



Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31st October 2020)

Project reference	25-019
Project title	Enabling sustainable, profitable and equitable community-based forest management in Tanzania
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Tanzania
Lead organisation	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Partner(s)	Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI) Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) Kilwa Women Paralegal Unit (KIWOPAU) WWF Tanzania Country Office UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC)
Project leader	Antje Ahrends
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	HYR3
Project website/blog/social media	Dedicated project webpage: https://www.rbge.org.uk/science-and-conservation/genetics-and-conservation/global-environmental-change/forest-conservation-in-tanzania/darwin/ Tweets: https://twitter.com/nicolegrosscamp/status/1321515943688765441 https://twitter.com/nicolegrosscamp/status/1321470054463008768

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

- Two more **participatory videos** have been screened (in the CBFM village Liwiti and the non-CBFM village Makangaga). That means that a total of seven (out of eight) planned participatory videos are complete. Videos in the remaining village are on track. All video footage is currently been reviewed and compressed into mobile format – for a final screening in the villages. With permission from the communities we will also upload these videos online. Informal community feedback on this exercise suggests that there was a high level of participation and interest.
- The data from 12 completed **forest surveys** is currently being analysed. The covid-19 situation permitting an effort will be made to complete the outstanding surveys (2 CBFM and 5 government reserves) over the next two months.
- **Gender survey** data have been analysed, and a manuscript is being prepared on the impact of CBFM on village governance and gender parity. The data highlight that gender perceptions are primarily shaped by education and age, but the presence of CBFM and targeted interventions (i.e. the gender training carried out as part of this project) make a positive difference.
- **Village survey / governance data** are also in the process of being analysed. Villages with CBFM have score significantly better on a multidimensional measure of governance.
- **A final policy maker report** will summarise all evidence generated by the project and is currently in production.
- WCMC have made significant progress in pooling, tidying and digitising **spatial data on Village Land Forest Reserves**. The available data was patchy and there was no single, curated top copy, making it difficult to understand the contribution of CBFM to forest management (e.g. to quantify the percentage of forested land managed by communities, and biomass loss/gains in these reserves). These data will be made available to all government and non-government institutions working on forest management, and may be uploaded as part of the World Database on Protected Areas to be widely accessible for international researchers and NGOs.
- The project presented some of its results in two ‘talks’ (on CBFM and sesame production, and CBFM and gender parity) at the **FLARE network 2020 Twitter conference** “Reimagining forests and livelihoods in turbulent times”. (See Twitter links above.)
- An **outreach event** involving multitude of stakeholders (ranging from village representatives and local government to new Ministers for National Resources and Tourism and local NGOs) is currently being planned for early December (following the elections).

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for Covid-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

Villages in rural SE Tanzania have traditionally mainly practiced subsistence agriculture with some income derived from cash crops such as cashew nut. The project observed a relatively rapid shift towards increasing sesame cultivation, which is becoming a key contributor to household income. Sesame cultivation is promoted by interest groups such as farming cooperatives and producers of agrochemicals, who may view the relatively poor rural southeast Tanzania as an ideal place for expansion. There are concerns around the heavy application of agrochemicals, which pollute surface water (a source of drinking water for communities in the dry season when wells dry out). In addition, the expansion of sesame may come at the cost of forests. Informal reports suggest that communities clear forest to acquire land for the crop, and our data suggest that the size of individual household plots have been increasing. It is possible that households are requesting access to communal village land for farming, thereby reducing the land that could otherwise be put under communal forest management.

The expansion of sesame holds considerable potential to reduce poverty, but as outlined above there are also substantial concerns. The local project partner and the project's socio-economist are currently liaising with a foundation, aiming to promote sustainable sesame production in CBFM villages for the Japanese market. If the regional production of sesame can be shaped early on in the process of expansion, and if villages are connected with buyers who favour pesticide residue free products, then there is a chance to create livelihood benefits at minimal cost to environmental health and forests. Whilst sesame is not within the scope of the project, it appears important to consider and 'stay ahead' of this rapid economic development – and to make it part of CBFM rather than to create a situation whereby villages tension off the economic benefits of sesame (currently very high) against those of CBFM. The project will also produce an open access opinion article to highlight this upcoming issue to the international research and conservation community.

2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of Covid-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

Due to covid-19 there have been delays in the screening of participatory videos and the forest surveys, and workshops/meetings with government and stakeholders have been postponed. We currently plan to organise an event in early December (see above) if the covid-19 situation allows. There will be a second (presence or online) event to launch the final project report early in the new year.

2c. 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
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Formal change request submitted:	No
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Received confirmation of change acceptance	No
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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. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

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.

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: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**