# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

## (due 31 October 2007)

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| **Project Ref. No.** | 14-043 |
| **Project Title** | Mpingo Conservation Project – Community Forestry in Kilwa, Tanzania |
| **Country(ies)** | Tanzania |
| **UK Organisation** | Fauna & Flora International |
| **Collaborator(s)** | Mpingo Conservation Project |
| **Project Leader** | Matt Walpole |
| **Report date** | 06/11/07 |
| **Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)** | HYR3 |
| **Project website** | www.mpingoconservation.org |

**1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) 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).**

<u>Evaluation of Log Frame targets (stated at 2<sup>nd</sup> end of year report)</u>

- o  <u>Support to Kikole to complete and operationalize 1st VLFR.</u>  More Participatory Forest Resource Assessment (PFRA) was carried out on timber stocks in the first Kikole VLFR. The results have been put into a preliminary harvesting plan, prepared in advance for the pre-assessment visit made by the FSC accrediting body WoodMark in October.
- o  <u>Development of 2nd VLFR in Kikole.</u> Boundary marking has been carried out on the 2nd Kikole VLFR and is near completion.
- o  <u>Development of new VLFR in Kisangi Kimbarambara.</u> The management plan for the Kisangi VLFR had been approved at the district and ward level.
- o  <u>Draft various manuals necessary for FSC certification.</u> The FSC group manual has been drafted. This document specifies how timber certification will be implemented, identifies key stakeholders across the supply chain, and specifies the role that each stakeholder will play. Details are also given about training needed and the types of monitoring that should be undertaken.
- o  <u>Template VLFR management plan to be drafted, reviewed and disseminated.</u> The management plan template has been revised and updated. It has been reviewed by members of the Forestry and Bee-keeping Division (FBD) and by District stakeholders. Feedback has been positive and the document may be included in official FBD guidelines.
- o  <u>Progress towards ability to model impacts of different harvesting regimes.</u> A draft harvesting plan has been put together based on the sticks assessment carried out on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kikole VLFR. Various models have been experimented with to produce this plan.
- o  <u>Preparatory work with suppliers and saw-mills in Tanzania.</u> A visit was made to a sawmill in Tanga during August, which is a good candidate for collaborating in the trade in certified timber. The owner of the sawmill was receptive to the idea of producing certified timber and the MCP hopes to build up a long term working relationship with his company.
- o  <u>Assist CBOs to access CEPF community grants.</u>  Two CBOs - HiMaTi & KiFaCE have received £800 & £2000 respectively from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). MCP previously supported the 2 CBOs in submitting proposals.
- o  <u>Arrange training for HiMaTi members on modern bee-keeping.</u> A weekend workshop on modern bee keeping was carried out with the CBO HiMaTi, highlighting some of the key techniques required to be successful.
- o  <u>Refinement of education pack and expansion of education work outside pilot villages.</u> The project has expanded its awareness-raising component, and has produced leaflets about certification to inform various stakeholders, including loggers, sawmills & local communities. These explain the objectives of certification, the various schemes under which forests are certified under the MCP's group-licensing scheme, and the benefits available to people.
- o  <u>Analysis of the supply chain for mpingo and other spp.</u> Relationships have been developing with importers and small-scale instrument makers, with plans to form a 'buyers group' advancing through discussion with

interested parties. This includes small-scale, targeted awareness-raising amongst makers.

**Milestones for this half year**

<u>May 2007</u> Continued support to VLFRs in existing TAs. Possible further expansion of MCP activities to more villages depending on capacity: *Support to villages in TA has continued, but activities not expanded to other villages, in accordance with the updated log frame.*
<u>July 2007</u> Review management plans in TA1: *The management plans for Kikole VLFR1 and Kisangi VLFR have been approved but no village review has been carried out.*

<u>Previous milestones achieved:</u>
<u>March 2007</u>: Local logging operations and sawmills approached and preliminary negotiations complete on procedures for harvesting in VLFRs: Completed Aug 2007.

**Outputs for this half year**
- o   June 2007 – Leaflet explaining FSC certification for local stakeholders and community members.
- o   July 2007 – Paper on experiences with quantitative PFRA published in Arc Journal issue 21.
- o   Aug 2007 – Management plan for Kisangi VLFR.
- o   Sept 2007 – Draft Group Administration Manual for FSC certification.

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**2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments 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 misuse and poor coordination of Kilwa District's PFM programme – discussed in the last two progress reports – has unfortunately continued, and little of this money has fed through into the MCP's programme, although District officials have done some work in other villages. The MCP has, however, secured small amounts of funding from other sources such as the Panton Trust, WWF and Comic Relief to make up the difference. Indeed, no longer being reliant on the funds being made available through the District Treasurer's office has allowed the MCP to accelerate its programme this year, catching up on some of the milestones missed earlier, with the result that car maintenance expenses have shot up, although not unmanageably so given the additional resources available. The MCP continues to work closely with Kilwa District Council Natural Resources Department, and District staff who regularly accompany MCP staff in field work; it is only financial resources that are no longer being pooled. The opportunities to bid for out-sourced work under the PFM programme have yet to materialise.

Participatory Forest Management relies upon villages having clear legal authority over the land on which the forest being managed lies. Unfortunately technical failings in the national government's village boundary exercise have resulted in some unnecessary confusion over the exact location of some boundaries. For instance one old beacon point (depicted in legally definitive maps dating back to 1989) was omitted from the more recent survey resulting in a boundary shift that had not been agreed by the neighbouring communities. Differing and perverse agendas advanced by some District officials are hampering the resolution process, but a strong new District Executive Director is proving a useful ally. It is unclear at this stage whether this will prevent the completion of some activities by the end of the Darwin Initiative funding in March 2008.

**Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

**Discussed with the DI Secretariat:**          **no/yes, in……… (month/yr)**

**Changes to the project schedule/workplan:**     **no/yes, in……….(month/yr)**

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**3. 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 <u>planned</u> modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should <u>not</u> be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.**

Please send your **completed form email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at <u>Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk</u> . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**