

Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31st October 2021)

Project reference	27-008
Project title	Rangeland Guardians: Women entrepreneurs for rangeland restoration
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Tanzania
Lead organisation	University of York
Partner(s)	Oikos East Africa, Instituto Oikos, Ujamaa Community Resource Team
Project leader	Dr Colin Beale
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR1
Project website/blog/social media	https://sites.google.com/york.ac.uk/rangelandguardians

- **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).**

1.1 Identification, mapping and baseline monitoring of initial 100 Ha

- Additional restoration areas have been identified at the 4 schools involved in the rangeland conservation education program. This not only allows further community engagement and an opportunity to expand our education program, but adds a further 4.4 Ha of degraded rangelands that can be used as pilot restoration areas
- The process of identifying degraded rangeland suitable for restoration activities has identified a few issues regarding land use tenure. Some of the initial restoration areas agreed with the communities and grazing committees overlapped with CCROs (Certificate of Customary Right of Occupancy) in which the by-laws would not allow Rangeland Guardians to sell grass a fodder. We have therefore had to re-identify suitable restoration areas within the villages. Some of the CCROs, which are used for communal grazing, are heavily degraded, if the pilot areas are successful, it is expected that some restoration activities can involve the degraded area of the CCROs in future. This process has ensured that the village grazing committees are aware of the CCRO boundaries.

1.4 Practical restoration activities by RGs

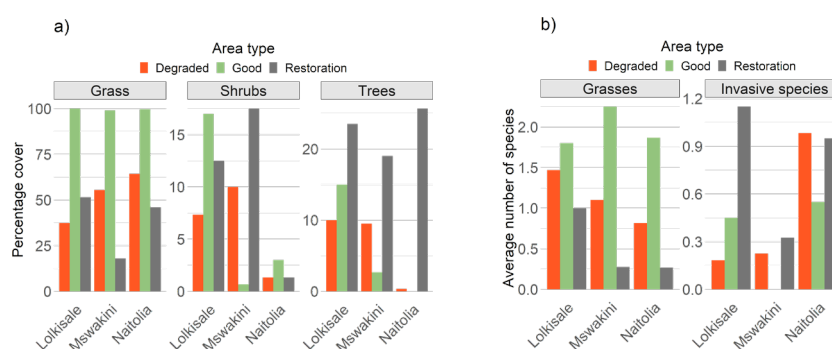
- Restoration activities have been started in all villages, there was a delay in implementation due to overlap with crop harvesting period. Grazing restrictions are in place in the pilot restoration areas of the 3 villages – this is the first step to restoring the degraded rangelands. Further restoration activities such as use of seed plugs and creation of seeds traps will take place closer to the rainy season.
- The RGs and communities have also enquired about the use of grass seed as a restoration method which has been used traditionally. While harvesting of seed can be difficult, we have identified sources of ‘seed-bombs’ which we plan to trail with the RGs as an additional restoration method.

1.6 Livestock tagging

- 100 GPS devices and collars have been purchased and imported successfully.
- As of August 2021 all research involving livestock now requires TALIRI (Tanzanian livestock research institute) approval. This process was completed in September 2021.
- COSTECH (research permit) can only be applied for once TALIRI approval has been granted.
- UoY are continuing to liaise with UCRT and OEA regarding the protocol and identifying suitable participants for the livestock tagging, which is to start as soon as the permits are confirmed.

1.7 Biodiversity surveys for invertebrates and birds, vegetation composition and structure

- Field surveys were conducted in June 2021 by contractors due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. The contractors were required to be trained in data collection and data collection included fixed point bird surveys, vegetation transects, sweep netting for invertebrates and butterfly transects. 27 survey points were sampled - a brief summary of the vegetation cover is shown below. For each village, restoration areas on average had more grass cover, fewer shrubs and more trees (a) and (b) fewer grass species and more invasive plant species than rangeland areas in better condition.



2.3 Training of the RG members in Marketplace Literacy

- Training was delivered in 2 parts: i) a marketplace literacy program for Lolkisale village and ii) because some RGs from Naitolia and Mswakini Chini had received some basic training previously, a more advanced program on livestock marketplace literacy. This training also involved introducing the sale of grass forage (the income generating scheme from the restoration sites)
- 19 RGs were involved in Lolkisale, with an average of 53% increase in understanding of marketplace literacy such as manage budgets, negotiate prices and methods to generate income. The 42 participants from Mswakini Chini and Naitolia increased their understanding of livestock market literacy by an average of 63%. This included training in how business and pastoralism can combine to generate income, understanding the role of value and value chains, the importance of women's rights in decision making and land ownership in the community.

3.2 RG awareness raising / marketing to grazing committee

- This activity has been delayed until the Rangeland Guardians have completed their training in market place literacy (2.3) and started to fully implement rangeland restoration methods (1.4). These trainings took longer to implement due to smaller groups required for COVID-19 safety. This activity is expected to take place by the end of December 2021.

3.3 Awareness campaign in primary and secondary schools

- This awareness school awareness campaign has been completed: 10 episodes of the "Our rangeland, our pride" podcast has been delivered to 1,770 primary and secondary students, with an average of 1,194 students participating across the 10 episodes.
- 80 students have participated in identifying additional restoration areas at the schools (see Activity 1.1), including marking of boundaries, and implementing grazing restrictions as the first step in rangeland restoration.

4.1 Training of resource assessors

- The Resource Assessor (RA) training has been completed. 16 RAs (5 in Lolkisale, 5 in Mswakini Chini and 6 in Naitolia) have each received 4 days of training in rangeland monitoring methods and data collection. These RAs will provide bi-monthly reports on grazing conditions to the village grazing committees. UoY and UCRT will continue to work on identifying the regular survey locations to be implemented from October 2021.
- UoY and OEA are aiming to develop a simple tool (a traffic light system) that can be used in the reporting to grazing committees.

4.2 Training grazing committees on sustainable grazing management

- Implementing the training of grazing committees has been delayed to ensure that the Rangeland Guardians have been fully trained and have started to implement restoration in the pilot areas restoration areas (Activity 1.4). This is to ensure the Rangeland Guardians have the skills and confidence to share their knowledge of rangeland restoration with the grazing committees. This activity is expected to start before the end of December 2021.

4.4 Presentation of results at national and international meetings

- A conference abstract for the TAWIRI 2021 Scientific Conference was submitted and accepted. Presence of the project team at this conference will allow further promotion of the project and dissemination of initial results on rangeland condition.

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.

Recent requirements for additional research permits for any work involving livestock has delayed implementation of the livestock monitoring activity (activity 1.6) – during this delay, the project team can continue to identify suitable participants for this activity and develop all the necessary information documents

Identifying suitable restoration areas with the communities has been an informative process for both the project team and communities, with initial restoration sites incorrectly identified in CCROs (see Activity 1.1. This has resulted in further time required to identify some of the pilot restoration areas in Naitolia and Mswakini Chini to ensure no impact on land use (CRRO) by-laws are being broken. Discussions are on-going with the communities to meet the planned 100Ha of pilot restoration areas, this is currently at approximately 80Ha. We expect that now the Rangeland Guardians are actively managing the restoration sites and sharing knowledge with the communities that further restoration sites will be made available by the communities.

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.

Training activities including the marketplace literacy (2.3) and school awareness campaign (3.3) have taken longer to implement than planned due to smaller group training, but they have now been completed. Because some activities have taken longer than planned this has had a knock-on effect on the planned timings of other activities such as Activity 3.2. Now that the marketplace literacy and rangeland guardian training has been completed, we expect Activity 3.2 to take place by the end of December 2021.

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

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. 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?

NA

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**