungani and Lallabara) for other interested community members. 254 persons were trained on the establishment of stone barriers and mulch-management (important themes of agro-forestry and agro-ecology). WCF is seeking to extend the pilot project to the whole park with a revival of the partnership with WorldVision.

Output 3. Improving the information base on the fauna/flora in the area, and its movements in the corridor (former Output 4 biomonitoring)

a. Bird study: The bird study in the MBNP was carried out with Biotope (2018-2019). The results show that 203 bird species were observed (representing 28% of Guinea's known birdlife), 6 of which are fully protected nationally under the new Wildlife Code: African Vulture, Scavenger Vulture, Bald Vulture, Rüppell Vulture, Forbes Plover, Peregrine Falcon. In addition, some species listed are recognized as globally threatened, and these are the 4 identified Vulture species, and the Abyssinian Bucorve. Other species that appear at the edge of their range have also been recorded: Turati's Gonolek, White-browed Cossyph, Ayres Eagle, Buzzing Lark or Natal Nightjar.

b. Flora study: The results of the flora study show 281 species with 19 of them being threatened. The MBNP is the only known location for the two globally endemic species: *Barleria asterotracha* and *Dissotis linearis*, and also hosts a large population of these globally threatened species: *Lipotriche felicis*, *Cyathula pobeguinii*, *Macropodiella garrettii*, *Danthoniopsis chevalieri*, and *Leocus pobeguinii*. Table 1 Annex 4

c. Camera trap monitoring / analysis of animal movements in forest corridors: Thanks to the large camera trap biomonitoring with 400 Bushnell cameras in the whole MBNP, we can confirm the presence of the West African Lion (*Panthera leo*). Together with the West African chimpanzee, the lion is the second species with a critically endangered IUCN status in the park. And for the Republic of Guinea, these are great news, because the species was considered extinct in this country. So the MBNP is increasing its conservation value, since it is home to these two critically endangered species and also to 45 mammal species, including five vulnerable species: Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Caracal (*Caracal aurata*), Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*), Colobus (*Colobus polykomos*), and Giant Pangolin (*Smutsia gigantea*). Table 2 Annex 4

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.

Regarding the coexistence of mining projects on the periphery and the Koukoutamba dam project, the Moyen-Bafing National Park is still facing critical issues and some of them are critical for the survival of the biodiversity offset process within its limits. Nevertheless, WCF is working with other key partners (such as the British Embassy) to find the best possible compromises, ensuring both the future of the park's conservation values and Guinea's development. In May and September 2019, the WCF Guinea team together with Professor Dr. Christophe Boesch participated in the inter-ministerial commission meetings with representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, of Environment, Water and Forests, of Mines and Geology, and of Energy and Hydraulics to discuss about the mining projects and the Koukoutamba dam.

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: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance 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?

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. Additionally, if you were funded under R25 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 DO NOT send these in the same email.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to 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: 25-035 Darwin Half Year Report**