



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

Project reference	24-019
Project title	Developing a Community Based Ecotourism Model at Lake Natron, Tanzania
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Tanzania
Lead organisation	BirdLife International
Partner(s)	Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA); Ngare Sero Eramatare Community Development Initiative (EECDI); Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (TATO); Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB); Honeyguide Foundation
Project leader	Ken Mwathe
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	HYR2
Project website/blog/social media etc.	(see social media coverage in the attached report)

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: A COHERENT TDP AND CLEAR REVENUE SHARING MECHANISM IN PLACE.

Activity 1.4 Collect data and consult with stakeholders on TDP and revenue sharing plan (as part of TDP)

The **Tourism Development Plan** (TDP) was developed between February 2018 and August 2018, led by consultant Mr. Lota Melamari, through a stakeholder consultation process. The process involved desk review of reports, publications, legal and policy frameworks, tourism reports and data and consultations with key tourism stakeholders in Arusha and Dodoma. The consultant and team visited Ngare Sero, Pinyinyi, Magadini, Engaruka Juu and Oldonyo Lengai and Wosiwosi villages to collect views from the local communities. The first and second drafts of TDP were prepared, translated into Swahili and shared with stakeholders for input.

The **Revenue Sharing Plan** has been drafted and is still under discussion. It will be endorsed by senior officials at the RAS office and 3 district councils by March 2019 (see Activity 1.6 below).

The Revenue Sharing Plan proposes that financial gains through ecotourism business should come through competitive performance.

- i. The Engaresero Eramatare Community Development Initiative (EECDI) and their guides have a monopoly in the guiding of visitors to explore various amenities and attractions
- ii. The Government Institutions should continue to levy taxes and collect fees on tourism enterprises operating at Lake Natron but this needs to be done rationally.
- iii. The Tanzania Wildlife Agency (TAWA) should collect fees on conservation
- iv. The three District Councils should find concrete areas within the tourism businesses to charge fees and not the present way of double charging of conservation entry fees.
- v. The communities have a niche through guiding and through sale and rent of land.

The **market analysis study for ecotourism business** at Lake Natron is now complete with its report included in the second draft TDP document. The study involved desktop review of reports, government plans and strategies. The Strategy identifies four countries; Germany, the United Kingdom, United States and Italy as primary tourism source markets, and it proposes that France, the Netherlands, Canada, Australia and Spain be categorised as 'secondary existing mature source market'. The strategy names China, Russia, Turkey, Brazil and the Gulf States as potential new source markets.

Activity 1.5; Support production of the TDP and share with stakeholders

The third draft TDP draft will be produced by Mid-November. A final TDP draft will be produced by end of Year 2.

Activity 1.6: Organize a multi-stakeholder TDP validation and tourism revenue-sharing harmonisation meeting

The project and the consultant organized a multi-stakeholder TDP validation workshop on the 24th September 2018 at Twiga Lodge Mto wa Mbu, to review the second draft of the TDP. The meeting was chaired by the Arusha Regional Tourism Officer from the RAS office and facilitated by the consultant, Mr. Lota Melamari with support from Mr. John Salehe (Nature Tanzania) and Emmanuel Mgemwa. The draft was endorsed with some minor comments. The meeting was attended by a total of 48 participants (8 females) drawn from all stakeholders. The main outputs from the meeting are available on request.

OUTPUT 2: IMPROVED CAPACITY FOR ECOTOURISM BUSINESS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DECISION MAKING

Activity 2.1 Organize training courses on ecotourism and business management for men and women, and youth (including tour guides) and follow up training in villages by trainees. b. Conduct post-training self-assessment to trained participants

The Project supported ecotourism and business management training for the local communities at Lake Natron. In all the villages, a total of 109 participants (6 of them females) were trained in ecotourism, while 255 (152 of them females) were trained in business management, ethics, and customer relations. Most of those attending the training own or operate businesses including restaurants, shops, beads, keeping livestock, small scale farmers (horticulture), local campsites, grocery and smaller vendors. The ecotourism and business management training was provided by Mr. Rajabu Mapunda and Mr. Amani Sikone Laizer respectively as consultants with support from Project Manager, Mr. Emmanuel Mgemwa. The objective of the training was to improve capacity and skills of local tour guides and businesswomen and men conducting ecotourism related business. A post-training self-assessment will be taken by trained participants during the second half of year 2, however, qualitative observations by project staff of businesses already show observable improvements in their operations. Training was provided in both English and Swahili as appropriate.

