



## Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	19-025
<b>Project Title</b>	Conservation of Ethiopia's wild coffee using participatory forest management
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Ethiopia
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	University of Huddersfield
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	EWNRA, IBC, SNNPRS, SLA
<b>Project Leader</b>	<i>Professor Adrian Wood</i>
<b>Report date and number (eg HYR3)</b>	31.10.2014 HYR3
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://wetlandsandforests.hud.ac.uk/forests/wcc/wild_coffee_index.htm">http://wetlandsandforests.hud.ac.uk/forests/wcc/wild_coffee_index.htm</a> /

### **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 specific activities in the baseline timetable are reported here. An overview of total project progress is given at the end of this section.

#### 3.3 Training and Development of Extension Materials

The PFM related training has continued during this period, mainly as refresher programmes. Materials used in this have been those developed earlier in the project – posters and guidelines in Amharic. During this half year two Briefing Notes have been prepared to disseminate the project experience and lessons on the use of PFM to achieve in situ conservation of wild coffee.

#### 4.1 Training and Support for PFM CBOs, PLCs and Coops

Intensive training of the got (community level) PFM groups, the wereda PFM Association and the two cooperatives has been undertaken during this period. PFM groups are now actively managing their forest and protecting it. The two project supported coops have been established one focusing on Forest Coffee and the other on Wild Forest Products. Both are now trading in managed forest coffee and wild coffee from the natural forest.

#### 4.4 Support for Operation of CBOs

The PFM Association and the Coops have buildings under construction and have had seed capital (from EU funds) provided. They are now actively engaged in their respective activities.

#### 5.1 Support for Production of NTFPs focusing on Quality and Supply

The training of cooperative members has been provided in advance of the coffee harvest (October to December). This is critical for ensuring quality as only red cherries should be picked. Links with Wakefield, a coffee importer in London, and the development of export arrangements for coffee to this buyer through the Bench Maji Coop Union have been developed.

#### 5.4 Facilitate Links with funding for Payment for Environmental Services

The Project Identification Note (PIN) for this project has been reviewed by Plan Vivo and has been finalised. It will be registered in November and the PDD developed by the end of January 2015.

#### 6.4 Liaison with Biosphere Reserve (BR) projects

The mis-use and top down application of the UNESCO BR methods in three biosphere reserves neighbouring the project area have been assessed by the project. This is a matter of concern, especially when the zonal government, where our project is located, is threatening to impose a BR which would undermine the PFM approach. Specific discussions have been started with UNESCO office in Addis Ababa and the zonal government.

#### **Overview**

During this six months reported here, the major work of the project overall has been in the following areas:

- a) Consolidation of effective PFM around the two forest areas with wild coffee has been undertaken with PFM applied in three neighbouring weredas (districts). (EU funded). This has created a more extensive and complete coverage of PFM in the forests in this part of Ethiopia.
- b) Training the members of the two cooperatives for the up-coming coffee harvest season has been completed. This has included training on careful collection of products from the natural forest so as not to damage the plants and bio-diversity.
- c) Exploration of the value chain for other wild forest products, especially honey, has been progressed so as to add value to the natural forest. Support to honey marketing will be provided with linkages developed to national and export markets.
- d) Workshops to disseminate project lessons have been held in Mizan Teferi – the zonal headquarters, and in Addis Ababa. The former was with the government and community stakeholders in the project area while the latter was a round table meeting of senior officials and advisers to the newly established Ministry of Environment and Forests and was a contribution to their policy making process.
- e) Preparation for the biodiversity monitoring to assess the impact of PFM was started but suspended due to security issues.

#### **Comments on Year 2 Annual Report**

##### Registration of CBOs

The serious delays in registration of the project supported Cooperatives for marketing forest coffee and wild forest products have now been resolved and these are operational.

##### Time frames to project indicators

This will be provided in a separate mail.

**2a. 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.**

Insecurity in the project area has halted project activities in the forest in three of the four project districts and the timing for resumption of these activities is not known. The military are being used to re-establish security in one area and federal police have been deployed in the other two. However, the coffee harvest is on-going and that part of the project activity is not affected. Critically the biodiversity assessment to measure the impact of PFM cannot be undertaken at present and will have to wait until November 2015. As a result an extension of 8 months has been requested with a carry forward on £34,500.

Item 6.4 above in Section 1 on the threatened imposition of a Biosphere Reserve is a further area of concern but one where our actions in liaison with the UNESCO national committee and the UNESCO regional office in Addis Ababa may be able to address the issue. Notably the new Ministry of Environment and Forests has decided to use PFM as the main route to forest protection and has explicitly rejected biosphere reserves as a nationwide approach for forest conservation.

**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:	Yes
Formal change request submitted:	Yes
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Not as yet

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

Yes  No  Estimated underspend: £35,000

**3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year.** 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 and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

I am back in UK from 24<sup>th</sup> November onwards and would wish to discuss this urgently.

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

No.

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.