

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

Project Ref No	17-007
Project Title	Building natural resource monitoring capacity in Ethiopia's key Afro-montane ecosystems (CAMP- Community Afromontane Monitoring Project)
Country(ies)	Ethiopia
UK Organisation	The Macaulay Land Use Research Institute
Collaborator(s)	Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority
Project Leader	Justin Irvine
Report date	31 st October 2010
Report No.	HYR 2
Project website	www.macaulay.ac.uk/CAMP

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

The project activities have overall gone according to plan and advances in developing community monitoring of natural resource use in Guassa are now providing a template for experience sharing and the implementation of similar schemes for the other communities. Moreover, substantial progress in recruiting and training community representatives, government personnel and project staff in order to implement resource monitoring has been made. The provision of field monitoring equipment for local monitors as well as transport (motorbikes) for Woreda staff and the computing facilities and skills in database management are completed. Data is currently being collected and stored in a database. The project officer, together with project staff and project partners regularly reviews and plans activities using a quarterly reporting and planning tool. This is communicated widely and reduces the need for expensive PSC meetings. However, we plan to hold a major PSC meeting in Feb 2011. This will be linked to a meeting of a sister project ACE making efficient use of people's time and project resources. Specific references to progress against the main project activities are listed below.

1. Understanding of the ecosystem and limits of sustainable natural resource use enhanced

1.1. Liaise with partner organisations and CBNRM projects to obtain information on natural resource use and resource users.

- Quarterly plans have been implemented in Guassa, Bale and Abune Yoseph with the support of partner organization (FZS and Woreda staff). Regular meeting were held with Woreda partner organization in Mehal Meda (Guassa) to clarify the role and responsibility of partner staff in implementing the quarterly plan.

- Recruitment is in progress at the Woreda partner organisation to provide one staff member at each of the four kebeles (parish) to support the work of community resource management and monitoring in Guassa. These local government officers will process the monitoring data and regularly present it to the local community to support local management decision making.

1.2. Conduct participatory rapid assessment status of natural resource use for key resources in each target area

Participatory rapid assessment: Communal forest resource baseline inventory completed in three pilot Kebeles of Bale as foundation for management plan preparation.

Participatory Rural Mapping: Bale: Now 70% complete overall. In one kebele, Gofinjira the communal forest boundary has been demarcated with a map prepared and user group list agreed based on household head membership in the area. However, due to boundary conflict with controlled hunting area and neighbouring Kebele, mapping cannot be finalised (See Section 2 below). The issue is under discussion with Woreda and Zone local government. In Abune Yoseph, the demarcation committee was set up from Woreda government staff and Kebele committee. The mapping exercise has been delayed due to the national election.

2. Protected area management authorities and communities empowered to undertake natural resource monitoring

2.1. Establish structures for communities to monitor their own natural resources.

- In Guassa members of the Community Monitoring Teams (CMT) have been selected and trained to

collect monitoring data. The CMT consists of 8 local people from 4 kebeles selected at the kebele general assemblies. Terms of reference, job descriptions and regular work schedules have been prepared together with a monthly reporting data sheet. CMTs are in receipt of the field equipment necessary for the job including data bag, boots and waterproofs. Woreda EPLA has been supplied with a desktop computer and a digital camera in order to set up and run the monitoring database as well as four motorcycles to support field activities: two for Bale; one for Guassa and one for Abune Yoseph

2.2. Provide training opportunities to project staff and partners.

a) The Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) developed for community protected area use has been distributed for national and international partners for further comment. This tool can be used to assess how community based resource management and identify capacity building gaps.

b) CMT training has taken place and data is already being collected.

c) PRA. A 7 day training course in participatory data collection for 15 people (11 partner govt. officers and 4 FZS field staff) has taken place.

d) Two government staff and two CAMP staff participated in experience sharing visit to a PFM site in Ethiopia. The team visited one PFM and one ecotourism site.

e) Two government staff and two CAMP staff participated in experience sharing visit to Namibia and gained insight into community monitoring and CBO formation. See web site for a full report.

f) Summer school opportunity provided for two partner Woreda staff from Lasta and Menzgera Woredas and one CAMP Community Liaison Officer (CLO) in Bale. Due to a delay in registration, attendance by the staff from Lalibela and Menzgera Woredas will be delayed until next year.

g) Participatory Forest Resource Assessment (PFRA) training (1 day) for 28 community members was conducted in two kebeles. The trainees from Ayida and Gofinjira are already engaged in resource assessment fieldwork with CLO and Woreda staff.

3. Participatory resource monitoring developed under CBNRM for Guassa.

3.1 Identify appropriate community-based monitoring approaches (protocols) to NR monitoring in target areas.

A workshop was held with 10 elders from the GCCA. Important monitoring variables were identified and data collection frequency and reporting format prepared.