Ecotourism training at Ngare Sero village was conducted from 5th to 6th June 2018, at Engaruka Juu and Chini, Oldonyo Lengai on 26th June 2018 and for Pinyinyi village on 29th - 30th June 2018. Business management training for Engaruka Juu and Chini, Oldonyo Lengai and Irendeni was conducted on 27th June 2018, for Pinyinyi village on 1st July 2018 and for Ngare Sero and Magadini villages on 3rd and 4th July 2018. The training was delivered to local tour guides and communities from Engaruka Juu and Chini villages, Magadini village, Oldonyo Lengai, Irendeni village, Ngare Sero and Pinyinyi village.

At the end of the training, the participants were given the hand outs and presentations, all available on request.

Training for village leaders from Ngare Sero, Pinyinyi, Magadini, Engaruka Juu and Oldonyo Lengai villages as well as EECDI was conducted at Pinyinyi village on 30th July 2018. This training aims to equip leaders with the vision and skills to support the implementation of various ecotourism activities at Lake Natron.

Activity 2.3; Construct booth and use it for sale of beads and other merchandise

Due to high demand by local women at Ngare Sero and at Oldonyo Lengai, the project supported construction of two booths, one in each village following their strong recommendations. The booths were handed to the respective village governments at Ngare Sero and Shimo la Mungu area (Swahili word for “God’s crater”). The booths provide a protective roof, and tables to display the beads and other merchandise. The Village governments have signed agreements to give the women using the booths administrative support and seek additional support from the district governments. They also promised to ensure that the booths are used sustainably and are protected from damage, enforced through local respect for the leaders. The constructed booths benefit about 165 women at Ngare Sero village and 129 women from the Shimo la Mungu area.



Maasai women display their beadwork during the handover of the booths

Activity 2.4: Set up Revolving Fund, training community back to back with 2.1 operationalise and monitor its implementation

During the training in activity 2.1, BirdLife also discussed the planned revolving fund with local communities in the villages of Ngare Sero, Pinyinyi, Magadini, Engaruka Juu and Oldonyo Lengai. They were briefed that the objective of the revolving fund is to improve ecotourism business through provision of access to fund for people and groups conducting business at Lake Natron. Draft rules and procedures for the revolving fund were also presented. After detailed deliberations it has been agreed that EECDI will open a special bank account that will be used to disburse the funds from the revolving fund for Ngare Sero and other villages.

Activity 2.5: Conduct Land rights training (includes preparations).

Part two of the “Land Rights and Climate Change” training was conducted at Ngare Sero village and brought together leaders from villages of Pinyinyi and Magadini. The leaders included village and ward representatives, women leaders as well traditional leaders (*Laigwanaans*). The 2 days’ training was conducted on 1st and 2nd September 2018. A total of 58 (14 women) were trained. The training focused on building confidence in making informed decisions through a better understanding of the Village Land Act number 4 and 5 of 1999.

OUTPUT 3: KEY WETLANDS, RIVERS AND SPRINGS PROTECTED AND BIODIVERSITY ENHANCED THROUGH TREE PLANTING, CATCHMENT RESTORATION AND PROTECTION. STATE OF BIODIVERSITY, AND WATER QUALITY ENHANCED AND MONITORED.

