



## Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018)

<b>Project reference:</b>	24-022
<b>Project title:</b>	Strengthening Forest Management in Mali
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	MALI
<b>Lead organisation</b>	TREE AID
<b>Partner(s)</b>	SAHEL ECO
<b>Project leader</b>	Amadou TANGARA
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	HYR2
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	<a href="https://www.treeaid.org.uk/2017/strengthening-forest-management-mali/">https://www.treeaid.org.uk/2017/strengthening-forest-management-mali/</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/TREEAID/">https://www.facebook.com/TREEAID/</a> <a href="#">@TREEAID</a> = twitter account

### **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 is on track and has already made good progress against the planned outputs. Below is a summary of progress against the agreed timetable

#### **Output 1 - Communities are undertaking best-practice natural resource management activities by 2020.**

##### **1.2 Trees raised and maintained in tree nurseries**

This year the target of 350,000 seedlings produced in the nurseries was exceeded with a total 373,000 seedlings produced by the two nurseries. 320,000 seedlings have been produced by the nursery in Sutebwo area and 53,000 by the nursery located in the Duwa area. Due to security reasons, the project activities ceased for a few months in 2017 in the Duwa area which included the establishment of the nursery and seedling production. This explains why the nursery in Duwa, is not currently performing as well as the nursery in Sutebwo for the moment.

##### **1.4 Restore 7,846 ha of degraded lands by village communities, using soil and water conservation techniques**

5,200ha of degraded land has been restored up to now out of the targeted 6,500 ha. The additional 1,300 ha will be restored during the next semester (October 2017 to March 2018). In order to facilitate the restoration of land using water and soil conservation techniques, equipment has been purchased and distributed amongst volunteer farmers during a ceremony organised on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June for the Sutebwo area and the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June for the Duwa area. The political and administrative authorities and board members of our partner Sahel Eco attended the event. The kits include 50 wheelbarrows, 10 spirit levels, 20 3kg hammers, 20 5kg hammers, 20 crowbars, 20 chisels, 50 picks and 50 shovels. All the equipment will have Darwin logos on it for visibility of the project.

##### **1.5 150 ha are defined and enriched with threatened, indigenous species.**

The annual target of 100 hectares defined and enriched has been reached and exceeded. 160 hectares has now been defined and enriched with 58,840 trees including 27,404 gum trees, 30,200 eucalyptus trees and 1,236 balanites trees. 87ha are in Sutebwo forest and 73ha in Duwa forest.

The planting was carried out collectively by members of the cooperatives Farakunna in the Duwa area and Hirosin in the Sutebwo area.

### **1.6 Agroforestry techniques and tree planting carried out on 3,623 hectares of land**

During this semester 245,721 trees have been used for agroforestry and enrichment planting in the two forests (57,829 in the Duwa area and 141,609 in the Sutebwo area). 131,487 new trees have also been regenerated using assisted natural regeneration techniques on an area of 3,020 ha. Agroforestry planting was carried out by individual farmers on their own land as well as at the community level on communal land (e.g. schools, town halls, public squares).

### **1.7 Establish firebreak (182 km) to protect restored lands**

The establishment of a firebreak in the forest of Duwa was not possible last year but this is now planned for November 2018- ready for the next dry season. The 172km of firebreak already established will be maintained by the respective cooperative members.

### **1.8 GPS mapping of site locations and data shared with the department of environment**

In total 104 site locations have been geo-referenced and shared with the relevant stakeholders. This included the site of the two nurseries, the site of the enrichment planting in the forests, other planting sites and the land restored sites.

## **Output 2 - Strengthened capacities of stakeholders (municipal authorities, technical services, village communities) to manage the Duwa and Sutebwo forests.**

### **2.1 Training in data collection and monitoring soil and water conservation, assisted natural regeneration and planting activities for 41 Village Extension Officers.**

25 Village Extension Officers were trained in December 2017 for the site of Sutebwo. During this period, 25 additional Village Extension Officers have been trained for the site of Duwa. This training took place between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2018 at Koula. In total, 50 Village Extension Officers have been trained on:

- The data collection tools (monitoring record for the production of seedlings, enrichment planting, soil and water conservation and land rehabilitation techniques, assisted natural regeneration and the training of trainers)
- How to record and save GPS data

### **2.2 Training in soil and water conservation (soil quality improvement) techniques for 1,282 people**

The 50 Village Extension Officers have been selected according to defined selection criteria and trained on soil and water conservation, assisted natural regeneration and planting techniques. They were then responsible to train other farmers in 50 villages of Duwa and Sutebwo. In total they trained 1,435 people including 402 women (28%). This training had both theoretical and practical components and aimed to strengthen participants' capacities in soil and water conservation techniques as well as on techniques to restore highly degraded land.

During the training sessions, the following points were covered:

- The sustainable management of degraded land (causes, manifestations, consequences)
- The use of spirit levels
- Restoration techniques for degraded land such as zai pits, stone bunds and soil bond.
- Practical demonstrations of all the techniques.