3.2. Develop monitoring plan for community-based natural resource monitoring systems for target areas.

- Community monitoring protocol has been developed with local people and Woreda staff participation.

The data protocol is used to collect monitoring data on a regular basis about the illegal resource use and the activities of the resource protection committees in Guassa

- Household survey has been conducted with 400 families in Abune Yoseph to measure perception and understanding of local community about communal resource management. The household survey was analyzed and presented in tabular form. The project and local government will access the information to develop 2011 intervention strategy.

3.3. Implement monitoring plan

Monthly field schedules for resource monitoring data collection were agreed with 8 CMT members in Guassa. Data collection is underway with Woreda Land Administration archiving the field data in a monitoring database.

4. Awareness of the (i) links between conservation of biodiversity and sustainable natural resource use and (ii) role of participatory natural resource monitoring under CBNRM raised nationally in Ethiopia and internationally.

4.2 Promote awareness of the project and its goals locally, nationally, and internationally.

Website established and updated (<http://www.macaulay.ac.uk/CAMP>).

Staff from University of Aberdeen visited Guassa and supported the project with monitoring protocol preparation

Project management

- The next PSC meeting is scheduled for Feb 2011. There is agreement among project partners that the regular meetings held with in-country government and non-government organizations supersede the need for more regular PSC meetings.

- Quarterly activity and financial reports have been prepared for project partners

- Replacement recruited for the staff that resigned and now in-post in Guassa. Improved gender representation is a positive outcome of this re-recruitment.

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.

- a. Boundary conflict with neighbouring peasant association and controlled hunting area not resolved by the local government

In one of the three Kebeles in Bale where community forest management is being set up, the process has been hindered due to boundary conflict between the kebeles in the neighbouring Woreda, as well as an unclear boundary for the adjacent controlled hunting area. The issue has been discussed at Woreda and Zone level since January but the local government gave it little attention due to national elections in June. After the election, 5-year development plan meetings with communities were the priority activity of the local government but effort has now been renewed to solve the problem and continue the process. Thus more effort was put into completing the forest management plan and CBO formation in the other 2 kebeles, with one process now finalised and the other to be completed in quarter 3 this year. Community monitoring should thus commence in these two community forest areas in quarter 4. However the CBNRM process in the kebele with the boundary conflict is delayed and boundary definition and resource assessment still needs to be completed.

- b. Lack of personnel trained in community based natural resource management in Ethiopia

The process of recruiting a technical advisor for the sister project (ACE) who will also support the CAMP Bale team was delayed in 2009 because there were few competent applicants. A new staff member recruited in February 2010, resigned after just a few months, and thus project had to restart the recruitment process which was finally completed in September 2010. At the two northern sites, the CAMP junior technical advisor also resigned after a short time but these have also now been replaced by one person who has basic CBNRM training. This had also happened in the previous year and we have found there is a general lack of trained CBNRM staff in Ethiopia, particularly those prepared to work in the field. Thus the project was forced to employ younger inexperienced professionals that need support and guidance from more senior staff. Overall, staffing problems have not had a major impact on project progress in Guassa. However, in addition to the problems associated with the national election the interruption of staffing, particularly the absence of CBNRM JTA, affected the progress in Abune Yoseph. Here the lack of understanding in the community on CBNRM has caused divisions and delayed the process of boundary agreement. Thus more work is being done on education and awareness-raising with the local community so that they can reach a consensus on the best way forward. These problems have now been solved by the recent new appointment and repositioning of permanent staff based in Abune Yoseph who will facilitate the process of CBNRM, along with additional support from senior staff.

- c. Poor relationship between federal and regional partners

The Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority who are the new management authority for BMNP and Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise who are responsible for natural resource management outside BMNP, are taking time to define their roles, responsibilities and communication lines, both within and outside their organisations. This is not surprising as both are relatively new organisations and EWCA only took over BMNP management authority late in 2009/early 2010. Moreover change of personnel within the organisations and the involvement of some senior staff in the national elections, has meant that it has, at times, been difficult to obtain consensus and continuity in decision making and obtaining support in the field. Now the elections are over these issues are being addressed.

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

The above issues have not been discussed with LTS but they are being addressed in country. Overall, the project is on track as much as the baseline progression of CBNRM allows in each area, and adapting to these challenges. Now the elections are over the project can continue to make progress particularly as staffing issues are resolved.

Discussed with LTS: **no. in..... (month/yr)**

Formal change request submitted: **no, in.....(month/yr)**

Received confirmation of change acceptance **no/yes in.....(month/yr)**

3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No

If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £0

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

None

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 or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with LTS International directly.

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**