The land rights training (above) was also used to sensitize the participants on catchment conservation and advocating against catchment damage, highlighting the importance of Ngare Sero and Pinyinyi River in the Lake Natron ecosystem. The project made reference to the Catchment Action Plan developed by the project that is awaiting approval by village leaders. Village and ward leaders, as well as Laigwanaan (traditional chiefs), were urged by Hon Ibrahim Sakay (local Councillor) to establish regulations to ensure that planted tree seedlings are not damaged by livestock. The issue of the proposed building of

multipurpose dams in the catchment of Ewaso-Ng'iro River was discussed and will be raised with the regional government.

Activity 3.1 Prepare and support endorsement of Catchment Action Plan for Pinyinyi and Ngaresero Rivers through community meetings. Raise awareness on tree planting

The Project developed a Catchment Action Plan (CAP) for Ngare Sero and Pinyinyi Rivers in March 2018, which is now ready for validation by village leaders. The CAP identifies the challenges and threats to the two rivers that feed into Lake Natron and proposes key interventions. Some of the challenges identified include overgrazing, water over abstraction, sedimentation among others. The report also recommends intervention measures to address the challenges. The management interventions can be grouped into four areas: i) sustainable catchment use and management ii) sustainable alternative livelihood iii) awareness raising, capacity building and governance and iv) climate change adaptation and resilience. The detailed CAP report is available.

Activity 3.2 Prepare land and plant key wetland areas with at least 7,500 indigenous tree seedlings

Tree planting was preceded by land preparation and digging of holes as well as putting manure into the holes. A total of 6,500 holes were dug in the 5 villages of Ngare Sero, Pinyinyi, Engaruka Juu, Engaruka Chini and Oldonyo Lengai villages and a total of 5,800 indigenous tree seedlings were planted in the reporting period. See Annex for number of trees and the species. Of the 5,800 seedlings, 4,000 were planted at Engaruka and Oldonyo Lengai villages and more than 1,000 tree seedlings were planted at Pinyinyi and Ngare Sero villages. There was a lot of enthusiasm during tree planting a great demand for seedlings. A total of 1,664 people were involved in tree planting with 1,002 being men or boys and 662 being women or girls.

Activity 3.3 Tree seedling after care and monitoring

In order to sustain the trees, a 3,000 litre water tank and 150 metre watering pipes were purchased and delivered to OI Donyo Lengai Secondary School. This will ensure the trees are watered even during the dry season. Engaruka Chini Primary School and Engaruka Juu Primary School were also provided with watering pipes.

The project team visited the areas where trees had been planted and found that 95% of the trees had survived in spite of the hot climate.

Activity 3.4 Set up and carry out water quality monitoring

The project purchased a water quality multi-parameter HI9829 from Hanna Instruments. The water quality monitoring has been delayed as we waited to procure a water flow (discharge) meter, which has been difficult to get. It has been decided that measurement of other water quality parameters will start in November as we wait to procure the flow meter.

Activity 3.5; Train 20 young people in IBA Monitoring (back to back with 2.1); complete IBA form and feed data into World Bird Database (including repeat monitoring in Yr2)

This activity will be conducted by the end of Year 2. Although training in year one was informal, monitoring information was collected, and this will form the baseline to be updated during the coming training.

Activity 3.6 Conduct annual Waterbird census in collaboration with TAWIRI and local communities and obtain flamingos' breeding success data

The second annual water bird census in collaboration with local communities and TAWIRI will be conducted in January-February 2019. The first waterbird count was conducted in January 2018 and reported in the Annual report. TAWIRI was not able to participate because of some constraints.

OUTPUT 4: AWARENESS OF THE VALUES AND THREATS TO LAKE NATRON RAISED AMONG COMMUNITIES AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Activity 4.1 Produce advocacy/awareness poster

Advocacy/awareness raising poster will be produced by the end of year 2.