### **2.5 Training of 246 people to form village monitoring brigades to monitor forest management.**

35 out of the 50 Village Extension Officers received additional training from the project team who were then able to train an additional 246 village monitoring brigade members including 82 women. In total 281 people have been trained, more than the 246 originally planned. The training session allowed the village monitoring brigade members to better understand their role and responsibilities and the legal disposition in place in the context of decentralisation in Mali.

## **2.6 Review the 5-year “Economic and Cultural Development Plan” (commune level plan - PDSEC), taking into account the forest management plans.**

During the last semester, the six communes of intervention were supported to hold an extraordinary session in order to take into account the project activities in their “Communal Economic and Cultural Development Plan”. The minutes from these meetings have been elaborated and validated during this period.

## **2.9 Training of 2 inter-communal associations of local natural resource management conventions (20 people in total, 30% women)**

In July 2018, 20 members of the two inter-communal associations of local natural resource management conventions including two women, attended the training on forest management conventions. 11 of the participants came from the Duwa area and 9 from Sutebwo.

Then 18 members (2 women) of the inter-communal unions for the management of the Duwa and Sutebwo forests were also trained on the conventions which rule the management of the forests. During this period, the two inter-communal associations’ boards were renewed and held a session to integrate the activities of the forest management plans into the inter-communal action plan. The inter-communal associations of Duwa integrated also two new communes (Timissa and Ouan). The minutes for the meetings and the training are in development.

## **2.11 Forest Dialogues meetings (2 per group per year).**

The two Forest Dialogue groups met in July 2018. This meeting aimed to find a solution to the anarchic creation of new agricultural fields in the forests.

We can underline from the exchanges that :

- The setup of new agricultural fields in the forest concern only the Sutebwo area for the moment.
- This development is not due to a lack of agricultural lands
- The Prefet called the services of water and forest to be more alert and stricter in the implementation of the legal disposition.

A number of representatives of the Forest Dialogue Groups’ met farmers that had set up new agricultural fields in the forest. These fields are estimated to have an area that exceed 5ha. During the meeting the farmers agreed to stop farming the agricultural fields in the forest. A commission responsible for taking a census of the farmers with new fields set up in the forest, to take the GPS coordinates and the measurement of all fields in the forest (old and new) and to demarcate previously established fields. The results from this commission will be available next semester.

## **Output 3 - Enhanced capacity of shea and honey enterprises**

### **3.1 Installation of processing equipment with cooperatives (press, candle making, shea butter processing).**

Each cooperative built a shelter on their site to welcome the shea and honey processing equipment. TREE AID recruited a construction enterprise to finalise the construction work which included putting up the roof, windows and doors. Following the construction work, TREE AID recruited a constructor for the processing equipment to make soap and treat the honey and the wax. This work will be finish and the equipment will be installed in October.

## **Project Start up, Monitoring and Evaluation**

### **4. Baseline survey**

In addition to the RHoMIS survey which captured the socio-economic elements of the project, a consultant has been recruited to undertake a study of the current situation regarding tree proliferation and biomass, as well as current forest governance practices and attitudes towards natural resource management. The report is available.

### **5 Sahel Eco field monitoring**

During this semester, the Executive Secretary didn’t conduct any monitoring visits to the field. However, the Project Coordinator regularly visited the project sites in order to support the Forest Resource Management advisors in their work.

### **6 TREE AID field monitoring**

In June 2018, the TREE AID Mali, Country Programme Manager conducted a monitoring visit to the Sutebwo project sites. The visit enabled him to exchange with the local community about the activities, on the challenges they faced, on the installation of equipment for the transformation of shea butter and honey and to discuss similar issues with the project staff and local authorities as well as visit the nursery. For security reasons, the Country Programme Manager couldn't visit the project sites in the Duwa area.

### **7 Annual self-assessment of each forest session**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2018, a workshop was held in Mandiakuy in the Hirosin area and on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2018, one was held in Kouola in the Farakunna area. In each workshop, 24 people attended including Sous-prefets, Mayors, General secretaries, Representative for local technical services such as agriculture, livestock, water and forests, members of the cooperatives and Sahel Eco staff.

During the meeting the projects' annual report (July 2017 to March 2018) was presented and validated as well as the annual programme for the period between April 2018 and March 2019. Feedback and suggestions from different stakeholders on the implementation of the project were collected.

### **8 Half-year follow-up by the members of the consultation framework/ forest dialogue groups**

In July 2018, the members of the consultation framework conducted a monitoring visit in order to evaluate the clearing of sites in Sutebwo. In total 16 members participated to this field visit.

### **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 Communiqué N°0001/CEMGA-S-CEM/OPS/COIA from the army general staff of the 1st of February 2018 forbidding the use of motorbikes and pick-up vehicles is still in place forcing the team to use the public transportation and carts to move around. This situation limits the movement of the project staff and the technical services of water and forest in the Duwa project sites.

### **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?**

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](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**