



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

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

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

The two nurseries received additional plastic pots (300,000) and 90kg of seeds from different indigenous tree species such as Baobab, Néré, Kapokier, Acacia, Jujubier or Balanites. In addition, each nursery received 50,000 CFA/month for taking care of the different tree seedlings. By the 31st of July 2019, 67,954 seedlings have been produced including 41,404 by the nursery located in the Duwa area and 26,550 seedlings in the nursery located in the Sutebwo area.

A tripartite specifications document (nursery, cooperative and Sahel Eco) with the Mayor's approval was signed to clarify the obligations of each party and clarify the conditions for the transfer of the plants. To summarise, the nursery undertakes to produce the plants and deliver them free of charge to the cooperatives. The cooperatives undertake to support the nursery in pots and seeds and to regularly monitor the nurseries. Sahel Eco undertakes to provide financial support to the cooperative for the purchase of pots and seeds for nurseries.

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

During the last 6 months, we applied soil and water conservation techniques such as stone bunds and/or zai pits over 2,434 ha of degraded land. Of these 2,434 ha of land reclaimed, 92 sites (about 116.56 ha) have been geo-referenced. In total, since the beginning of the project 7663.22 ha of land have been placed under restoration work.

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

In 2018, 160 ha were defined and enriched with 58,840 trees and during this semester replanting was carried out in these 160 hectares with 22,504 trees. 28 additional hectares have also been enriched in the two forests. The planting was carried out collectively by members of the

cooperatives Farakunna in the Duwa area and Hirosin in the Sutebwo area. The species planted included acacia trees, gum trees, balanites trees, khaya senegalensis trees and eucalyptus trees.

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

During this semester, 21,969 trees have been planted for agroforestry use in the Duwa area and 9,171 in the Sutebwo area. 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). The project team geo-localised 50 of these new farmlands. In addition, the maintenance activities have been carried out on the farmland already regenerated previously by the project. Up to now, 3,807.08 ha of land have been regenerated using agroforestry techniques and tree planting – over-reaching the target of 3,623 hectares of land regenerated by the project (a completion rate of 102%).

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

During this semester, 142 site locations have been geo-referenced and shared with the relevant stakeholders. This included the site of the enrichment planting in the forests, other planting sites and the restored sites.

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

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

The 41 Village Extension Officers including 8 women members of the Hirosin and Farakuna Cooperatives, received a refresher training between the 10th and the 12th of June 2019 in Koula and Mafounè 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

2.7 Two exchange visits to share experiences of forest governance from different localities

The exchange visit to the Koutiala district is planned for December 2019. This visit was not possible during the rainy season.

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

One of the key responsibilities of the Forest Dialogue group is to monitor and act on encroachment of agricultural land into the forest. During the previous Forest Dialogue Group meeting a commission was established for taking the GPS coordinates and the measurement of all fields in the forest (old and new) and to demarcate previously established fields. From the 25th to the 30th of April, the commission organised a field visit in the Soutebwo forest in order to proceed to the inventory of all the new agricultural fields set up in the forest in 2018 and 2019. The 3 mayors, 2 representatives of the Hirosin Cooperative and some technical services officers took part in these field visit. In total 8 new agricultural fields with a total of 90.26ha have been identified.

Following the inventory, a meeting was organised on the 5th of May 2019 in Mandiakuy with all the members of the Forest Dialogue Group as well as famers responsible for the encroachments in the forest. During the meeting the participants agreed that:

- ✓ The agricultural fields set up in the forest between 2018 and today will not be exploited
- ✓ The setup of new agriculture fields in forest is for now completely forbidden
- ✓ Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) techniques will be implemented in agricultural fields established in the forest before the development of the management plans
- ✓ The non-respect on these recommendations could led to sanctions.
- ✓ The members of the Forest Dialogue Group will have to follow up on these recommendations before the 15th of June 2019.
- ✓ The SAHEL ECO Board has been monitoring the fields and is committed to supporting the consultation framework to find a definitive solution to the problem of setting up new fields in the forest.

Statutory meeting of the Hirosin cooperative's steering committee

This meeting was held on the 14th of August 2019 in the Hirosin Cooperative headquarters in Sanda. The focus of this meeting was the general management of the Hirosin Cooperative and of the processing unit. In total, 23 members including 8 women took part in this meeting.

During the meeting the participants recommended to:

- Hold the statutory meeting has planned in the statutes and internal regulations
- Do a refresher training on use of the processing unit
- Support financial the partner through a working capital
- Change the mortar of the shea butter processing unit, which consumes too much fuel.

Output 3 - Enhanced capacity of shea and honey enterprises

3.1 Installation of processing equipment with cooperatives

After the training, the production of honey with honey processing unit has increased. Effectively, due to a lack of shea nuts the shea butter processing unit is not working at the moment in the Hirosin Cooperative. Up to the 30th of September, the 2 cooperatives made a total income of 2 973 500 Fcfa (as followed)

Cooperatives	Product	Quantity	Price per unit	Total amount
Farakunna	Honey (can of 1 liter)	190	2000	
	Butter (1 Kg jar)	0	-	
	Rental of the mill for flour production (20kg)	450	250	
	Soap (pieces)	300	250	
Total income Farakunna				
Hirosin	Honey (can of 1 liter)	857	2000	
	Butter (1 Kg jar)	400	1000	
	Rental of the mill for flour production (20kg)	540	400	
	Soap (pieces)	380	200	
Total income Hirosin				
Total income (Farakunna + Hirosin)				

Project Start up, Monitoring and Evaluation

4. Data collection

With the support of an intern, the facilitators collected the beneficiary lists of the project by activity. The results are here:

5 Sahel Eco field monitoring

During this semester, the person in charge of internal control at the Board of Directors of Sahel Eco carried out a project monitoring mission from 29 to 31 May 2019. The purpose of the mission was to closely monitor with the different stakeholders, the problem of new fields set up in the Sutebwo forest:

- The stakeholders met appreciated the organization of such a mission by Sahel Eco
- The two leaders of the cooperative stated that this mission allowed them to understand the roles of the organization and this will allow them to defuse the interpersonal conflicts between them and some land clearing authors.
- The sub-prefect of Mafounè wants to give priority to negotiation over punishment. This is one of the reasons why his hierarchy was not informed at this stage of the problem

6 TREE AID field monitoring

Between the 29th of July and the 2nd of August, the TREE AID Mali, Country Programme Manager conducted a monitoring visit in order to follow up on the ANR, the plantation and the restoration of land activities and to provide technical support when needed. He also worked with the project team on the general progresses of the project activities. He also planned the activities and the budget for the 3rd year of implementation with the project team and evaluated the radio shows.

7 Annual self-assessment of each forest session

The session planned for May 2019, was held in advance in January 2019.

8 Half-year follow-up by the members of the forest dialogue groups

In May 2019, the members of the consultation framework conducted a monitoring visit in order to make the inventory of the clearing of sites in the Sutebwo forest.

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 security situation has deteriorated considerably recently with the massive arrival of displaced people from central Mali (Mopti region) following the conflicts that led communities to organize themselves into Dozo militias in almost all the villages in the project's intervention area. For the time being, this does not affect the implementation of activities, but the team must be very vigilant and monitor the situation.

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: 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. 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**