Activity 4.2 Carry out awareness amongst local communities, government agencies and other stakeholders on values and threats through public forums, film and radio

The project continues to raise awareness on the value of Lake Natron amongst all stakeholders, particularly through meetings and the media. The following are examples:

- The Project Manager had an opportunity to meet with the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office, Mr January Makamba, on 5th September 2018. During the meeting, the minister was briefed on the development of TDP. The government was requested to support local communities in their implementation of the TDP. The minister requested for a copy of the TDP once completed. BirdLife was the only NGO invited to the meeting with the minister
- The National broadcaster, the Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC) aired a news item on the TDP validation workshop (see section 1.6). TBC has a viewership of 3.7 million people.
- A news article raising awareness about the threats and value of Lake Natron was published by Tanzanite Newspaper in Swahili. One copy of the newspaper was handed to the office of Arusha RAS and the article shared through WhatsApp to different platforms, reaching about 130 people.
- Project Coordinator, Ken Mwathe and Mr. John Salehe (Chair, Nature Tanzania) were interviewed by Sunrise Radio in Arusha in July 2018. The interview focused on the importance of birds in the economy of Tanzania. It also discussed some of the initiatives being undertaken by BirdLife International, such as the protection of critically endangered species in Eastern Usambara forests. Examples were given on how investment in bird tourism is changing the narrative at Lake Natron through the Darwin funded project. Sunrise Radio has a listening population of 650,000 people in Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Manyara and part of Singida region of Tanzania.
- The Crimsonwing film continued to be screened to raise awareness on the beauty of Lake Natron and the threats. During the reporting period, a total of 193 people watched the film. At Ngare Sero village 130 including 63 children were reached, while at Wosiwosi village, 63 (including 28 children) watched the film.

OUTPUT 5: LESSONS FROM THE COMMUNITY-BASED ECOTOURISM MODEL SHARED AND REPLICATED LOCALLY, NATIONALLY, REGIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

Activity 5.1 Produce advocacy/awareness booklet

This will be produced by the end of year 3.

Activity 5.2 Share project lessons with tourism industry actors, and civil society organisations through online platform and in person

This will be completed by end of year 3

Activity 5.3 Disseminate project lessons, best practice and through local radio and newspapers and through EAC committees national tourism ministries

This activity will be completed by the end of Year 3. Dissemination of project lessons and best practise has been conducted through various platforms. This includes an interview with Sunrise radio conducted by Ken Mwathe and John Salehe (See Activity 4.2 above). BirdLife has also published articles in a local newspaper Tanzanite about the values and threats facing Lake Natron. The article also highlights discussion between Project Manager and Hon. Minister January Makamba.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

PMA.5 Convene PSC and Local Project Management meetings

The third Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting was convened on the 24th September 2018 at Mto wa Mbu back to back with the TDP multi-stakeholder validation workshop. The meeting updated project partners of the project progress, lesson learnt, challenges and is an opportunity for receiving feedback and advice from community leaders. Key successes cited included all round endorsement of the project from all villages around Lake Natron and achievement of key targets as elaborated in this report.

Inclusion of Wosiwosi village during TDP consultations was also lauded. In addition, local communities and stakeholders also called for continued fund raising efforts to build on key activities after project closure.

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.

The project team has rewritten the Logframe and associated monitoring and evaluation framework for the project following recommendations and advice from LTSI. The new logframe has been approved and was used in the construction of this report.

A request was also made to re-allocate time from the project officer to the project manager to more accurately reflect the time commitments involved in both posts. This change has also been approved.

During the TDP Committee meeting on March 2018, community leaders recommended that BirdLife visited Wosiwosi village for TDP data collection. Wosiwosi village is currently not part of this project but is found along the Lake Natron shores. It was important to consult Wosiwosi village in the development of TDP as the document will report for the whole Lake Natron Ramsar Site and the developed draft TDP will now include the aspirations of all communities surrounding Lake Natron in the development of ecotourism.

Neither of these changes affect budget or project activities timetable.

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/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.

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 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 . 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**